

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE CATTLE FEEDER COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2018, 8:30 A.M.
AT THE ABP BOARDROOM, CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Present: Ken Stanley - *Chair, Zone 7*
Cecil Andersen - *Zone 6*
George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Jeff Havens - *@ Large*
Garth Porteous - *@ Large*
Tim Sekura - *Board Rep*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Absent: Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*
Colin McNiven - *Zone 4*
Cam McLerie - *Zone 5*
Sheila Hillmer - *@ Large*
Glen Kummer - *@ Large*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and adoption of agenda:

Additions: 6(e) Caribou update:

Motion by L'Heureux/MacArthur:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting:

Motion by:

“That the minutes of the Cattle Feeder Council meeting be approved.”

Carried

(b) Minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Porteous/Havens:

“That the minutes of the October 18, 2017 and the December 4, 2017 Cattle Feeder Council meeting be approved.”

Carried

3. Financial Statement

(a) Financial Statements ending December 31, 2018:

Smith presented the current financial statement to the council. The council has spent a little over 49% of their

overall budget. Almost 62% of the budget for meeting and member expenses is remaining and 40% of the program budget is left for the current year.

Motion by Sekura/Andersen:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) National check-off and provincial service charge update and actions:

The increase in the national check-off has been approved by the Alberta government and ABP will begin speaking to remitters and producers about the increase right away. There will be articles in Grass Routes, radio spots with Jim Fisher and notices in local papers across Alberta. ABP will be creating cards that auction marts can give to producers explaining the increase.

There is a meeting February 6th between ABP and ACFA Executives regarding the non-refundable check-off. Brian Rhiness has been engaged to help with the writing of the agreement and the Terms of Reference for the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund. We should be able to approach the government for approval of a plebiscite in March and hope to be able to have the plebiscite during the fall meetings. The structure of a plebiscite will need to be agreed among ABP, ACFA and Marketing Council. In the last plebiscite, the producers who voted determined the outcome without requirements for number of producers or amount of product represented in the voting.

(b) Winter manure management actions:

There was a letter in the package that was sent to the Chair of the NRCB and an Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry from ABP and ACFA. The letter was looking for a solution to feedlots that spread manure on frozen or snow-covered ground without having to get permission from the NRCB every year.

ABP and ACFA are asking that the NRCB create a policy regarding producers submitting a nutrient management plan that includes the spreading of manure on frozen or snow-covered ground be used.

(c) Dispensing prescription-only antimicrobials:

There were copies of two letters in the package sent to the Chief Provincial Vet by ABP and the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) and a copy of the letter sent by ABP to the Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, all dealing with the issue of dispensing prescription-only

antimicrobials. The letters do not argue with the policy change requiring antimicrobials to need a prescription to be sold. The concern ABP has is the change in who can sell the product. A vet must control 51% of the business selling the prescription-only products. Livestock organizations believe that having a prescription is enough control on the sale of antimicrobials without requiring a vet to have a controlling interest in the business dispensing the medications.

ABP is waiting for a response on the letter regarding dispensing prescription-only antimicrobials.

(d) Farm health and safety actions:

Porteous submitted a report on the AgSafe Alberta Society Board meeting that was held in Red Deer on January 24th. They emphasized the difference between the AgCoalition, a policy group, and AgSafe, a healthy and safety association.

A large part of the discussion was on developing by-laws and policies. The AgSafe Board consists of 10 people from organizations encompassing livestock, poultry and crops. The by-laws will suggest that 3 seats come from the livestock sector; 3 from the crop sector; 3 from supply management; and one other. The members would still need to be a producer.

The AgSafe Society has been successful in getting a government grant for \$170,000 and they will need to set up a bank account and create a set of financial policies. They have created a budget to get them through the remainder of 2018 and require a further \$375,000 to be split between the livestock and crop sector 50/50. ABP portion is 27% of the livestock share or \$50,625.

The government grant for the current AgSafe Program runs out the end of February and they have applied for another grant extending it to the end of August.

Should each zone have an AgSafe meeting? The AgSafe Society is just beginning and will need the involvement of the grass roots, but they are not set up yet to do it. The members agreed that it is something the ABP should be doing. The AgSafe program website has a lot of templates on how to set up a safety program. The templates can be brought up a zone meetings or ag meetings.

The members agreed that the zones should organize AgSafe meetings.

The society will continue to apply for grants, but they will still require some industry funding.

(e) Water allocation issues:

Smith has heard that there are producers being challenged on their water allocations. These are producers who had applied for registration of water sources under traditional agriculture uses. Now some of the applications that were incomplete have been cancelled.

This is something we need to watch out for and we need more information from Alberta Environment to find out what is happening.

(f) ILWG funding and representation:

Two documents from ILWG were in the package. The first is priority setting and budget estimates for 2018 and showing a list of current and new activities as well as a list of projects coming to an end. The ILWG does not anticipate that they will receive any more grant funding from the government but will still approach them. Last year, the CFC funded ILWG in the amount of \$9000. If there is no government funding and the ILWG maintains its current level of activity, the ABP share of funding will increase to \$30,000. If the council supports the increase, Smith will take it to the Board in March.

Motion by L'Heureux/Porteous:

“That the Cattle Feeder Council support fully funding the Intensive Livestock Working Group in the amount of \$30,000.”

Carried

Stuart Thiessen has been the ABP producer representative but has said that someone else should do it know. It would involve about 4 meetings a year. Smith will get in touch with potential representatives to see who would be interested.

(g) CFC priorities and budget:

Smith wanted the council's thoughts on what their priorities will be for the next fiscal year. Health and Safety, winter manure management, antimicrobials, municipal taxation, water allocation, anti-beef advertising. ILWG is working on climate change, transportation. Smith will approach the Board for an increase in the CFC budget to include the increase to the ILWG.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items:

(a) Alberta Beef Industry Conference:

The conference is February 21st to 23rd. The ACFA AGM will be held on February 21st and they are encouraging ABP to have representatives there.

(b) Carbon Pricing Report:

In the package was a report on carbon pricing prepared by Canfax that ABP helped to support. Canfax produced a fact sheet on carbon pricing and there was a copy of the PowerPoint presentation given by Brandon Schaufele of the University of Western Ontario.

Smith will confirm that the Canfax fact sheet can be distributed.

(c) Competitiveness Study:

We have had a first meeting with the cattle feeders on competitiveness. Cattle feeders had another look at competitiveness a couple of years ago. ABP and ACFA are looking at competitiveness again to see if there are any changes in the situation. One of the things that will be looked at are the regulations. Bryan Thiessen has agreed to sit on the committee.

(d) Municipal taxation:

Until we hear about the appeal on the Lethbridge County tax, the government is not going to look at it. The feedlots have paid two years of the tax and if the appeal overturns the tax, then the County will have to pay back a lot of money. The fairest way to pay for roads and infrastructure is through fuel taxes but not enough of the current fuel taxes get to counties and municipalities.

(e) Caribou:

There have been some meetings in Northern Alberta about the caribou. The federal government has declared caribou as a species at risk. In response to this, the Alberta government is preparing a management plan that may close large tracts of land to logging and oil and gas. The northern economy relies on logging and oil and gas. There are concerns that these closures may affect grazing in the long run.

AAMDC is meeting with government officials to discuss the changes. L'Heureux will keep Smith informed about what is happening.

(f) Harmony Beef update:

Believe they are up to 300 head a day. Harmony beef is appearing in the Costco near Balzac. There are plans for a couple of new plants in Montana, but there is no sense that they are approved yet.

7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) CFC Meeting – June 13, 2018, Delta South Hotel, Edmonton, AB

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Haven at 12:15 p.m.