

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE WILDLIFE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
IN THE ABP BOARDROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Colin Campbell - *Chair, Board Rep*
John Buckley - *Zone 3*
Cecil Anderson - *Zone 6*
Rick McKnight - *Zone 7*
Gordon Graves - *Zone 8*

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

Guests:

Absent: Brad Osadczuk - *Zone 1*
Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
Norm Hennigar - *Zone 9*

McKnight nominated Brad Osadczuk as the alternate on the ESCC, if he declines then Buckley has agreed to fill the position

Graves asked if a second member from WC had been confirmed on the Safety-net Subcommittee. Campbell will bring it up at the board meeting tomorrow. The members suggested that as a concern Campbell should bring forward its disquiet at the treatment of the representative from AFSC at the last Safety-net meeting.

3. Financial Statement

(a) Financial Statement ending June 30, 2015:

There has been very little activity with the budget

Motion by McKnight/Buckley:

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

Carried

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda 10:00 a.m.

(a) Adoption of agenda:

Additions: 6(d) Safety-net meeting update:

Motion by Graves/Buckley:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of June 8, 2015 meeting:

Motion by McKnight/Anderson:

“That the minutes of the June 8, 2015 Wildlife Committee meeting be approved.”

Carried

(b) Matters arising from minutes:

Delegates expressed concern about Walt Suntjens resignation from the Wildlife Committee and his representation as a committee member on outside organizations.

Motion by Buckley/Graves:

“Upon confirmation of a members resignation from the Wildlife Committee that any group he or she represents the Wildlife Committee that he or she be replaced.”

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Wildlife compensation payback, AgriStability:

This happened in Graves' area and a number of producers had to payback compensation from a couple of years ago. The producers did not fill out the supplementary form in correctly. It's a process issue not a claims issue, everyone has agreed the crop was a loss. The rationale is that it was supposed to be 2012 inventory.

Campbell will ask the board to appoint someone to clarify the procedures for producers when submitting claims for damaged crops.

(b) Drought, deer feed needs:

The dry conditions are also affecting feed for deer. There is no mechanism in place on a forage crop to collect on damages done by wildlife. Fires and dry conditions are sending herds of deer into producer crops. This problem will only be amplified during the upcoming winter. This is an anomaly brought on by extreme weather and this may be something that we need to figure out how to document.

(c) Swath and Bale Grazing Compensation update:

Hays provided information on compensation that Saskatchewan provides for swath and bale grazing damage.

(d) Miistakis Report Review and follow up- Next Steps:

Hays provided a report showing who he has distributed the Miistakis report to. If there is anyone else you think would benefit from receiving the list we will send it to them.

This information is on the ABP website and Hays sent out emails to people who would benefit from having the information with the website address. A number of media have commented on the article.

McKnight will be attending the next AGMAG meeting and is concerned on a number of fronts. Some members will either dismiss the report or fight it.

We need to develop forums with other organizations that have influence in this sector. AGMAG is one step but government organizations and producers are another conversation. What we are looking for is a solution to wildlife management issues that are not working well. As an organization we need to have those conversations with the different groups. Campbell feels the Executive should be having the initial conversations with government officials.

What do we want? How do we want to verbalize our message? McKnight with four or five of the big Ag organizations and opening discussion on what we would like to see happen. These groups need to be contacted in a timely fashion so no one feels they are being ignored. We need to come up with the bullets for one page on the discussion topics for these groups.

Who are we going to approach? Who is going to approach them? What is the message we want to deliver? We have started the approach with the study that was sent out and now we want to get specific with information tailored to specific groups.

Two Ministries – Ag and Environment – Exec meets with them

Alberta Fish & Game Associations, ASB, AAMDC, Hunting for Tomorrow and the Bow Hunters. Approach the ASB and ask their representatives from AAMDC to attend as well. Initially attending their meetings would be the best option but we need to begin these conversations as soon as possible and may have to entertain other options.

We need to have preliminary conversations with key stakeholders. The members agreed that speaking with the other organizations first then the government.

- We have a large number of producers who are sympathetic to wildlife but in some cases it can become onerous
- There are a variety of ways to balance this issue: compensation; insurance type program; share in the profits from wildlife
- Economic loss
- Forage competition/predation
- Predation of crops and animals

- Reporting that losses are low because of the perceived impression that it is not worth their time to report. The level of reporting by producers to programs that are in place are found to be cumbersome to the producers. Producers are taking time and energy to manage the issue. The majority of producers have taken individual steps trying to mitigate the issue of wildlife and the livestock issue. The number of management techniques available to us are becoming less numerous and less effective due to the increase in population.
- The competition for the use of the land is becoming higher and higher. This has been an ongoing issue and is becoming a greater and greater awareness and is going to lead to further conflict in the future.
- We need to step back and look at solutions that may not have been acceptable 5 or 10 years ago. Some of the steps we have been forced to take is on our grazing leases.

Other stakeholders:

- We are looking for their partnership and thoughts on how to manage this
- The ability to profit (compensation; recompense; reimbursement)
- Recognition of producer contribution
- Access; safety; sustainability

McKnight recommended that ABP address the issue of the overlap of the AGMAG AGM and the ABP AGM.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Review and Adoption of Terms of Reference:

Campbell submitted the Terms of Reference to the board at the last board meeting. There were a few directions that the board addressed. There was some discussion on the wording addressing membership in the committee.

(b) AGMAG letter- December meeting:

Discussed earlier

(c) Alexander McIntosh TV report Wildlife Damage in Alberta/ producer referrals:

Hays received a call from McIntosh who is looking to do a series of programs on wildlife impact in Alberta. He is looking for names of producers he can interview for the program. If we are going to do this we need to make sure that they are knowledgeable and well spoken. He needs 3 or 4 good solid names of producers to speak with.

Campbell asked the members to get back to Hays within the next week with names to submit.

The committee agreed this was a great opportunity but it needs to be brought to the board for their input.

(d) Safety-Net meeting report:

Graves handed out maps showing drought conditions in Alberta from March 31, 2015. We discussed AgriRecovery but the province is the trigger, until the Alberta Ag Minister approaches the Federal Ag Minister nothing will happen. The MD's have to ask for tax deferrals for cow sales. One thing AFSC is looking at is the Feed Need Model. In August they want to discuss the need for feed. They want to identify the differences in feeding across Alberta. AFSC is still looking into wildlife compensation on swath grazing. Discussed hay prices.

7. General Reading Material

(a) WC Resolution and Action Items:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) TBD

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Campbell at 2:50 p.m.