

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Bob Lowe - *Chair*
Roland Cailliau - *Vice-Chair*
Cecilie Fleming - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Tim Smith - *Zone 4*
Kelly Fraser - *Zone 5*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *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*
Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*

Absent: Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(f) Alberta Agriculture and Forestry survey;
6(g) Delegate exit interviews;

Motion by Mansell/Buckley:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting:

Motion by Thiessen/Wowk:

**“That the minutes of the October 20, 2016
Board of Directors meeting be approved with
amendments.”**

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending October 31, 2016:

Cailliau presented the financial report to the directors. He noted that there are no unusual items in the report and the expenses are aligned with the budget. Marketings are current and are down from the previous year. However,

the calf run has been slow at the beginning this year and the marketing numbers reflect sales to the end of September.

Motion by Cailliau/Fraser:

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

Carried

4. Policy and Governance Issues

(a) Policy and Governance Issues:

Lowé discussed the Executive Limitations Policy from the ABP Policy Manual. Basically, the Board sets the limits on the authority of the Executive Director and the Executive Director is expected to operate within these limits. These are the boundaries under which the Executive Director acts and the directors should understand and be familiar with them. If there are any points that are unclear to the directors, these points need to be clarified.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the organization meets our moral, ethical, and legal obligations. The Governance Committee created a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy to which all directors must sign a commitment, but there is a question as to whether this Code actually establishes moral and ethical standards for the organization.

DIRECTIONS to directors to send in their ideas for the Boards ethical and moral position and send them to John Buckley by November 27, 2016 and he will bring forward all of ideas at the December board meeting.

Fleming will lead the policy discussion at the next meeting in December.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Wildlife Committee:

Have not had a meeting, but the wolf situation in the west country is still an issue. The MLA for Rocky Mountain House is pushing for a meeting with Fish and Wildlife about the matter.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Committee met last week and had two motions that needed to be brought to the board for approval.

Motion by Thiessen/T. Smith:

**“That ABP request that the Government of
Alberta consider economic impact in the
development of any policy or legislation
affecting the agricultural industry.”**

Carried

Motion by Thiessen/Friesen:

“That ABP ask Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and the National Resource Conservation Board to develop a policy on dormant season manure management that is viable for the feeding industry and considers the economic impact of the policy.”

Carried

The CFC believes that the NRCB is a regulator body and should recognize that social license is an industry responsibility.

(c) Cow Calf Council:

The Safety-net Sub-Committee met on November 16th and they are asking the board to support removal of the reference margin limit for AgriStability.

Alberta Agriculture has developed a survey for producers to complete that will be used to guide development of a new agricultural policy framework. T. Smith asked the directors to complete the survey and submit it before the November 30th deadline.

The Safety-Net Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Cow Calf Council and the work they are doing should be brought to the Council to be discussed and then brought to the Board.

(d) Environment Committee:

Cows and Fish will be having a strategic planning session during the week on November 21st.

The Committee will be meeting with the Cow Calf Council and the Wildlife Committee on the Monday evening of the AGM.

(e) Research Committee:

The Committee met on November 15th to review the 6 full proposals that were requested for the antimicrobial use and resistance research call and four of these projects were approved for funding. Karin Schmid had distributed the proposals before the meeting and provided the committee members with good analysis. The committee members complimented her work. The interim reports on the forage research call are due in April, 2017.

6. Decision Items

(a) TB Case Update and Actions:

The directors were provided with an update on the bovine TB investigation in southeastern Alberta. Test results on the first reactors from the infected herd have confirmed that five additional animals had bTB. Another ranch has been placed under quarantine bringing the number of quarantined ranches to 34 in Alberta and two in

Saskatchewan. We have been given the opportunity to have an industry liaison person go into the Emergency Operation Centre in Calgary daily. Rob McNabb, Karin Schmid, and R. Smith are sharing this role, with McNabb and Schmid taking the majority of the days.

A meeting was convened by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in Brooks on November 14th. A large number of the producers affected by the investigation were invited. There were representatives from AF, AFSC, the CFIA, AAFC, FAA, EP, and Alberta Health Services at the meeting. Lowe, Schmid, and R. Smith attended the meeting on behalf of ABP. The meeting was a good opportunity for the government officials to hear directly from producers about the impacts of the investigation and to provide some information updates.

A number of affected producers have been invited to testify before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on November 22nd. Lowe will be in Ottawa for the ABP Fly In that day and will attend the committee hearing.

ABP is continuing to encourage the CFIA to have more and better communication with the affected producers and to increase their capacity for testing. We have formally requested that the provincial and federal governments work to provide compensation for producers affected by the quarantine through the AgriRecovery disaster relief framework. ABP also submitted a proposal to the CFIA to allow the movement of quarantined calves to a terminal feedlot. Moving these calves off the ranches would provide enormous relief to ranchers who do not have facilities or resources to hold and feed them through a prolonged quarantine.

ABP will keep looking for other opportunities to help the ranchers affected by the TB investigation.

(b) Fall Meeting Review and Actions:

The Board meeting package contained three documents from the fall producer meetings: the results of the dynamic duo exercise from some of the zones; the attendance statistics; and the resolutions from the meetings. Despite the seriously delayed harvest this fall, the attendance at the meetings was good and slightly higher than 2015. The attendance at the meetings very likely was helped by weather conditions that actually prevented desperate farmers from harvesting.

The dynamic duo exercises to engage the grass roots producers were very successful. These were done differently in each zone, but always generated good discussion and active engagement of the producers. After the meetings, many producers told the delegates that they felt they were being heard and thought these were the best meetings they had attended. Communications with consumers, succession planning, and the carbon levy were three of the concerns raised at a number of meeting.

The Resolutions Committee met by conference call on November 16th and decided where each of the resolutions from the fall meetings should be considered. There were 40 resolutions and 25 are being sent to the AGM in December.

(c) ACFA Resolution and Strategy:

ABP received a response to the letter formally requesting changes to the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act* (MAPA) to allow service charges to be non-refundable regarding a non-refundable check-off. R. Smith has spoken with officials in the Minister's office and Marketing Council about this issue. There is a sense that the government may be amenable to changes in the MAPA, but then there would need to be clear direction from producers supporting a non-refundable service charge.

We are aware that the ACFA also has been talking with the government and is not supporting a non-refundable service charge. There is a resolution coming to the AGM from Zones 2 and 7 that ABP and ACFA continue working toward a mutually agreeable industry governance and funding model and report to the Minister by the end of 2017. The directors discussed this resolution and a strategy to deal with it at the AGM.

R. Smith suggested that the directors should be prepared and willing to participate in the resolutions debate at the AGM.

(d) CRSB Verification Project Funding:

The meeting package include a summary of the CRSB Verification Framework Project for which funding has been requested from ABP. The CRSB is looking for \$5000 to \$10,000 from ABP over the next 2 years.

The purpose of the project is to develop and test the CRSB Verification Framework that will serve as a tool to help producers and processors demonstrate the sustainability of their operations and support retail and food service companies in their communications with consumers and their corporate social responsibility reporting. The two main components of the verification framework are the indicators and the verification protocols. The CRSB indicators will be completed this fall, but much more work is needed on the verification protocols and practical implementation of the framework. ABP has been a leader in supporting the CRSB and there is support for the project from other CRSB members.

Motion by Friesen/Mansell:

“That ABP support the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef up to \$10,000 for their Verification Framework Project.”

Carried

(e) Delegate Vacancies:

The directors considered motions to fill delegate vacancies.

Motion by Fleming/Buckley:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve Jimmy Nelson as a Zone 2 Cattle Feeder Council delegate for two years.”

Carried

Motion by McArthur/Cailliau:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve Mike Nadeau as a Zone 9 delegate for a one year period.”

Carried

(f) Alberta government survey:

Alberta Agriculture is looking for producers to complete a survey on direction for the next agriculture policy framework, possibly to be called Growing Forward 3. T. Smith asked the directors to complete the survey while at the meeting and give them to Hays who will get them mailed back before the deadline.

Motion by T. Smith/Cailliau:

“That ABP support the removal of the reference margin limit on AgriStability.”

Carried

Motion by T. Smith/Mansell:

“That ABP pursue an April 1st deadline for pasture insurance.”

Carried

(g) Delegate exit interviews:

Mansell suggested that we should be doing exit interviews with delegates who leave the organization. Cailliau suggested that we give them a list of questions and the staff will monitor the answers. R. Smith suggested asking Marketing Council for assistance in developing the questions.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Research & Development Steering Committee – Lowe:

Lowe spoke to the directors about the *Strengthening Investment in Research and Development in Alberta's Livestock and Poultry Sector* initiative. When ALMA was dissolved, a large group of livestock and poultry industry organizations got together to discuss the future direction of livestock research and development in Alberta. They established a steering committee to prepare a proposal and Lowe is chairing the steering committee.

The steering committee is proposing the establishment of an industry committee that would advise the government

on investments in research and development, evaluate the results of these investments, and assess the amount of investment that is occurring. There is a second meeting of the entire group in Leduc on November 28 to review the proposal.

(b) Animal Welfare Incident Response – Bowie:

Following a meeting involving AFAC, LIS, and the RCMP, a letter was prepared and sent to the Alberta SPCA outlining the need for improved collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness in dealing with animal welfare issues. No response has been received yet, but the next step would be a meeting of all four organizations to identify ways of working together more effectively.

(c) Grazing Lease Update – R. Smith:

R. Smith reported to the directors on a worthwhile meeting he had with a representative from Alberta Environment and Parks. He made the point that this government can be expected to have an aggressive agenda on rangelands and parks. ABP needs to establish good relationships with elected officials and senior staff members in the department. There will be action on grazing lease rental rates and the objectives identified by the Auditor General. The Minister also will be considering the issue of surface disturbance compensation on crown lands. ABP must continue advancing our position that grazing on crown lands generates substantial benefits for the land and the public. We must defend the current surface rights approach and pursue opportunities to have grasslands and grazing recognized in climate leadership initiatives. We must ensure that the government recognizes the benefits provided by our current management of crown lands and resists the pressure to use parks and narrow conservation tools to conserve grasslands.

(d) ERA Methane Challenge:

Emission Reduction Alberta (ERA), formerly the Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation, will be directing a total of \$40 million to help advance technologies to reduce methane emissions in Alberta. This supports Alberta's commitment to reduce methane emissions by 45% by 2025 under the climate leadership plan. There has been concern that this commitment could put regulatory pressure on the cattle and beef industry in the province, but the focus of the emissions reduction commitment is the 70% of methane emissions that come from the oil and gas sector. Agriculture is one of the areas where the funding could be directed in order to reduce methane emissions, but there are no current plans to include our industry in regulatory standards for methane emissions.

(e) Alberta Beef Quality Starts Here update:

Melissa Downing has been hired as the Provincial Coordinator to replace Shannon Argent. She handled the VBP portfolio for Spring Creek. Two other people are

working on contracts to provide VBP+ training and to help producers upgrade from VBP to VBP+. The AGM will be held on November 24th in the AGM board room. Continue to wait for the VBP+/ Pro-Action assessment to be done.

(f) Canada Beef update:

Ron Glazer is the interim CEO while they look for a replacement for Rob Meijer.

When CETA is formally approved, it will allow the EU to export meat to Canada immediately, while Canada is still working to have our processing plant treatments accepted by the EU.

(g) Zone reports:

Zone 1: Will be at the Medicine Hat Pen Show from December 15th to 16th. They need people in the booth who can answer questions.

Zone 2: Everything rolling along in the zone.

Zone 3: Had a successful election

Zone 4: Nothing to report

Zone 5: Had a booth at AgriTrade. Would like some VBP pamphlets to hand out at in the booth. Sponsoring Cattlemen's Day at Dover Court Hall

Zone 6: Zone meeting

Zone 7: Helped Beth Castle in the booth at Farm Fair.

Zone 8: Kelly Nikiforuk did a good job on social media at the fall meetings

Zone 9: Good fall meetings

9. Reading Materials

(a) BOD Resolutions and Action Items:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) New Delegate Orientation – November 23, 2016, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

(b) Board meeting – December 5, 2016, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary, AB

(c) Annual General Meeting – December 5-7, 2016, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary, AB

(d) Board meeting – January 19, 2016, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

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