

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL
MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Present: Bob Lowe - *Chair*
Roland Cailliau - *Vice-chair*
Charlie Christie - *Finance Chair*
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*
Cecilie Fleming - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Tim Smith - *Zone 4*
Kelly Fraser - *Zone 5*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*
Norm Hennigar - *Zone 9*
John Buckley - *Director at Large*
Rick Friesen - *Director at Large*
Melanie Wowk - *CCC Chair*
Bryan Thiessen - *CFC Chair*
Greg Bowie - *Past Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*

Absent: Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*

The Chair called the conference call to order just after 8:00 a.m.

1. Report on ACFA AGM

The first item on the conference call was a report on the ACFA AGM and Bob Lowe's presentation there on industry funding. Rich Smith, Bekkering, and Fleming also attended the AGM. Lowe presented a clear picture of the ABP position on industry funding that had been supported by producers at our fall meetings and approved by the delegates at our AGM. The ACFA members listened politely and discussed the funding issue respectfully following the presentation. A number of ACFA members who are well known in ABP challenged the funding proposal that Lowe presented. They also will not support a non-refundable provincial service charge unless ACFA has "more control" over the funds. These members did not seem prepared to accept the idea of having \$0.60/marketing directed to marketing and research with the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum making recommendations on the investment of these funds. More than one ACFA member said that nobody from ABP had ever asked them why they took refunds on service charges.

2. Report on SCA AGM

After the ACFA AGM, Lowe and R. Smith travelled to Saskatchewan for the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference. Ryan Beierbach was elected Chair of SCA after Bill Jameson decided to not run for a second year as Chair. The AGM approved increasing the NCO to \$2.50 per marketing. Pat Hayes, Reg Schellenberg, and Duane Thompson were elected as CCA directors.

3. Report on Agriculture Sector Bill 6 Coalition

Cailliau, Christie, and R. Smith reported on the inaugural meeting of the Agriculture Sector Bill 6 Coalition. The meeting included nearly all of the Boards and Commissions in the livestock sector, as well as invited producer organizations such as the WSGA, AGLA, Western Barley Growers Association and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers. The meeting was facilitated by Gord Winkel, a professor at the University of Alberta and former VP of Syncrude who had helped lead the oilsands sector through major safety, social, and environmental challenges. There were also speakers from B.C. and Ontario who provided good insights on how farmers and ranchers in those provinces have dealt with labour legislation.

The meeting represented an unprecedented commitment to collaboration among a wide range of industry organizations. There will need to be tough conversations among the coalition members to ensure that all organizations are committed to having the coalition be the voice of the industry through the Bill 6 consultations. Unfortunately, the organizers of the inaugural meeting missed the opportunity to begin having these conversations and instead set up less productive break out group discussions about specific elements of labour relations, employment standards and the OH&S Code.

The work of our Task Force will help ABP develop appropriate positions on regulations and codes that will be taken to the Coalition for inclusion in the consultations. The Coalition will be issuing communications very soon and writing to Minister Carlier to explain its role and responsibilities. It will be very important to let the government know that the members of the Coalition are grass roots producers.

4. Adjournment

The conference call was adjourned at around 9:00 a.m.