

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 21, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARDROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Bob Lowe - *Chair*
Roland Cailliau - *Vice-Chair*
Charlie Christie - *Finance Chair*
Cecilie Fleming - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3 (via phone)*
Tim Smith - *Zone 4*
Kelly Fraser - *Zone 5*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
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 (1/2 day)*
Greg Bowie - *Past Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*

Absent: Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of agenda:

Additions: 6(h) Grazing Lease Advisory Committee; 8(f) AFAC update; 8(g) CCIA;

Motion by Fleming/Buckley:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting:

Motion by Cailliau/Sekura:

“That the minutes of the June 13, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved with changes.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending June 30, 2016:

Procnier is setting up direct banking with the packers which will help speed up their remittances and avoid any delays if Canada Post goes on strike. One packer is late with their remittance resulting in a 100,000 head difference in marketings from the same time last year. The difference will be reduced significantly once the remittance has been received.

Motion by Christie/Hennigar:

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

Carried

4. Executive Director Evaluation 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

(a) In camera session facilitated by John Buckley or Jim Brown:

R. Smith spoke to the directors about proposed changes in the structure of the agenda. The proposal would have the financial statement followed immediately by a Policy Governance Review to deal with any issues in these areas that the Board should address. Then, the Council and Committee reports would be presented. The idea is that these two items will set the stage for the Board meeting and the Decision Items. The directors approved of these agenda changes and the first governance issue to be discussed by the Board was the Executive Director evaluation.

The Chair dismissed staff so the directors could discuss the evaluation of the Executive Director. STRIVE! had provided the directors with a questionnaire regarding the performance of the Executive Director. John Buckley had received significant direction from Jim Brown, of STRIVE!, and facilitated the evaluation session. The results of the evaluation would be communicated to the Executive Director by the Executive.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

Hays posted a good recap of CCC activities in the Grass Routes. Wowk spoke briefly on the various activities.

(b) Environment Committee:

At the last Environment Committee meeting, there were a few presentations and a discussion with DM Bill Werry of the Alberta Climate Change Office. R. Smith submitted an updated draft of the ABP Policy Position on Climate Leadership. He asked if the Board wanted the Environment Committee to approve it first or if they were prepared to approve the new draft.

Motion by Buckley/Fraser:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the Policy Position on Climate Leadership subject to no further amendments by the Environment Committee.”

Carried

(c) Research Committee:

The committee met on July 5th and re-appointed Darren Bevans as its BCRC representative. The committee looked at 15 research proposals and accepted 6 of them for which Schmid has asked for full proposals.

A number of the ALMA Board members have approached cattle and livestock organizations about developing an industry-led, industry-government funded marketing and research organization to oversee funding for industry.

(d) Wildlife Committee:

The committee met in June at the Semi-Annual General Meeting and discussed the following issues: improved education of hunters and landowners regarding land access; identify legal obligations of hunters and owners; discussed the new court ruling on the change in Métis status; there will be a bison summit among the various groups to discuss the issue; there was a grizzly bear management survey that the committee has completed. The committee is looking for the Board to approve the committee position so they can pass on their recommendations to the government.

Motion by Campbell/Hennigar:

“That ABP accept the amended version of the Grizzly Bear Management Survey.”

Carried

A Brazilian TV crew doing a documentary on wildlife predation met with Campbell and a producer in his area. Campbell would like a letter sent to the Claypool family thanking them for their participation and a gift.

The Waterton Biosphere has done a very comprehensive presentation on losses to livestock and crops from wildlife. The presentation encompassed compensation from around the world. We need to look at some way of altering the way landowners are compensated for wildlife damages.

DIRECTION for Hays to circulate the Waterton Biosphere presentation to the directors.

(e) Cattle Feeder Council:

Discussed the Lethbridge County business tax on confined feeding operations (CFOs); the letter that the board received about the lawsuit that is being proposed; hoping to have CFC tour the research site in Lacombe; the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) is looking at a number of options to reduce the proportion of the

infrastructure tax that cattle feeding operations will have to pay. R. Smith suggested that CFOs should be assessed the same way that agricultural land is assessed and the assessments should be used as a basis for annual municipal taxes and infrastructure levies.

6. Decision Items

(a) NCOA Annual Forum Resolution:

The directors reviewed a proposed resolution for the National Check-Off Agency (NCOA) Annual Forum in August. The resolution was prepared by ABP, but will be presented by Saskatchewan at the Annual Forum. In order to ensure separation of the NCO administration activities of the Agency from the marketing activities of Canada Beef, the resolution directs the Agency to begin the process of amending the Agency proclamation to establish a representative Board of Directors appointed by the provincial funders and the importers.

Motion by Tim Smith/Fleming:

“That the ABP delegates to the National Check-Off Agency Annual Forum support the resolution regarding amending the Agency proclamation.”

Carried

(b) GEM Coaching Proposal:

Due to the time taken for the Executive Director evaluation this item was deferred to the next meeting.

(c) BIXS Project:

R. Smith met with Herbert Lau and Deborah Wilson, of BIXS, and they are interested in increasing participation in the program. They recognize they need to show producers the value of participating in BIXS. One idea is a buying club similar to our Producer Loyalty Program. They also are proposing an Alberta Beef Consumer Confidence program that would be funded through ALMA. The objectives of the program would include increasing the engagement of producers in BIXS, VBP+, and the CRSB, as well as increasing consumer and retailer confidence in Alberta Beef. ALMA is no longer able to provide funding directly to “For Profit” corporations so BIXS is asking ABP to apply for the ALMA funding. BIXS would provide a grant to ABP to cover the industry contribution to the project. Before putting the effort into preparing a full project application, BIXS wants to be sure that ABP is comfortable applying for the funding.

A few of the directors have used BIXS and have found the program easy and quick to use. There are a number of hurdles that need to be completed to make this a viable profitable program. The largest issue is incorrect or missing birth dates. As industry leaders we need to encourage producers to participate in BIXS. The directors

agreed that ABP could be the applicant for ALMA funding pending approval of the full project proposal.

(d) Industry Funding Next Steps:

A recent Alberta Farmer Express has an article about the check-off and the perceived stalemate between ACFA and ABP. Minister Carlier's office has asked ABP for a letter explaining the legislative changes that would be needed to allow for a non-refundable service charge. R. Smith will prepare a letter outlining the proposed legislative and regulatory amendments that would allow ABP to fulfill the wishes of many producers for a return to a non-refundable service charge. Since a return to a non-refundable service charge would require the support of cattle and beef producers, the letter also will describe the level of consultation with producers that has occurred already leading up to the resolution passed at the ABP AGM last December.

(e) Undeveloped Road Allowances Resolution:

As a result of a situation where a producer was forced to remove a fence from an undeveloped road allowance, a resolution was passed at a 2015 Fall meeting directing ABP to lobby the provincial government for a consistent, fair, and equitable policy related to use of undeveloped road allowances in agricultural areas. Hays was asked to prepare a background paper on this issue and this was distributed to the directors. Based on the research done by Hays, it is our understanding that undeveloped road allowances are crown land, but the administration and management of these road allowances is the responsibility of the municipality in which the road allowances are located. This process does leave the treatment of road allowances highly variable and subject to the inconsistencies of local political decisions.

There was much discussion of the resolution among the directors. They were sympathetic to the situation the producer faces and understand the desire for a more consistent, fair, and equitable process. However, the Board also believes that convincing the provincial government to impose a provincial policy on the administration and management of undeveloped road allowances would be extremely difficult. Furthermore, the current process does work relatively well for many producers and there is a real risk that a provincial policy could have significant adverse effects on these producers. The Board decided that it was not in the best interests of Alberta cattle and beef producers to pursue a provincial policy on this issue.

(f) YCC Funding Request:

Jake Meyer spoke to the board about the Young Cattlemen's Council (YCC). The YCC is asking the provincial cattle organizations to increase their yearly contributions from \$1000 to \$3500. They believe that the increase is needed to expand the effectiveness of the organization. The increase would allow delegates to attend more provincial meetings when invited.

Motion by Mansell/Campbell:

“That ABP increase their yearly funding to the Young Cattlemen’s Council to \$3500.”

Carried

Meyer's term with the YCC is finished this year and he asked the board to put forward another name to take his place after the YCC AGM in August. Lowe suggested the directors think about their choice and let R. Smith know as soon as possible. Before submitting a name, the director will speak to the prospective candidate to ensure that the person is interested in being part of the YCC. July 29th is the deadline for nominations.

(g) Summer Board Meeting:

The directors agreed that a meeting likely was not required for August and if anything important arises, the directors can be convened by conference call.

(h) Alberta Grazing Lease Association:

A letter was sent to the Alberta government regarding the term 'public land' and 'crown land' asking that when talking about lease land, the government call it crown land instead of public land. A reply was received back thanking Buckley and Cailliau for their letter, but stating nothing would be changed in the naming of the lands.

The government is establishing the Grazing Lease Advisory Committee as a standing committee. Buckley asked the board if they were comfortable for him to continue to represent ABP on this committee. The directors voiced their approval of Buckley continuing to be the ABP representative.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Fall Delegate Elections:

The information on delegates up for election was in the Board package. The deadline for nominations is midnight on August 31st.

(b) VBP+ Update and Direction:

VBP+ was launched on June 15, 2016 and a national database has been developed. The CRSB indicator review is not complete, but there are negotiations with McDonald's about equivalence between the McDonald's indicators and VBP+. Producers with a VBP registration and a McDonald's pilot project verification will be deemed to have qualified for VBP+. There also are ongoing discussions about the connection between VBP+ and the Feedlot Animal Care Assessment tool. The Board thanked Fleming for all of the work she has done pushing VBP+ forward.

(c) GF3 Consultations:

Lowe participated in a roundtable on GF3 hosted by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. R. Smith also has participated in provincial consultations on GF3. One of our top priorities is more funding for research and innovation. The government is also considering BRM programs and ecosystem services. We are asking that they give consideration for some of the funding to come through organizations such as ABP instead of directly to individual producers on a first come-first funded basis.

(d) CBIC - Tour, U.S. meetings, Conference:

The schedule for the conference and the US visitors' itinerary was in the Board package. The deadline for ABP tour registration is July 26th and there are 52 people registered for the tour.

(e) Zone reports:

Zone 9: Nothing to report at this time

Zone 8: the zone will be participating in the Vermillion Fair and producers will be taking part in Haying in the 30's

Zone 7: Nothing to report at this time

Zone 6: Beaumont is having an agricultural fair and is requesting an ABP booth

Zone 5: Did another Ronald McDonald House Home for Dinner event

Zone 4: Nothing to report at this time

Zone 3: Nothing to report at this time

Zone 2: looking for help with the BBQ lunch in Stavely for the tour; Fleming has reached the consecutive term limit and is looking for a new delegate to replace her

Zone 1: Nothing to report at this time

(f) AFAC update:

During the Semi-AGM, Bowie met with Jamie Curran and a few members of the SPCA to discuss the issue of distressed cattle. There will be another meeting in mid-August with SPCA, AFAC and the government. Bowie believes there will be at least three more meetings before the beginning of winter. The RCMP and LIS will need to be brought in as well as the Alberta Justice. There is still no resolution to this issue, but the government is recognizing the need to find a solution.

(g) CCIA:

One of the ABP delegates heard about a situation where a producer who had moved from Alberta to Saskatchewan was having trouble registering there to buy RFID tags. The CCIA officials said that they needed to be especially careful with registration because of the "new rules" coming this fall. There was a question about the nature of these

new rules and R. Smith will seek further information from the delegate and CCIA.

(h) PNWER:

Larry Delver submitted a report on the conference. Lowe was invited to attend a session and found it very worthwhile.

9. Reading Materials

(a) BOD Resolutions and Action Items:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Canadian Beef Industry Conference – August 8 - 11, 2016, Grey Eagle Resort and Casino, Calgary, AB

(b) Board meeting - September 15, 2016, ABP Boardroom, Calgary, AB

(c) Board meeting - October 20, 2016, ABP Boardroom, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sekura at 5:10 p.m.