

DRAFT
ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB

Present: Fred Lozeman - *Chair, Zone 2*
Jesse Williams - *Zone 4 (via phone)*
Stuart Somerville - *Zone 5*
Ralph Buhler - *Zone 6*
Rod Carlyon - *Zone 7*
Martin Clausen - *Zone 7*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Kevin Stopanski - *CCC representative*
Craig Lehr - *CFC representative*

Staff: Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Absent: Graeme Finn - *Zone 3*
Katlyn Benedict - *Zone 5*
Jodi Flaig - *Zone 8*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Somerville/Nadeau:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the October 22, 2018 conference call:

Motion by Stopanski/Clausen:

“That the minutes of the October 22, 2018 conference call be approved with changes.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial statement ending January 31, 2019:

ABP had committed \$75,000 to research projects, but we have received money back on a project that did not use all of the funds allocated.

Motion by Nadeau/Buhler:

“That the financial statement be accepted for information purposes only.”

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Election of Chair:

Every year we elect a new chair. Lozeman, who has been the chair for the last two years, expressed interest in remaining Chair.

Carlyon nominated Lozeman who accepted.

Further nominations were called and closed.

Fred Lozeman was acclaimed Chair.

(b) 2018/19 Budget & direction/priorities for upcoming research activities:

Schmid sent the committee a list of potential research activities to read before the meeting. Schmid can take the committees recommendations to the board for their approval. ABP has been working with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association (SCA) over the last two years in funding projects. SCA has will be collaborating with their Ministry moving forward and ABP will need to look for other funding partners. Schmid will send the committee members a list of current projects. Once we figure out the how and we know how much the Board can allocate us then we can figure out the what. BCRC would be one way for ABP to fund projects.

The committee went through each of Schmid’s recommendations discussing the pros and cons of each choice.

Working with other organizations ABP has been able to receive very good leverage on funding projects. Even with the funds ABP has we can still make a difference in funding. ABP aligning with an organization does not stop our capacity to work with other organizations as needed.

Each member was asked to rank their top three choices for research. Joining the BCRC call had an overwhelming majority. We can change our choices whenever we need to and there is time to decide our priorities, BCRC does not make its research call until June.

ABP investment in forage has increased over the last ten years but, with funding restrictions, will have to be scrutinised more closely going forward.

Members suggested prioritizing their top two research areas. Animal health and welfare and Feed grains and feed efficiency came out ahead with two members suggesting forage research.

Schmid will ask BCRC to let her read the research proposals for the feed grain and animal health research and she will also look at the forage proposals to see if there are any proposals that ABP might be interested in. Schmid will send out her project spreadsheet showing projects as well as the link to the BCRC website.

Schmid received a call from Alberta Agriculture offering an opportunity to provide \$3 million over the next 4 years for research in primarily the feed grains and forage areas. If they need ABP funds for a match than we can use the research budget to meet that match, if not we can still use ABP funds to participate with BCRC in research.

(c) BCRC Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation:

As a committee would we like to nominate a researcher for the BCRC award. Last year our nominee won the award. We look for researchers that take industry priorities into account and work well with industry members.

The members discussed various researchers for nomination. Options will be circulated by email for committee input.

(d) 2018 Fall meeting resolutions:

1. Motion by Lehr/Somerville:

“**Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Alberta government to fund and support a Johne’s Surveillance program to mitigate the risk to the beef industry.”
Zone 1

Defeated

The tests for Johne’s have some challenges related to repeated sampling in beef cattle and individual fecal samples can become pricy. ABP is in the process of funding a 3-year Johne’s project that is beginning now. Suggest that the response back regarding these resolutions will include a description of this project and how it would be premature to investigate a Johne’s surveillance program without the information from this project.

2. Motion by Nadeau/Stopanski:

“**Be it resolved that** ABP could arrange a testing program for Johne’s disease in beef cattle in the province of Alberta with some type of funding compensation to the producer.”
Zone 9

Defeated

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Royalty Discussion:

Schmid investigated this and found that it is not very common on the livestock side. Marketing Council does not allow ownership of intellectual property and ABP has generally stayed away from product development type work. Ag Canada will not enter royalty sharing programs for individual projects, only for program funding. Usually some portion of royalties are returned to the research program. ABP would have to negotiate a percentage before a project began. We would be looking at significant lawyer fees for setting up royalty agreements that may or may not yield any royalties.

It is possible but may involve more work and expense than would make it worth it.

(b) Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Strategic Research and Development Framework/FCDC Discussions:

There was information in the package that the members discussed.

(c) CIPARS AMU/AMR Surveillance Framework Development:

Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance --. Schmid has been sitting on an expert committee to develop framework for antimicrobial use/antimicrobial resistance (AMU/AMR) surveillance in feedlots. There are vet practices already involved with feedlots and the committee is just working on how the surveillance would work.

(d) 2015 Forage Call Update:

Schmid is going through the last two final reports from this call. She needs to submit her final report to Alberta Ag by the end of March.

(e) 2016 AMR/AMU Call Update:

These projects will finish up in November 2019. Everything is on track though the lab is behind processing a few samples. The chute side diagnostic project has spurred interest from other research groups.

(f) 2018 Research Call Update:

Beginning contracting with all researchers who have confirmation of matching funding.

(g) Elastrator Project Update:

This project was initiated to see if you could embed lidocaine in elastrators to alleviate pain during castration. All of the seven-day data is in and seems positive. ABP fronted the program and our official participation is done, but we will continue to be involved in an advisory capacity moving forward.

(h) Rancher Researcher Pilot/KTT Project/Alberta Beef Forage and Grazing Centre Update:

Schmid has history of the Grazing Centre for anyone who is interested. The agreement was signed in 2015 and ABP has committee \$25,000 a year to run the program. The Rancher Research pilot is designed to improve adoption rates for various management practices/technologies. This project will be extended thanks to funding from Alberta Ag.

There are three themes that we are looking at in the KTT project: Managing grazing in extreme and average conditions; looking at variety and species adaptation and expanding it to the soil zones of western Canada; looking at critical elements of animal nutrition and feed quality.

A lot of this information is not available to the public yet but eventually will be available on the www.beefresearch.ca website.

(i) BCRC update:

Lozeman provided a summary of the list of proposals that BCRC are looking at. Schmid will forward the information on to the committee members.

(j) Other:

When the fact sheets are completed Katelyn Laverdure, Communications Manager, sends them out with Grass Routes. Schmid showed the members how to access the research fact sheets on the ABP website and the BCRC website.

The committee's Terms of Reference have not been updated in the last 4 years. Lozeman would like to work on the terms and send his suggested updates to the committee members for their input.

7. General Reading

- (a) Research Committee Terms of Reference:
- (b) Canadian Beef Research & Technology Transfer Strategy Overview:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Alberta Beef Industry Conference – Red Deer, AB, March 12-13, 2019:
- (b) AFAC Livestock Care Conference – Olds, AB, March 20-21, 2019:
- (c) ABP Semi Annual Meeting – Edmonton, AB, June 10-12, 2019:
- (d) Next meeting TBD

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stopanski at 2:25 p.m.