

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS  
DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2016, 8:00 a.m.  
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

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**Present:** Melanie Wowk - *Chair*  
Jake Meyer - *Zone 2*  
Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*  
Walter Suntjens - *Zone 4*  
Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*  
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*  
Penny Patton - *Zone 7*  
Linda Messner - *Zone 9*  
Tim Smith - *@ Large*  
Kevin Stopanski - *@ Large*

**Staff:** Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*  
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

**Guests:** Kristen McDonald - *AFAC*  
Terra Johnston - *SPCA*  
Ken Dean - *SPCA*

**Absent:** Brodie Haugan - *Zone 1*  
Mike Lutzak - *Zone 8*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda** **8:00 a.m.**

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 4(i) Cow Calfenomics;

Motion by Meyer/Patton:

**“That the agenda be approved with additions.”**

Carried

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

(a) Minutes of the June 10<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meetings:

Motion by Wymenga/Messner:

**“That the minutes of the June 10, 2015 and the December 7, 2015 Cow Calf Council meetings be approved.”**

Carried

(b) Matters arising:

There were no issues the members need clarification on.

**3. Financial Report**

(a) Financial Statement ending January 31, 2016:

The statement does not have the final payment for the Cow Calfenomics, but we are still well under budget.

Motion by Suntjens/Stopanski:

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

Carried

**4. Decision Items**

(a) Review of Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference is in the package for information purposes. It was changed last year but if the council has no changes to the document

Motion by Suntjens/Meyer:

**“That the Terms of Reference for the Cow Calf Council be approved for this year.”**

Carried

(b) Budget 2015/2016:

The council discussed various budget options and the possibility of adding more conferences. They discussed having a member on the EC.

Motion by Patton/Suntjens:

**“That we have a member sit on the Environment Committee.”**

Carried

Stopanski is on the Environment Committee for Zone 1 and has agreed to report to the council as well.

Last year’s budget was \$18,000 and the council felt this amount was adequate.

Motion by Suntjens/Stopanski:

**“That the Cow Calf Council approve a budget for the 2016/2017 fiscal year of \$18,000.”**

Carried

(c) Safety-net Subcommittee members:

Members for the committee need to be re-appointed each year. Smith was the chair last year. The committee deals with the Growing Forward development. This is the only

committee that deals with AFSC so the Wildlife Committee has a member on the committee.

Smith, Grinde and Stopanski have agreed to sit on the Safety-net subcommittee and Suntjens will try and come on through the Wildlife Committee

(d) Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) member and alternate:

There are four or five conference calls last year because of the drought conditions in Alberta. They usually meet in Edmonton. Patton agreed to sit on the committee and Wymenga agreed to be the alternate.

(e) Fall meeting resolution:

There were no resolutions sent to the council from the Resolutions Committee out of the fall resolutions.

(f) AFAC Conference attendee:

Walt Suntjens, Assar Grinde and Kevin Krebs will attend the AFAC meeting.

Motion by Messner/Patton:

**“That the Cow Calf Council send three members to the Alberta Farm Animal Care conference but do not pay Per Diem.”**

Carried

(g) Alberta Local Food Act Bill 202 – Estefania Cortes-Vargas, MLA cc:

This bill has passed a second reading and there is some concern about the impact it will have on producers. If passed bill could potentially increase the cost production and food in Alberta.

Estefania Cortes-Vargas spoke to the committee about Bill 202. She informed the committee that the bill had been tabled. She will be bringing forward a bill dealing with veterinarians.

**DIRECTION: Email Wowk’s name and contact information to the Estefania Cortes-Vargas Constituency office to have her added to the consultation list for the bill she is presenting in the fall on veterinarians.**

(h) Control of gophers – continued use of strychnine:

This was brought to our group because there was the new government might be some restriction on the use of strychnine. If we can maintain the current accessibility producers would be happy with it.

Motion by Suntjens/Smith:

**“That the Cow Calf Committee request the ABP Board of Directors write a letter to the Alberta government supporting the current regulations and control products used in**

**dealing with gophers (Richardson Ground Squirrels).”**

Carried

(i) Cow Calfenomics:

Last year we put \$3000 towards the Cow Calfenomics to sponsor producers up to 25 years of age. This year we spend just under the \$3000.

Motion by Smith/Suntjens:

**“That the Cow Calf Council support Cow Calfenomics for the 2016/2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$3000 for registration of students and producers up to 25 years of age.”**

Carried

Wowk asked the committee whether they would be interested in supporting the West Central Forage Association as well. The members agreed that it was a good cause but if they supported one they would need to support all of the other forage associations as well.

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## 5. In Camera

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## 6. Discussion Items

(a) Alberta Farm Animal Care – Angela Greter (AFAC):

Kristen McDonald gave the committee an update on AFAC and its current activities and how to access the programs offered by AFAC.

AFAC has been doing a lot on social license, getting the story of producers out to the consumers.

(b) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – Terra Johnston:

Terra Johnston, Executive Director of the Alberta SPCA and Ken Dean, Director of Animal Protection Services spoke to the members on the SPCA. Johnston gave a brief history of the SPCA in Alberta. The SPCA does not have oversight over the local SPCA’s but work closely with them. They have two main programs: (i) Education; (ii) Animal Care and Protection. Johnston focused on animal care.

The SPCA has the authority to lay charges whenever it’s necessary. Dean suggested as producers we become familiar with transportation from barn to slaughter and section 203/2005 from the Animal Protection Act regulations.

(c) Canfax update – Brian Perillat:

Brian Perillat gave the council an update on the current numbers of animals in the cattle industry.

(d) AFSC update – Ken Handford and Bill Hoar:

Ken Handford and Bill Hoar spoke to the council about pasture insurance and forage in general. The presentation showed the steps taken to determine different types of coverage based on the Feed Need Model.

They will be looking at two grazing periods 165 days – mid May to the end of October – or 200 days – mid May to the end of November. The 200 days would be location specific. Stopanski suggested a third period for 150 days.

This program would replace the two existing pasture programs.

Bill Hoar spoke about the cost of calf coverage over the next year. The volatility of the market impacts the premium rate. They paid out about \$10 million across the western provinces in calf insurance; \$4 million was paid out in Alberta.

(e) Feeders Association of Alberta Advanced Payment Program – George L’Heureux cc:

George L’Heureux spoke to the council about the advanced payment program in Alberta. Death loss insurance; Name/Main peril; price insurance. Right now they are working with AFSC for program delivery and with Hartford Insurance. At this point they don’t need a letter of support but will keep the council up-to-date on the program. The producers will need to be in all three programs or be in AgriStability.

The insurance will only come into effect when the value of the calf is equal to its advance. The death loss will be anywhere from \$0.70 to \$2.00 a head. They hope to have this rolled out for April 1<sup>st</sup>. The program will be available in Alberta for one cash advance cycle before becoming a federal program

(f) Cloud seeding:

The program is insured through towns and cities though the rural areas do receive some benefit from the cloud seeding program. There are unintended consequences to cloud seeding.

The council expressed interest in having Terry Krause speak to the group about cloud seeding and the consequences to producers.

(g) Board, Committee and Association Reports:

i. Board Report – Friesen:

The issue that has covered a lot of the boards’ time is Bill 6. There is a working group that is reviewing the regulations and will get back to the board. There was a stakeholders meeting in January and the key note was the need to work together to address it. The government is putting together 6 working groups, each group would consist of 6 to 10 people and there is a hope they will get back to industry groups.

The CCIA tag retention program loss is anywhere from 3.8% to 35.3%.

Check-off is another issue that is taking a lot of board time. Lowe was asked to give a presentation at the ACFA board meeting in January. The feeling they received was that they needed to support the increase in the National check-off. As far as ACFA is concerned a non-refundable check-off will only be approved if it is directional.

Grazing leases report is available on the Alberta Land Institute website. Rental agreements.

Wymenga, Smith, Meyer, Stopanski would like a copy of the report.

There is tax relief for the drought in Alberta except in the northeast. Trudeau signed TPP. There is a rumour that new US President would not sign the ratification.

ii. Safety-Net Subcommittee:

iii. Wildlife Committee report:

Has not had a meeting but had a forum to try and get some direction into the government. The forum was made up of Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Fish and Game (Policy), Alberta Conservation Association, municipal Ag Service Board, the Alberta Fish and Game Association, as well as the Waterton Biosphere Reserve and a facilitator. There were six or seven areas of discussion including predation by carnivores, depredation of forages, property damage by animals and hunters, providing habitat for wildlife and availability of F&W officers. This was distilled down to one specific topic – compensation. One of the ideas was to come up with a Working Group dealing with problem wildlife.

iv. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Report:

Patton is happy to consult with Kelly Fraser if she needs the help.

v. Alberta Forages Industry Network report:

There is a report available in the package for the council members.

Allen will register Patton for the AFIN conference in Leduc – no hotel.

vi. Alberta Farm Animal Care:

Covered this morning

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**7. General Reading Material**

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- (a) CCC 2015 Resolution and Action Items:

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**8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events**

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- (a) June Semi-Annual meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Wowk at 4:00 p.m.