

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS  
DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY JUNE 15, 2016, 8:30 a.m.  
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

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**Present:** Melanie Wowk - *Chair*  
Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*  
Walter Suntjens - *Zone 4*  
Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*  
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*  
Penny Patton - *Zone 7*  
Mike Lutzak - *Zone 8*  
Linda Messner - *Zone 9*  
Tim Smith - *@ Large*  
Rick Freisen - *Board*

**Staff:** Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*

**Guests:** Roland Cailliau - *ABP Vice Chair*  
Greg Bowie - *ABP Past Chair*  
Cecilie Fleming - *Zone 2, Director*  
Duncan Fleming - *Producer*  
Barry Yaremci - *Alberta Agriculture*  
Shannon Argent - *VBP+*  
Chris Grainger - *RCMP*  
Andrew Reister - *RCMP*  
Terry Krauss - *AB Severe Weather*  
Shawn McLean - *LIS*  
Cam Camden - *LIS*  
Hanna Suntjens - *Producer*

**Absent:** Brodie Haugan - *Zone 1*  
Jake Meyer - *Zone 2*  
Kevin Stopanski - *@ Large*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda** **8:32 a.m.**

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(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(g)(iv) Governance Committee report;

Motion by Patton/ Lutzak:

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

Carried

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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(a) Minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting:

Motion by Krebs/Lutzak:

**“That the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Cow Calf Council meeting be approved.”**

Carried

**3. Financial Report**

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(a) Financial Statement ending May 31, 2016:

There is a budget of \$18,000 for the year. The Cow-calfenomics project was approved for \$3,000; this amount has been set aside. There are no other expenses shown to date.

Motion by Suntjens/Lutzak:

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

Carried

**4. Decision Items**

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(a) ABP Plan and Strategic Objectives:

The CCC Terms of Reference and ABP Strategic Objectives were reviewed to ensure the CCC direction was in focus with the organization. Some areas that were suggested to include were the affects of the feeder sector on the cow-calf sector; calf prices; safety-net options; Agristability; Agristability security for calf Advance Payment Program (APP); pasture and forage insurance direction after AFSC announce elimination of the “Feed-Need” program that had been under development during the winter; and wildlife predation insurance. The APP security had been changed through the Marketing Products Act and Regulations to accept either AgriStability or Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPPI) under AFSC. Contracts under WLPPI may need to have price insurance renewals if APP cattle loans have not been settled by the end of the contract. Meetings. It was preferred to have face-to-face meetings rather than conference calls for major meetings. Conference calls could be used for agendas of one or two items.

(b) Safety-net Subcommittee update and issues:

There were some items that needed to be addressed by the Safety-net subcommittee including review of the Growing Forward 2 programs for possible modification for GF3. Need to contact AFSC about direction post dropping Feed Need program. Also, some consideration from Wildlife Committee about a wildlife insurance program. A Safety-net conference call or meeting will be planned in the near future.

**5. In Camera**

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**6. Discussion Items**

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(a) Ergot in grass; vitamin E in Cow Calf nutrition:

Barry Yaremci, Alberta Agriculture, presented material about ergot problems in rangeland in some areas of the

province. The U of Saskatchewan has set up an assessment program for the prairies that assays for major species of ergot. Some times producers or veterinarians can often see grazing livestock that are not performing well, or large numbers of calving issues that, after feed assessment, if found to be due to ergot. This can be prevented with good pasture management.

Vitamin E and selenium are feed ingredients that need to be included in ruminant rations; both of these can be at deficient levels. Some feed companies do not include sufficient amounts because of price competition. Producers need to become familiar with possible cattle deficiencies and ration level recommendation by speaking with their nutritionist.

(b) VBP+:

VBP+ was set up because consumers have questions about their food source that can drive regulations and policy. VBP+ is a national program under BCRC to verify scientifically-based production practices and support the Canadian Beef Advantage and consumer confidence. It includes the base of food safety with added modules for animal care, biosecurity and environmental stewardship. These modules coincide with the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Indicators. Part of the process is a producer audit to help producers conform to the VBP+ standard and verify a transparent process along the food chain. The new program was initiated on June 15, 2016.

(c) Cattle Rustling:

Andrew Reister and Chris Grainger are with the RCMP working with Livestock Identification Services (LIS) dealing with cattle rustling and other legal issues with livestock. Last year they answered 6,000 livestock-related calls in the province. During the year, there were 622 missing or stolen cattle. 856 head of stray animals were reported that had to be addressed. They also dealt with five cattle liner rollovers during the year. Part of their work includes a prevention program using producer education to help reduce thefts and losses.

(d) Cloud Seeding:

Terry Krauss is from the Alberta Severe Weather Management Society based in North Dakota. They have been involved in cloud seeding with silver iodide to reduce the impact of hail in Alberta since 1974. In the early days this work was financially supported by Environment Canada, the Alberta Research Council and Alberta Agriculture. After 1985 this funding stopped. This work is financed by insurance companies wanting to reduce insurance claims in urban centres of Alberta, primarily between Edmonton and south of Calgary. Estimations are that cloud seeding can reduce the effect of hail damage by from 20 to 50%.

(e) Cow-Calfenomics update and planning session:

Wowk and Hays attended a planning session in Edmonton with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The main focus was developing a program for the fall based on improved marketing of cattle, developing farm budgets, revisiting the calf insurance program and transition management. Producer presenter will be representatives from the Canadian Cattlemen Young Leader program.

(f) Nuffield Scholarship Program: Tim Smith

Tim Smith is presently a Nuffield scholar working on developing a report dealing with Ecological Goods and Services for agriculture. Each year Nuffield Canada awards three scholarships of \$15,000 to enterprising Canadian individuals with a passion for agriculture. The scholarship is to be used for a minimum of 10 weeks of travel for the purpose of study. Tim recently travelled to Washington, D.C., England, Eastern Europe, Kenya, South Africa and Florida with other scholars assessing the types of agricultural operation methods used in those areas. In return for the travel, Nuffield Canada requires the study to be completed within a two-year period and to prepare a written report which is to be presented to Nuffield Canada at an annual meeting held normally in late November or early December. The intent of the program is to have scholars use their knowledge and leadership to further the agricultural industry.

(g) Board Report: Board, Committee and Association Reports:

i. Board Report - Freisen:

Refundable check-off was reviewed. Board felt there was no need to have a MOA between ACFA and ABP. In the months, up to December the Board will work on this to request a change in the Commission Regulation for and increase. Assar Grinde was elected as ABP representative on the Alberta Forage and Grazing Centre Industry Advisory Board. John Buckley was approved as Governance Committee Chair. Melinda German is now the GM of the National Agency (NA); the separation between the NA and Canada Beef is now more defined. McDonald's pilot does work; one week ago, the program now reverted to the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). The verification process for this is difficult; indicators need to go back for one more review. The program needs to have producers on board to make it work. Earl's Restaurant problem has been addressed, in part. They have toured some Alberta ranches and now have 7 restaurants in Alberta wanting to use Canadian beef. Bill 6 Technical Working Groups are in the process of assessing farming Workman's Compensation, Occupational health and safety, Employment standards and Labour relations. A climate change plan is being developed in-line with CCA's plan.

ii. Safety-net Subcommittee Report - Smith:

No report.

debriefing. Conference calls will not be held monthly, but only if required.

iii. Wildlife Committee Report - Suntjens:

Meeting held on June 13, 2016. The committee is working on Actions Report from last meeting that deal with Occupiers Liability Act dealing with liability for access to private property, leased property, trespassing and hunting licences. Recommend landowners have \$3 to \$5 million liability insurance; working on communication with producers dealing with deadstock as way to manage wildlife issues for fall meetings. Predator compensation is a main issue; need to have increased compensation to cover unknown livestock losses. Need to encourage producers to report all predator losses to keep Compensation Program operative. Some issues with GOA handling hunting tags as a way to help manage wildlife.

The committee dealt with Metis hunting on grazing leases with federal government change for federal land access: no changes for provincial access. Discussion about managing predators such as wolves: need to have better local management process with MDs, Fish and Wildlife and producers. Reviewed use of toxicants and regulations for managing predators: must go through Fish and Wildlife officer. Use of bounties for predator management is not very successful method.

We will be assessing grizzly bear management plan survey as a Committee in late July.

vii. Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee Report - Suntjens:

A meeting has not been held; there is no report.

viii. Alberta Forages Industry Network Report - Patton:

A written report dealing with the AFIN AGM on March 4, 2016 was sent to members and available from the office. There had been significant cuts by the GOA to agriculture by the new government. The GOA focus was to lower the carbon footprint in Alberta by recognizing forages as a carbon sink. There had been some genetic improvement on legumes for bloat resistance, reduction in green house gases and silage production. There was some direction to keep GMO alfalfa out of Alberta until it is more globally accepted. AFSC offers insurance for both dryland and irrigated hay and provides a production guarantee based on the average of historical yields and coverage option selected. Ten new weather stations were added to the network across Alberta. A researcher was hired by the GOA to continue the forage development program at Lacombe.

iv. Governance Committee Report - Wymenga:

The Governance Committee met on June 13, 2016, not having met since 2014. Its recommendation was to meet ahead of the annual meeting in September or October. This Committee is responsible for oversight of the governance policies and practices of ABP. The Committee assesses the size of the Board and makes recommendations for Board membership. It is to provide a written report for the semi-annual and annual reports. At the last meeting remuneration increments for the executive and delegates were recommended.

ix. Alberta Farm Animal Care Report - Bowie:

The AFAC Conference dealing with livestock care was held in Olds on March 22 and 23, 2016. Discussions included interconnections between human and animal welfare; the politics, policy, profit and people angles of animal care; and animal welfare around the world; met with SPCA about dealing with handling large animal scale situations; published a large animal guideline dealing with animal care. Have a pilot project for emergency slaughter needs; working with BC and Ontario for emergency stock trailers; benchmarking compromised livestock at auction marts and abattoirs.

v. Endangered Species Conservation Committee Report - Graves:

Reviewing various endangered species. Grizzly bears DNA monitoring occurring in SW Alberta.

vi. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Report - Wymenga:

There was a conference call on June 7 to review the moisture conditions in the province to date, an update on Business Risk Management programs from AFSC, and review of the 2015 season

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## 7. General Reading Material

- (a) CCC Terms of Reference
- (b) ABP Plan 2016/2017

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## 8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Meet before fall meetings. Doodle poll mid October.

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## 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Krebs at 3:50 p.m.