

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT
WEDNESDAY MARCH 13, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB

Present: Penny Patton - *Chair, Zone 7*
Tim Smith - *Vice Chair*
Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*
Tyler Sawley - *Zone 2*
Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*
Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*
Linda Messner - *Zone 9*
Heinz Lemmer - *Director @ Large*
Brad Osadczuk - *Board Rep*

**“That the minutes of the December 5, 2016
Cow Calf Council meeting be approved.”**

Carried

(c) Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending January 31, 2017:

The only items left to be deducted from the budget are the Cow-calfenomics and the per diems from today's meeting.

Motion by Suntjens/Mansell:

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

Carried

Staff: Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Guest: Bob Lowe - *ABP Chair*
Ken Handford - *AFSC*
Christina Seidel - *Recycling Council AB*
Tammy Schwass - *AB Plastics Recycling*
Jody Tomchyshyn - *CleanFARM*

Absent: Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*
Devon Sengaus - *Director @ Large*

4. Decision Items

(a) Fall meeting resolutions (CCC, WC, EC):

1. Motion by Messner/Osadczuk:

“Be it resolved that ABP work with Alberta Environment and Parks and Agriculture and Forestry to define appropriate husbandry practices to minimize livestock losses from carnivores. As such a carnivore compensation program could be investigated with the province, including those losses from coyotes that would link incentives with good husbandry practices.”
Zone 9

Defeated

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda **8:30 a.m.**

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(e) North American Waterfowl Management Plan:

Motion by Mansell/Suntjens:

“That the agenda be accepted with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Motion by Suntjens/Mansell:

**“That the minutes of the June 15, 2016 Cow
Calf Council meeting be approved.”**

Carried

(b) Minutes of the December 5, 2016 meeting:

Motion by Suntjens/Grinde:

2. Motion by Suntjens/Mansell:

“Be it resolved that ABP investigate ways to compensate producers for providing wildlife habitat.”
Zone 4

Carried

3. Motion by Messner/Suntjens:

“Be it resolved that ABP investigate the pollution problems in the Three Creeks area, find out why cattle are getting sick, coming home thin and open.”
Zone 9

Defeated

It is not up to ABP to investigate anything. There are several producers that graze in the Three Creeks area who do not have any problems. This is a private management issue and not something ABP should be involved in. Contact the County Office, his vet to see if his cows are toxic, test bulls.

(b) Ecological Services working group recommendations:

We need a program that is accessible to everyone not just a few. A broader type of coverage is needed than is currently offered. Individual producers need to be compensated for the services that they provide. There is concern that land will be purchased and taken out of agricultural use. Ducks Unlimited have begun allowing producers to graze the land in an easement.

The Council members discussed the recommendations from the working group and made some changes to clarify the points.

ABP encourages the development of programs that local producer groups can access. And the need to inform producers about what programs are out there.

The members suggested putting together another working group to sit down with Tom Lynch-Staunton and government members to get some direction on how this can move forward. We would like to develop a program that is incentivised not penalized. Patton will recommend that the previous ES working group be re-established.

Motion by Lemmer/Mansell:

“That ABP encourage governments to support/partner by initiating, collaborating and facilitating Environmental Services programs.”

Carried

(c) Cow Calf Council Planning and Focus:

The council needs to have a way to move forward if for some reason the chair is unable to attend a meeting. This recommendation should also be suggested for the organization. The members agreed that an alternate or Vice Chair was needed if the sitting chair could not make a meeting. Councils and committees in the past have appointed Vice Chairs at their own discretion. Members suggested that this be written into our Terms of Reference

and that the CFC should also consider appointing a Vice Chair as well.

Suntjens nominated Tim Smith

Motion by Osadczuk/Sawley:

“That nominations cease.”

Carried

Tim Smith was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Cow Calf Council.

Smith spoke about the importance of the Safety-net Subcommittee continuing to go forward. The subcommittee has a good relationship with AFSC and it is important to maintain it if ABP are to continue having significant input into Growing Forward/Agri-food Policy programs. It is important for ABP to have access to the information that comes out of the meetings with AFSC and to bring back to the board. Tim Smith, Gordon Graves, Assar Grinde and Kevin Stopanski sat on the subcommittee previously

Motion by Messner/Mansell:

“That the Cow Calf Council recommend to the ABP Board of Directors that the Safety-net Subcommittee remains as a subcommittee with a minimum of 4 members and a maximum of 6.”

Carried

Mansell nominated Tim Smith, Gordon Graves, Kevin Stopanski and Assar Grinde

Assar Grinde suggested that Brodie Haugan would also be a good choice to sit on the subcommittee. Chris Simpson, a past delegate, has sat on the subcommittee and would be interested in continuing to do so on a limited basis.

The Environment activities will now be part of the Cow Calf Council. Chris Israelson, the Environment Chair, has taken on the responsibility for the 2018 ESA Working Group. Patton has suggested that the CCC review the judging criteria of CCA and BC to explore any options we might incorporate into our ESA judging for next years campaign. If an issue arises that needs to be handled quickly a conference call can establish a small working group. Hays will provide these criteria to the members.

Some discussion about having CCC members attending conferences and meetings on behalf of the Council. Reports for the Council could be prepared by attendees that can be used to assess the importance of ABP member’s contributions and value of these conferences and meetings. A report system will need to be set up to maintain an accessible tabulation of these reports.

Motion by Mansell/Smith:

“That all appointees from the Cow Calf Council attending meetings on our behalf submit a written report to the Council within

seven (7) days and must represent ABP policy.”

Carried

DIRECTION: that Patton suggest to the Board of Directors that all appointees who attend meetings on behalf of the ABP board or a council submit a report to the appointing body within seven (7) days.

Hays and Mansell and Grinde will work on the Terms of Reference and have an outline ready by March 20th to be submitted for the board meeting.

The Wildlife Regulation will be under revision in the new term and the council will be creating a working group to develop recommendations. In the interim Hays will review GOA timelines and policy for regulation revisions.

(d) Cow-calfenomics sponsorship:

Last year the council sponsored the Cow-calfenomics for \$3000. Our sponsorship pays the conference fee that allows young producers to participate in the conference. Usually the CCC Chair and Hays go to a meeting to discuss presentation topics.

Motion by Smith/Mansell:

“That the Cow Calf Council sponsor the Cow-calfenomics for \$3000.”

Carried

Topics that could be discussed are Best Management Practices; Biosecurity; health and nutrition; non-traditional funding opportunities, VBP+, agricultural management benchmarking, the availability of carbon pricing, beef sector sustainability, and inter-generational transfer of farm land.

(e) Farming for Tomorrow sponsorship:

ABP has been sponsoring this for about 18 years. They print three copies a year and each print would have an article by ABP. We pay up to \$10,000 a year. Environment has approved the cost in the past but the CCC will need to make the decision now.

The council members agreed to stop sponsoring the magazine.

(f) ABP Fireguard proposal:

Roland Cailliau, ABP Vice Chair, submitted a proposal to the council that would see fireguards built around rural towns ringed by forests by logging the area, planting seed grass and forage, building water facilities and renting the resulting pastures to livestock producers to graze during the summer and fall seasons.

Motion by Osadczuk/Grinde:

“That the Cow Calf Council support the Fireguard Proposal submitted by Roland Cailliau.”

Carried

(g) Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG)- GOA rep and alternate:

Dick Wymenga agreed to be the ABP representative again this year. Messner agreed to sit as the alternate. Much of the work is done by email and conference call.

(h) Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)- GOA rep and alternate:

Gordon Graves has been sitting on this committee. Suntjens, who is sitting as an alternate, explained what happens on the committee. The committee has not met since the new government was elected as they are still deciding how to proceed with these committees. Graves would still like to continue to sit on the committee and Suntjens has agreed to stay as the alternate.

(i) Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee (AGPAC)- GOA rep and alternate:

For the former Wildlife Committee, this was a very important contact dealing with wildlife policy in the province. We need to have very strong representation there. Kevin Stopanski agreed to sit as the ABP representative and Suntjens will sit as the alternate.

(j) Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee rep and alternate, 2-year term (GOA):

Cecil Andersen has been representing ABP for the last two years with Norm Hennigar as the alternate. This is another committee that is being reviewed by the government and has not met in the last two years. Dick Wymenga agreed to be the representative.

(k) Cows and Fish representative(s) 2:

Peggy Stankman is the current ABP representative and chair of Cows and Fish but will be stepping down after their AGM in June. She would like someone to come on now to be at the meetings and to become familiar with the board and its activities. Garth Johnson is the second ABP representative; we need to have one more delegate to take part. Grinde suggested asking Devon Sengaus. Hays will contact Sengaus to see if he is interested.

(l) Alberta Forages Industry Network (AFIN) rep:

Heinz Lemmer is the AFIN representative and will continue to sit.

(m) Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) Water Working Group rep:

Greg Bowie has been representing ABP on this group and he would like to stay. Most of the meetings have been by

conference call but there have been a few meetings in Leduc.

(n) Watershed Council membership renewal and representative:

Chris Israelson feels that it is very important that we have producer representation on active watersheds. Israelson wants to continue to sit on the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance. Greg Bowie wants to continue to represent the Battle River Watershed Alliance and Bill Fox wants to continue to sit on the Beaver River Watershed Alliance and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. Hays will contact the Old Man River Watershed Alliance about a representative.

Allen will look into getting permission from the different watersheds to allow access to their newsletters from the ABP website.

(o) Others:

Patton passed around a list of working groups that Lowe had suggested the council might consider looking at..

Farm plastic recycling – Grinde, Mansell, Nico Van Der Giessen

GF3 – the Safety-Net subcommittee is dealing with this

Bison listing – Bob Lowe is pursuing this

Bison (Wood Buffalo National Park and surrounding area) – Maarten Braat is dealing with this.

We need to look at:

Water Act; Castle Plan; Ag Colleges and enrollment in 20 years and Biodiversity management framework. Hays will obtain some background information dealing with biodiversity.

The Miistakis is planning a conference. A working group to explore conference ideas could be part of a work group. Hays will contact Miistakis about their plans.

(p) Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) conference Leduc, Mar 21, 22 reps (last year 3):

Grinde nominated Raymon Boeve and Mansell volunteered to attend this year. Registration will be covered but no per diem is paid. Hays will contact Boeve to see if he is interested in attending.

(q) 2017-2018 CCC Budget:

The members discussed the various budgets and what line items we would keep from each of the previous Cow Calf Council, Wildlife and Environment committees. The Council agreed to a budget of \$74,800 to cover projected expenses for Council meetings, member conferences, the Environment Stewardship Award and video and working group expenses for the next fiscal year.

Motion by Stopanski/Wymenga:

“That the Cow Calf Council request a budget of \$74,800 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.”

Carried

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Agri-food Policy (GF3) Update:

Smith and Grinde updated the members on the issues that were not covered earlier in the day. GF3 will come into effect on April 30, 2018. Brenna Grant from Canfax will be addressing risk management programs at the National Beef Conference in Calgary in August.

(b) Alberta Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) update:

Ken Handford, Product Development Analyst for AFSC, updated the council on some of the items that AFSC has been working on. Handford discussed the moisture conditions that Alberta had to deal with in 2016.

In 2017 a change was made on how they calculated the perennial variable price benefit. They are also including swath, bale and corn grazing on the wildlife compensation program. The swath grazing changes will take place on crops that are planted this year.

For 2018 there may be a reduction in the number of perennial price options; elimination of Spring Soil Moisture; elimination of full season options; new Forage Establishment Insurance. Handford discussed the Feed Need Model; Whole Farm Insurance; swath grazing; unharvested crops; survey results; support for Hay Individual Coverage; age of stand/management; hay quality coverage; area based product for hay

(c) Recycling Council of Alberta - Farm Plastics presentation:

Christina Seidel, Recycling Council of Alberta, Tammy Schwass, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association and Jody Tomchushyn London from CleanFARMS spoke to the council about areas that producers can go to recycle agriculture plastics. Presently the only options available for producers with junk plastic are landfills or burning, which releases toxic smoke into the air. The disposing of the polypropylene products by burning is prohibited in Alberta. A few of the counties have recycling programs but most do not. Mountain View County accepts net wrap, tarps, twine and silage plastic. The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) has a resolution to have the GOA develop a recycling program. Currently producers in southern Alberta can recycle farm plastics through Merlin Plastics. There are also landfills that have bans on ag plastic.

Saskatchewan has a program that grain bags must be recycled. Alberta needs to develop a provincial program to make sure recycling happens.

Patton asked what they are looking from our organization today? They need feedback on what we think of the program because if we are opposed to the program then it will not work. CleanFARMS is developing the recycling program in Saskatchewan.

Patton suggested this would be a good issue for a working group to explore.

(d) Board, Committee and Association Reports:

i. Board Report:

The Board had a conference call earlier in the morning. Osadczuk reported on the situation for the ABP check-off going forward.

ii. Safety-net report:

Smith had a report from the CCA that Hays will send out to the council members.

iii. Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC) Report:

There has been no meeting in the past year. The committee is being reviewed by the GOA.

iv. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) Report:

There has been no recent meeting

v. Wildlife Report:

The 13 page action report had been updated to November 2016 and made available to the Council. This provides a reference to the work the Wildlife Committee did to date.

vi. Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee report:

There have not been any meetings in the past two years. This committee is being reviewed by the GOA.

vii. Cows and Fish Report:

The board has had its strategic planning session and will have another conference call to finish it off. This planning session is done every year.

viii. Alberta Forages Industry Network (AFIN) report:

Lemmer gave a brief report to the Council. Lemmer believes that ABP should work closely with this organization.

ix. Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) report:

The 2017 Livestock Care Conference will be held on March 21st and 22nd in Leduc

(e) North American Waterfowl Management Plan:

This is part of a group that comes from Western Canada down to the Mississippi with a budget of \$33 million. Hays has been a member of the Alberta group for about a year and was a member of the Policy group. Stuart Somerville is attending their conference tomorrow.

The group has finished their budget and have given ABP \$5000 to be spent on any wetland management project we want.

The Provincial Government's Environment and Parks had engaged NAWMP this year to help relaunch their Wetland Policy. The initial EP launch two years ago had been poorly accepted by the agriculture sector.

7. General Reading Material

- (a) 2016 Resolutions and Action Items – CCC, EC, WC

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) CCC conference call – April 10, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjournment

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