

DRAFT
ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Present: Darren Bevans - *Chair, Zone 2*
Howard Bekkering - *CFC*
Fred Lozeman - *Zone 2*
Heinz Lemmer - *Zone 3*
Stuart Somerville - *Zone 5*
Ralph Buhler - *Zone 6*
Danny Hozack - *Zone 8*

Staff: Karin Schmid - *Beef Prod Specialist*

Absent: Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*
Kevin Stopanski - *CCC*

Bevans turned the chair over to Schmid for the purposes of the election. Schmid called for nominations for chair of the research committee

Hozack nominated Bevans, seconded by Bekkering

Schmid called for nominations twice more before declaring Darren Bevans the chair of the research committee for 2017/18. She turned the chair back to Bevans to conduct the rest of the meeting

(b) 2017/18 Budget:

Schmid had previously provided the committee with a draft budget. Operational expenses remained the same at \$22,000, as did project funding at \$83,000 (\$8,000 for the final year of the AFAC compromised cattle benchmarking project, and \$75,000 for a joint research call with Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association), for a total of \$105,000.

The carbon levy was discussed here, rather than under item 6(g). The question was whether the research committee should be allocating dollars within its budget for research related to the impacts of the carbon levy. The general consensus among the committee was that this issue is much larger than the research committee, and likely should be discussed by the board. Bevans committed to contact Lowe to share the committee's concerns with the board.

Motion by Bekkering/Buhler:

"That the 2017/18 Research Committee budget be forwarded to the board for consideration"

Carried

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Addition: 6(g) Carbon Levy;

Motion by Hozack/Lozeman:

"That the agenda be approved with additions."

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Schmid summarized the minutes from the last meeting

(a) Minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting:

Motion by Bekkering/Hozack:

"That the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting be approved as presented"

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement report:

Motion by Lozeman/Somerville:

"That the financial statement be accepted for information purposes only."

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Election of Chair:

(c) BCRC Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation:

Schmid outlined that our current nomination for this award, Dr. Jim Helm, has one more year of eligibility. That said, the committee has discretion to nominate another researcher if desired.

DIRECTION: Resubmit the nomination of Dr. Jim Helm for his final year of eligibility.

5. In Camera

No In Camera as this was a conference call

6. Discussion Items

(a) Alberta Beef Forage & Grazing Centre Update:

Schmid indicated that the first annual meeting of the Centre on December 1, 2016 went extremely well; however, the Research and Extension Advisory Committee has not met since that date. Currently working on website development,

a series of articles for Cattlemen magazine, and an application for provincial funding for an extension pilot project designed to connect ranchers directly with researchers to determine appropriate technology/management systems for adoption on individual operations.

(b) 2015 Forage Call update:

All of the first updates are due in April so there is nothing solid to report yet. There is one project that has not been contracted as the NSERC funding for that project has not yet been approved, although the stated work on that project has been completed for this past year. If the NSERC funding comes through there will be roughly \$38,000 to spend on a project related to the objectives of the call. All funds have to be spent by September of 2018 on projects related to the forage call. All initial fact sheets are completed and posted on the website except the project that has not been contracted.

DIRECTION: Schmid to send committee members copies of initial forage project fact sheets

(c) 2016 AMR/AMU Call Update:

Contracts have been completed with Veterinary Agri-Health Services and Prairie Oyster Ventures. Contracts with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researchers are still in progress.

(d) 2017 Research Call:

As mentioned in the budget discussions, Schmid is currently in discussions with SCA regarding a joint call for proposals with targeted priorities. Assuming the SCA board also views this favourably, we could move forward. If SCA does not want to participate, providing money to upcoming Cluster projects is another possibility.

DIRECTION: Schmid to work with Bergen to come up with a priority list of outcomes that have been undersubscribed during the current Cluster call and distribute to committee members.

(e) BCRC Update:

Bevans provided an update on the recent BCRC call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) that will form the next Science Cluster Application. 116 LOIs were received, and approximately 50 were selected to be reviewed as full proposals later this year.

DIRECTION: Schmid to distribute the National Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy to committee members

(f) Worried about... update:

Schmid shared that nutrition may be the next “Worried About” brochure topic, and that if anyone had other suggestions to let her know.

(g) Carbon Levy:

Discussed under 4(b).

7. General Reading Material

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Alberta Beef Industry Conference, Red Deer – February 15-17, 2017
- (b) AFAC Livestock Care Conference, Leduc – March 21-22, 2017

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Hozack at 2:00 p.m.