

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE CATTLE FEEDER COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 2015, 8:30 A.M.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, ALBERTA

Present: Howard Bekkering - *Chair*
Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*
Bryan Thiessen - *Zone 3*
Charlie Christie - *Zone 5*
Cecil Anderson - *Zone 6*
Ken Stanley - *Zone 7*
Phil Amyotte - *Zone 8*
Tim Sekura - *BOD Rep*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Guest: Brenna Grant - *Canfax*

Absent: Craig Ference - *Zone 4*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Garth Porteous - *At Large*

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Sustainability Assessment Survey:

Bekkering has been involved in this survey. The purpose of the survey is to validate information that Deloitte has already received. Questions that are not applicable or you don't want to answer can be left unanswered. This survey goes back to the Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and is used for traceability and to provide a definition for sustainability.

Smith took part in a conference call discussing the survey and sustainability.

(b) Price Reporting and Price Discovery Activities:

CCA is asking for support on a resolution their board made at the August meeting. The resolution would make cash price reporting mandatory if a producer wanted to participate in voluntary programs that require cattle price data. The ABP board of Directors carried a motion at the January 15th meeting to support the resolution. CPIP is trying to build in contract prices into the formula but there is doubt that they could make it work. Cash market is low and it is doubtful that there would be enough cash price information if all transactions were submitted.

Brenna Grant, Canfax, spoke to the council about the price reporting and the Price Discovery Research project. The project requires 1/3 of the cost to come from industry. The ABP Board of Directors approved funding the research project. Smith has approached BC, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to share in the cost of the project. ABP will cover \$2300 and they will cover the remaining \$2300.

(c) ABP Plan Review Strategy:

The results of the Plan Review discussions will be brought before Marketing Council and Adrienne Waller, Legal Counsel, will write the legal motions. CFC and CCC will remain but CIC will be replaced by the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum. A non-refundable levy will be brought to Marketing Council for approval. There was also a resolution approved that names of producers who take refunds be published and to begin collecting levy on export cattle. By-law changes will now require a 2/3 vote by the delegates.

(d) ACFA/ABP Plans:

ABP and ACFA Executive have been meeting regularly since the refundable service charge came into effect. The

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Sekura/Thiessen:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the September 10, 2014 and December 1, 2014 meeting:

Motion by Thiessen/Nelson:

“That the minutes of the September 10, 2014 and December 1, 2014 Cattle Feeder Council meetings be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Statement

(a) Financial Statements ending December 31, 2014:

The council is about two-thirds through the budget. CFC provides money towards ILWG along with other livestock commodities in Alberta. ILWG also receives a grant from ALMA to help cover the costs of administration. CFC also sponsors a Sub-Basin Phosphorus pilot project.

Motion by Stanley/Sekura:

nature of the meetings depends on the people attending and the topics of discussion. ACFA would like another MOA but ABP does not see a need for it. ABP and ACFA had a facilitated meeting in October and now it is a case of deciding what fits into their collaborative efforts. Greg Bowie, ABP Chair, will be attending the next ACFA board meeting. Cor Van Ray made a significant donation to Lethbridge College to develop courses for BRM. ABP has approved giving \$5000 towards developing the courses.

(e) CFC Priorities for 2015:

Sustainability assessment; price reporting; labour; farm safety

(f) CFC Budget Requirements:

Last year the council asked for \$30,000 (\$15,000 for council expenses and \$15,000 for ongoing projects). Councils and committees have budgets they believe they can spend and have developed a Project Reserve Fund for any projects that we want to fund.

(g) Nutrient (phosphorus) Management Activities:

There is a lot happening with respect to phosphorus management. ARD has been doing a beneficial management practices. ILWG is involved with the sub-basin phosphorus project and are looking at management practices. The Bow River Basin is looking at a management phosphorus plan. Right now regulations have a limit on the amount of nitrogen that can be put in the soil. We need some consideration on how we would approach this issue. One focus is to make sure we don't come up with a simplistic solution. AOPA will be opened up in 2017 and Smith believes there will be pressure to add phosphorus. Before we regulate phosphorus we need to figure out how to manage it.

There will be a presentation on the project at the next ILWG meeting. Producers who have more than 500 tons of manure a year they need to follow AOPA rules in dealing with it.

(h) Farm Safety Developments:

There was a meeting the end of November on the Farm Safety Group. This is another issue where there is a significant amount of outside pressure. Every time there is an incident or fatality on a farm there is uproar on the lack of worker protection. Bringing farms under WCB would cause problems for a number of smaller operations. ILWG wrote a letter to the Minister with three recommendations: provincial coordinating body to coordinate; investigate the idea of having some form of insurance coverage; there should be some form of investigation of serious injuries or fatalities on a farm. OH&S cannot investigate accidents that happen on a farm. The ILWG will get a report into insurance coverage at their next meeting.

(i) Agricultural Labour Issues:

Over 90% of the foreign workers who came to work at Cargill are still there. The Canadian Agriculture Human Resources council is sponsoring focus groups in February and March to discuss labour issues. Processors are asking to have industrial butchers included under express entry programs. The processing industry has always been reliant on foreign workers.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items:

(a) Feedlot Emergency Preparedness Plan:

Karin Schmid, ABP Beef Production Specialist, spoke to the council about the ACFA preparedness plan. The plan was to develop a plan for the feedlot sector to cover disease outbreaks. They met in December to go over the plans that had been developed and they are now going through some revision. After the revisions have been completed there will be a test run in April. Schmid and Katelyn Laverdure, ABP Communications Manager, will be developing a communications plan for ABP.

(b) CCA Report:

Last week there was a new release on the Beef strategy. Brought together industry to work on a national strategy

CCA has entered into an agreement with View Track to purchase BIXS. There is no information on how the deal will work. View Track will own 25% of BIXS and will increase over the years until they have 75%. There is a concern that a private industry will have a monopoly on the information.

(c) Annual Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAQO) for Ammonia:

Alberta has a series of ambient air quality objectives. They objectives keep shifting. There is currently a one hour objective for ammonia. There is always a concern having an objective that industry cannot meet. One of the topics that is being discussed is an annual objective for ammonia. When the stakeholder advisory committee met there was agreement that the agriculture industry and the fertilizer industry would not be able to meet an annual objective that would satisfy the ENGO community.

(d) ILWG and AEPA Updates:

ABP has two representatives on the ILWG, one appointed by the board and one appointed by the council. Stuart Thiessen has been representing the council and is still interested in sitting on the ILWG board. There is a review of the Municipal Government Act and when it was opened in the past one of the topics of discussion was putting a tax on confined feeding operations.

ARD is looking at social license, but is not clear on what they are meaning by it. ABP is also a member of AEPA and is a forum for discussion of environmental issues.

(e) Feed Coalition Letter:

Smith is sending another letter to the coalition stressing the point that ABP is not a member of the coalition and has not been for over a year.

7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Council Meeting – June 10, 2015, Delta South, Edmonton, AB

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Thiessen at 2:15 p.m.