

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARDROOM, CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Present: Fred Lozeman - *Chair, Zone 2*
Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1 (via phone)*
Graeme Finn - *Zone 3*
Heinz Lemmer - *Zone 3*
Nicole Viste - *Zone 4 (via phone)*
Stuart Somerville - *Zone 5 (via phone)*
Ralph Buhler - *Zone 6 (via phone)*
Mike Nadeau - *CCC rep*
Jeff Havens - *CFC rep*

Staff: Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Guest: Stacey Domolewski - *BCRC*

Absent: Martin Klassen - *Zone 7*
Blair Andersen - *Zone 8*

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and adoption of agenda:

Motion by Lemmer/Lozeman:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the November 10, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Havens/Nadeau:

“That the minutes of the November 10, 2017 Research Committee meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending January 31, 2018:

Schmid updated the committee on the budget. We are under budget on the meeting side and the project side. We did not have many face to face meetings during the year and there were a lower number of projects approved for funding.

Motion by Lozeman/Nadeau:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Election of Chair:

Schmid called for nominations three times:

Havens nominated Lozeman

Nominations were closed

Fred Lozeman was acclaimed Chair of the Research Committee.

(b) 2018/2019 budget:

There was a draft copy of the budget for the next fiscal year. The document showed budgets for the current and previous fiscal years.

Motion by Havens/Lemmer:

“That the Research Committee approves the budget as presented and to present to the ABP Board of Directors.”

Carried

(c) Appointment of BCRC representative:

Darren Bevans is currently representing ABP on BCRC. The term lasts for two years and will begin in June. Finn expressed interest in sitting. Finn was approved as the representative on BCRC.

(d) BCRC award for outstanding Research and Innovation:

This is an annual reward and has been awarded three times. ABP had submitted nominations in the past and asked the members if they had names to put forward. Finn suggested Dr. Surya Acharya from AAFC Lethbridge; Schmid suggested Dr. Eugene Janzen from UCVM; Dr. Bart Lardner, Western Beef Development Centre; Calvin Yoder from Beaverlodge; Dr. Vern Baron, AAFC Lacombe were also put forward.

The committee discussed the names mentioned and narrowed it down to Dr. Acharya and Dr. Janzen. Schmid would circulate more information on each and members would vote by email.

(e) 2017 Fall Meeting resolutions:

1. Motion by Lemmer/Nadeau:

“Be it resolved that ABP initiate research to determine a safe level of glyphosate in forage and grain rations for beef cattle.”

Zone 7

Defeated

Safe levels already exist so we can relate the information back to the mover without funding another study. Schmid will send the original mover of the resolution the information on the studies.

2. Motion by Nadeau/Havens:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government about the continuing emissions and pollutants that occur around industry that is affecting human health and livestock health and thriftiness.”

Zone 9

Defeated

This resolution is not specific enough to inform lobbying efforts. Studies have been done in the past on the impact of the oil and gas industry on the cattle industry. There is a mechanism for complaints that the producer can access.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Cluster Project Presentations:

Dr. Heather Bruce, U of A, gave the committee an update on her dark cutting beef project. Her presentation covered, what we know from previous research, risk factors for the condition and differences in the genomics and proteomics of dark cutting versus atypical dark cutting and normal carcasses;

Dr. Xianqin Yang from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lacombe joined the meeting to discuss her project on bacterial contamination of carcasses at packing plants. Yang talked about methods used to prevent contamination, including: (i) hide-on carcass wash; (ii) chilling carcasses (iii) microbial carcass washes; and spoke about microbiological factors limiting shelf life.

Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge spoke to the committee about her projects on reducing the pain of castration and branding in calves. To determine pain, they used both physiological and behavioral indicators of pain.

Dr. Carolyn Fitzsimmons from the U of A spoke to the members about her project on the using molecular breeding values for RFI in a real-world breeding situation at the Kinsella ranch.

(b) Direction & priority areas for upcoming research activities:

Schmid explained how the Research Committee has funded projects in the past. The committee funding is best used when working with other organizations to fund a project. Schmid has found that if they send out calls for more specific funding they have fewer LOI's that they need to

reject, reducing work load for the researchers. The committee takes broad categories from the Canadian Beef Cattle Research and Technology Transfer Strategy and then focuses on specific outcomes under the Strategy that may be underfunded, or of importance to producers.

The committee worked with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) last year to fund research. Does the committee want to work with SCA again or investigate other partnerships? Schmid will confirm with SCA if they are still interested in partnering with ABP.

More emphasis on technology transfer; BCRC is trying to coordinate the extension effort across Canada with the Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy.

Some members felt that we should only fund projects that affect producers at the farm gate, however it was also recognized that industry money helps to ensure that program capacity in all areas is not eroded, and that research in some of those other areas directly affects legislation or other policy decisions that ultimately have an impact on producers. Schmid is looking for a general direction before she approaches SCA about funding research.

Dr. Acharya is looking to extending his research and is requesting additional funding to continue.

There was support for priorities under the Animal Health and Welfare and Forage and Grassland Productivity areas. Schmid was directed to work with SCA to focus priorities as appropriate.

(c) 2015 Forage Call update:

We funded seven projects and soon will add and eighth to utilize the remaining funds. Schmid briefly spoke about each project that we are funding. All the projects are progressing, but two have had minor setbacks due to weather conditions. All projects will end September 2018.

(d) 2016 AMR/AMU update:

We are funding four AMR/AMU projects and Schmid spoke briefly about them as well. These projects are progressing well and will be completed by September 2019.

(e) 2017 Research Call update:

Dr. Lardner will be applying to the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development fund this spring for the remaining funds for the forage project we agreed to fund for \$48,000 (split 50:50 with SCA) during the last funding call.

The committee also agreed to support Dr. Schwartzkopf-Genswein's transport rest stop project for \$25,000. This project is included in the upcoming Cluster application and trucking costs increased substantially since the proposal was initially submitted.

(f) Elastrator project update:

ABP is the lead applicant on a project that intends to see if it's possible to incorporate pain medication into elastrator bands. The committee at the time thought the project was worthwhile. They have started testing different formulations of medication into the ring. Once they have found an ideal formulation, larger sized bands will be tested as well. There will be live animal trials as well.

(g) Rancher Researcher Pilot/Alberta Beef Forage and Grazing Centre Update:

The ABFGC is an agreement between Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with six strategic outcomes, including extension. There is an industry advisory committee, a management committee and a research and extension advisory committee. Work very closely with ARECA groups and other organizations in the province. The Rancher Researcher Pilot is funded by AF and is connecting ranchers directly with researchers to help adopt innovations and find out why certain things aren't being adopted.

What will be the best service for you to get information out to the producer? The centre is more a network of people and organizations than a specific place.

(h) BCRC update:

BCRC had a meeting in January in Saskatchewan. Spoke about the third Science Cluster. BCRC was the first to officially submit to AAFC. Outstanding questions still include the amount of leverage and whether AAFC will fund the full amount requested. Decisions are expected by April but have been delayed in the past.

(i) "Worried About..." update:

There are three brochures right now. Karin, Katelyn Laverdure, Brad Dubeau, and many others, are working on a fourth on beef nutrition. There are still significant redesign and content changes to be made. Schmid will be able to share once we get closer to a final design.

Water use and better biodiversity information might be good topics in the future.

(j) Other:

Members brought up their concerns with the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle. It was felt that some of the practices put Canada at a disadvantage with the US, and that it was mandatory. It was clarified that the Code is voluntary, we have specific animal welfare legislation in Alberta and that the Beef Quality Assurance Cattle Care and Handling Guidelines in the US has similar recommendations.

7. General Reading Material

- (a) Research Committee Terms of Reference:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Alberta Beef Industry Conference – Red Deer, AB, February 21-23, 2018
- (b) AFAC Livestock Care Conference – Olds, AB, March 14-15, 2018
- (c) ABP Semi-Annual Meeting – Edmonton, AB, June 11-13, 2018
- (d) UCVM Beef Cattle Conference + International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare – Calgary, AB, June 19-21, 2018
- (e) Beef Improvement Federation Conference – London, ON, August 14-16, 2018
- (f) Next meeting - TBD

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Havens at 3:35 p.m.