

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL
THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2009, 8:00 a.m.**

Present: Rick Burton - *Chair*
Erik Butters - *Past Chair*
Kevin Boon - *Vice Chair*
Doug Sawyer - *Finance Chair*
Gerald Maser - *Zone 1*
Brent Carey - *Zone 2*
Brian Edge - *Zone 3*
Frank Murphy - *Zone 4*
Rob Somerville - *Zone 5*
Greg Bowie - *Zone 6*
Roy Eckert - *Zone 6 (at large)*
Ben Schrader - *Zone 7*
Brian Chomlak - *Zone 8*
Darcy Eddleston - *Zone 8 (at large)*
Janys Boyte - *Zone 9*
Stuart Thiessen - *CFC*
Dave Solverson - *CFC*
Chuck MacLean - *CFC Chair*
Darryl Carlson - *CIC Chair*
Larry Delver - *CIC*

Delegates and producers need to continue speaking to MLA's about this issue and the importance of giving producers a choice about the ABP check-off.

Motion by Carey/Schrader:

“That the Alberta Beef Producers Board of Directors send a letter to the appropriate government parties requesting that before the government takes any legislative action to make the check-off refundable, Marketing Council is to be directed to conduct a plebiscite of producers on the matter.”

Carried
1 opposed

The call was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Staff: Rich Smith - *General Manager*
Adrienne Waller - *Legal Council*
Reynold Bergen - *R & T Manager*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

The Chairman called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Burton and Boon met with Minister Groeneveld, Doug Griffiths and John Knapp to discuss the opportunity for ABP to work with producers and producer organizations to resolve the check-off issue free from impending government intervention. Burton delivered a letter containing a formal request for this opportunity to the Minister and noted that we would accept an appropriate time limit on this process. A copy of this letter also was sent to all government MLAs.

Burton and Boon did not receive a positive response to this request. ABP was referred to as the opposition by a government official and they were told that the government was going to silence them. ABP was warned a year ago that this would happen.

Is it time now to ask for a plebiscite on refundable check-off? Smith has talked with Paul Hodgman, Executive Director of Alberta Pork, and the pork producers share our concerns about a refundable check-off. Our organizations are fearful that the government will introduce amendments to the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* making the check-off refundable. We have not seen the legislation yet, but all indications are that it will be coming in the near future.