

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Charlie Christie - *Chair*
Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Vice-Chair (Zone 5)*
Melanie Wowk - *Finance Chair*
Brad Osadczuk - *Zone 1*
Sheila Hillmer - *Zone 2 (via phone)*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Jesse Williams - *Zone 4*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Gordon Graves - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Brodie Haugan - *@ Large*
Assar Grinde - *@ Large*
Fred Lozeman - *@ Large*
Tim Smith - *CCC Chair*
Ken Stanley - *CFC Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*
Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Gov Relations & Policy*

Guest: Lyle Adams - *ACFA*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of agenda:

Motion by Osadczuk/Haugan:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting:

Motion by Graves/Wowk:

“That the minutes of the July 17, 2019 Board of Directors meeting and the August 26, 2019 conference call be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending August 31, 2019:

Motion by Wowk/Lozeman:

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

Carried

(b) January-June Refund Report:

The refunds are up from this time last year. The top ten requests account for 38% of the refunds. Directors were assured that the refund summary could be provided to the producers in their zones.

Directors discussed how to approach cattle feeders to get them to keep more of their funds with ABP and/or to keep \$0.53 with CCA. Communication is still our number one problem and ABP needs to continue to work on it.

Producers are using the new form and we received 19 contributions towards the CCA assessment. Five large cattle feeders provided the majority of the funds.

(c) CCA Assessment Fund:

At a 45% refund rate the CCA assessment becomes \$0.96 of the retained refunds. The motion the board made on the CCA assessment will come into effect on January 1, 2020, which is halfway through their fiscal year. The directors were asked to think about the motion and the fact that the money retained this year, including the CCA assessment fund, normally will be put towards next years budget.

ABP has received a letter stating that CCA is topping up their Legal Assessment Fund to \$500,000. The ABP portion of the assessment would be \$206,246.83.

Motion by Lozeman/Smith-Fraser:

“That ABP pay the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association assessment of \$206,246.83 from the Trade Advocacy Fund.”

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Tom Lynch-Staunton – government relations, wildlife:

Lynch-Staunton gave the board an update on the government relations file since the provincial election. ABP has met with the Ag Minister and his Deputy to speak about issues that are important to producers. Lynch-Staunton has also met with the Environment Minister Nixon and his staff to discuss wildlife and grazing leases. He met with the Minister and two MLA’s from the Pincher Creek – Lethbridge area to discuss grazing leases.

Lynch-Staunton is still working with the Waterton Biosphere on the compensation process. Jeff Bectall, Waterton Biosphere, has been working with the Wildlife Committee to develop a pilot project proposal for best management practices, verification and improvements on the predator compensation file. The next steps with government are to try to get the Alberta Conservation Association on board. A good signal is coming from the Minister himself that predator compensation is a problem and we are presenting a possible solution.

Lynch-Staunton has been working with the strategic objectives performance report and believes that we will be ahead of some of the projected goals. Minister Nixon is committed to putting into place the Grazing Lease Rental Rate that ABP has been working on for a few years now. A percentage of the grazing lease rents will be put into a sustainability fund during those times when rates have been increased because of high market prices. The funds would be used for improvements on grazing leases.

Red Tape Reduction recommendations were presented to the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction and the government has committed to working on them.

Lynch-Staunton also spoke about selling animals from the farm that cannot be transported. He is waiting for feedback from the government. The problem is around anti-mortem slaughter. Before the meat can be slaughtered a vet needs to sign off on the health of the animal. Lynch-Staunton is making some progress with AFSC to prioritize BRM programs for the industry. ABP has a meeting with the Municipal Affairs Minister to discuss the Lethbridge County head tax and how they assess and tax agricultural land and agricultural operations.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Research Committee and BCRC report:

Lozeman provided written reports for the Research Committee and the BCRC meeting for the package.

(b) Cow Calf Council:

Conference call planned for early October. Mistakiis workshop was in early July. Alberta Fish & Wildlife agreed that verification of wildlife kills is a problem and that a number of producers still do not report deaths. There is a meeting scheduled with Minister Nixon to discuss predation. There will be a meeting on September 30th with AFSC about BRM programs. There will be a conference call to discuss Cow Calfenomics, ecosystem services, and selling meat from cull cows.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Cattle Price Insurance Program.

(c) Cattle Feeder Council:

Have not met since before the last board meeting.

(d) ACFA update:

Three members of ACFA and three from ABP met with the Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Grant Hunter. Stanley attended the last ACFA board meeting. There is an MLA reception on November 27th and Adams suggested that there should be a working group meeting before the reception.

6. Decision Items

(a) Delegate elections and Fall Meetings:

In the package are the results of the 2019 nominations. There will be an election in Zone 5 and two zones have open positions. The zone meetings will be held between October 24th and November 13th and the ballots will be counted on November 19th. As in past years the Executive or Executive Director will attempt to make as many meetings as possible.

(b) Regulatory Review Working Group proposal:

The changes proposed by the working group were in the package for director input. The directors were asked to look at the proposal and offer their input into it. Plans will need to be made regarding the directors who were elected this year as well as holding some type of general meeting in June, if the plan is approved.

This Regulatory Review proposal will fundamentally change the way ABP is set up to represent by the producers.

(c) Provincial Delivery Agent Agreement:

ABP is considering becoming the provincial delivery agent for the VBP+ training program. Audits will be done by the National VBP+ but it is a good time for the training to become the responsibility of the provincial cattle organization. The training that is done by VBP+ is a reasonable use of check-off funds. We will continue to have a contract with Melissa Downing who is currently doing the training. Adrienne Waller has prepared the agreement that was sent out last week and she was authorized to work on behalf of both ABP and CCA.

Motion by Jesse Williams/Gordon Graves:

“That ABP become the provincial delivery agent for the VPB+ training program.”

Carried

If provincial government funding falls through R. Smith stated that it would be appropriate to approach the NCO for the funds.

(d) ILWG and Public Trust Initiative funding:

The ILWG has reduced the budget for its Executive Director by 30% to \$78,000. With this reduction in funding and more focus on ILWG priorities, Stanley asked the board to consider funding 25% of the reduced amount.

Motion by Osadczuk/Israelson:

“That ABP and the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association represent one entity at the Intensive

Livestock Working Group, and each provide 20% of the requested funding.”

Carried

After some discussion, the directors agreed to postpone a vote on the motion until the ABP/ACFA working group has discussed it and ACFA has had a chance to consider the motion as well.

(e) ABIC Beef Presentation:

ABP has been approached with a sponsorship initiative that will be funded through the ABP Marketing department. R. Smith presented the initiative to the board. Brad Dubeau, Marketing & Education Manager, agreed that the *‘Beef on the Street’* proposal was a great opportunity for ABP and that there were funds in his budget for ABP to provide sponsorship. It is a three-way cost sharing between ABP, ACFA and ABIC. The final video will be presented at ABIC 2020 and we would be able to use the video for one year after the March release date.

(f) Agri-Food Systems Innovation Group – Baljit Singh:

Dr. Baljit Singh from the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine spoke to the members about food production systems.

Dr. Singh spoke briefly about the program offered by the University and the expansion of the program over the last year and the proposed expansion for 2020. Dr. Singh spoke of developing a beef cattle cluster which would work together to address issues as they arise.

Dr. Singh is asking for funding of \$240,000 a year for three years. Christie suggested that ABP speak with ACFA and the Public and Stakeholder Engagement about funding the program.

(g) Claire Hafner Sponsorship:

Smith-Fraser presented a sponsorship opportunity for ABP to provide \$1000 funding for Claire Hafner to box in New Zealand in October. Smith-Fraser suggested challenging other beef organization to match our funds. Hafner would be a good person to speak about Canada beef and the directors suggested this would be a good return for the investment.

Motion by Osadczuk/Graves:

“That ABP sponsor Claire Hafner in the amount of \$1000 and challenge other provincial organizations to match the funds.”

Carried

(h) Zone 1 delegate appointment:

Zone 1 has an appointee to finish out a one-year term for a delegate who has left early.

Motion by Stanley/Osadczuk:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the Zone 1 appointment of Jason Hale for a one-year term.”

7. In Camera

Board of Directors and Executive Director Evaluations – Maggie Kiel:

8. Discussion Items

(a) CBIC report:

The conference was not as well attended as the previous three and has had challenges finding sponsors. Nevertheless, there was good attendance and the conference was received very well by participants. Next year the conference will be held in Penticton.

(b) CCA Semi-AGM report:

CCA is considering giving National Cattle Feeders Association (NCFA) a voting seat on CCA. The NCFA would pay a membership to be able to vote. CCA was advised that any fee would have to be substantial.

(c) Federal Election Strategy:

CCA has prepared a federal election briefing document and will be preparing a survey that will be sent to all parties. ABP will be sending the information to candidates in key ridings and producers are encouraged to talk with candidates in their ridings about the briefing note and survey. The focus will be on strategic ridings where the results of the election may be in question.

(d) Fight For strategy session:

The government is contemplating a strategy for agriculture similar to the energy war room. They are holding a *Fight for Strategy* session on October 1st. Smith-Fraser has been invited to participate in this roundtable. The government is inviting 24 people from across the agriculture industry.

(e) Animal rights activism:

Katelyn Laverdure sent out a communication to the delegates about how to handle a situation if animal rights activists show up on their operation.

R. Smith was directed to send a letter to Minister Dreeshan thanking him for his support on this issue.

(f) Rural crime consultations:

The Justice Minister has embarked on a provincial tour to talk about rural crime.

(g) MNP project and Competitiveness Study:

Jan Tranburg and R Smith met with MNP last week to discuss the Municipal Development Plans engagement project. The competitiveness study is done; Tom Lynch-Staunton, Casey Vander Ploeg and Megan Madden are working on summarizing the report for our distribution.

(h) Producer delegate election issue:

Marketing Council was asked by the Minister to consider the issue with a Zone 8 delegate from last year whose nomination was deemed invalid. We acknowledged that we violated the estoppel principle and he was free to send in a nomination for 2019. The past delegate did not submit a new nomination form and neglected to challenge his removal as a delegate before the deadline for appeals passed. The past delegate has approached the Minister about this issue.

(i) Cattle Transport Roundtable:

Wovk attended this through AFAC. There was a presentation on cattle benchmarking. Least issue with feeders and fats. Biggest problem from dairy operations. Coming up with a definition for lameness. The truckers are worried because this is putting the onus on them because they are the ones who will be charged if there is a problem. They are trying to get cattle into the food banks. Food banks can accept wild meat but not domestic.

(j) Filling prescriptions:

Wovk gets a weekly email from the ABVMA and there was a question about the vet faxing or emailing a prescription to another clinic. It is in the bylaws that a vet can fill a prescription that has been faxed or emailed from another clinic.

(k) Zone Reports:

Zone 1: Hosted a BBQ on August 28th at Osadczuk's place. About 65 people attended including 3 MP's, 2 MLA's, all of the Executive, the AGLA Chair and ACFA Chair. The zone held a meeting on August 1st to discuss fall meetings; had a booth at Medicine Hat Stampede; Lehr family sits on Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce and have an Ag rep who would like to do more with ABP. Discussed plan review.

Zone 2: met in August to decide fall meetings; discussed plan review.

Zone 3: will be meeting shortly.

Zone 4: have 2 new delegates.

Zone 5: have not met yet. No booth at Agri-trade; have 6 people running for 3 spots.

Zone 6: had a zone meeting last week and have 2 new people to bring forward.

Zone 7: met to discuss meeting dates

Zone 8: served supper at *Hayin' in the 30's*. Last week Bill Fox had a double booth at Elk Point for Colonial Days. Will be having a zone meeting soon.

9. Reading Materials

- (a) BOD Resolutions & Action items:
- (b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Board of Directors Meeting – October 23, 2019 – ABP Boardroom, Calgary, AB
- (b) Fall Meetings – October 28 – November 15, 2019
- (c) Ballot Counting – November 19, 2019
- (d) Resolutions Committee Conference Call – November 26, 2019
- (e) New Delegate Orientation – November 27, 2019, ABP Boardroom, Calgary, AB
- (f) Board of Directors Meeting – December 2, 2019, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary, AB
- (g) Annual General Meeting – December 2 to 4, 2019, Sheraton Cavalier, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Grinde at 4:10 p.m.