

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS**  
**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2018, 8:30 a.m.**  
**AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

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|-----------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Present:</b> | Charlie Christie<br>Kelly Smith-Fraser<br>Melanie Wowk<br>Sheila Hillmer<br>Chris Israelson<br>Jesse Williams<br>Colin Campbell<br>Tim Sekura<br>John MacArthur<br>Assar Grinde<br>Fred Lozeman<br>Brad Osadczuk<br>Cathy Sharp<br>Tim Smith<br>Ken Stanley<br>Bob Lowe | - <i>Chair</i><br>- <i>Vice-Chair/Zone 5</i><br>- <i>Finance Chair/Zone 8</i><br>- <i>Zone 2</i><br>- <i>Zone 3</i><br>- <i>Zone 4</i><br>- <i>Zone 7</i><br>- <i>Zone 6</i><br>- <i>Zone 9</i><br>- <i>@ Large</i><br>- <i>@ Large</i><br>- <i>@ Large</i><br>- <i>@ Large</i><br>- <i>CCC Chair</i><br>- <i>CFC Chair</i><br>- <i>Past Chair</i> | 31 <sup>st</sup> was distributed to the directors. ABP is slightly below budget with 30% spent as of July 31 <sup>st</sup> though that will have increased once August's expenses have been calculated. Marketings are up almost 150,000 from this time last year. Refunds increased by almost \$230,000 from this time last year and \$1.35 million has been paid out. Since the service charge became non-refundable over \$20 million has been paid out. |
| <b>Staff:</b>   | Rich Smith<br>Rosanne Allen<br>Katelyn Laverdure<br>Laura Procunier   | - <i>Executive Director</i><br>- <i>Office Administrator</i><br>- <i>Communications</i><br>- <i>Controller</i>   | Carried   |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | Garth Porteous  | - <i>Zone 1</i>  |   |
| <b>Guest:</b>   | Fred Hays   | - <i>Policy Analyst, retired</i>   |   |

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

## **1. Adoption of Agenda**

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### **(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:**

Additions: 8(k) Grazing Lease Holders meeting; 8(j) CFIA proposed traceability amendments;

Motion by Osadczuk/Lozeman:

**"That the agenda be approved with changes."**

Carried

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

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### **(a) Minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting:**

Motion by Hillmer/MacArthur:

**"That the minutes of the July 16, 2018 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented."**

Carried

## **3. Financial Report**

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### **(a) Financial Statement ending August 31, 2018:**

The financial report found in the package was for the month ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, but the statement ending August

Motion by Wowk/Osadczuk:

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

Carried

### **(b) Refund Report:**

In the package was a copy of the refunds paid out since the service charge became refundable. For this period, there were 430 refund requests totaling nearly \$1.35 million being paid out or 43% of the collected check-off. A few of the larger operations that didn't request refunds last July requested them this year.

## **4. Policy and Governance Issues**

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### **(a) Staff Update:**

Going forward managers will take turns giving a 5-minute update to the directors on their activities. With the upcoming plebiscite, R. Smith and Laverdure explained to the directors what steps they have taken so far to prepare for it. R. Smith was able to find voting information on the last plebiscite in ABP archives.

ABP is hoping that producers will be able to vote in person at fall meetings, by mail-in ballot, or at AFSC offices. R. Smith believes we need a significant number of producers voting in the plebiscite to get an accurate and acceptable view as well as to support any actions resulting from the plebiscite. ABP is just waiting for the regulations to be published.

R. Smith also gave a brief update on the CBIC meeting that took place in Ontario early in August.

Staff are getting ready for the Fall meetings; finishing the annual report; and preparing for the AGM. R. Smith's role is one of guidance for the staff who have any questions or concerns.

Laverdure handed out a printed package showing the advertising that has been sent out so far. It is tying in with the messaging showing the value of ABP and the importance of getting out to vote. We are hitting every media outlet out there, but we need the zone directors and delegates to get out there speaking to their producers. Once the regulations has been published for the plebiscite, a

larger run will be done with more precise information and sent to producers.

Sharp asked if each zone could get a list of the producers in their area with their phone numbers so that they could be contacted. Marketing Council will be sending out plebiscite information using our mail list.

## **5. Council and Committee Reports**

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### **(a) Cow Calf Council:**

Fred Hays retired as the ABP Policy Analyst as of August 31<sup>st</sup>. He joined the meeting as a guest and to provide his last update on Council activities.

There was a conference call about liquid strichnine control. CCA has sent a letter and with the board's approval ABP will send a letter as well.

Prepared an article for Grass Routes and participated in a Cattle Country airing. Wildlife Working Group has had two conference calls to work with Miistikis to arrange a wildlife forum.

Looking at a partnership with ARECA in the future. Miistikis is addressing the issue of getting through the process of compensation. One issue that will be discussed is a multiplier on predator compensation.

Fred's retirement is also a concern for the Council and they hope that he is replaced by someone of equal knowledge.

### **(b) Cattle Feeder Council:**

There is a meeting tomorrow and will have a report for the next meeting.

### **(c) Research Committee:**

We are just waiting for the reviews from outside reviewers on the full proposals for the joint call with SCA. We will be having another meeting once they are all in.

## **6. Decision Items**

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### **(a) Drought Situation and Response:**

There was a letter in the package from Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association calling for immediate federal government improvements to the Tax Deferral Provision for ranchers and farmers hit by dry conditions. CCA is also working on the issue. CCA is looking for a solution that would address not just the current problem but would be in place for any issue that arose in the future.

Overall, the provincial cereal crops look average to good, but pasture land and hay fields are in terrible condition in many areas. Christie spoke with the Minister of Agriculture and was told that no Counties have declared an emergency yet. Sharp has spoken to Lacombe and Stettler County about the drought and neither County seems to believe that there is a problem. Fraser spoke with Red Deer County, but nothing has been brought forward yet.

It needs to be emphasized that this is the second-year some producers have experienced drought conditions and if we have another year like this it will only become worse.

The tax deferral and Moisture Deficiency Insurance may not provide sufficient support for producers. Do we put a working group together to investigate the problem, see if there is feed out there and to explore asking for further government assistance?

Grinde spoke about a feed needs insurance program that would pay out if a producer did not have enough feed because of drought or disaster.

Motion by Hillmer/MacArthur:

**"That ABP create a Working Group to investigate the drought and how it is affecting Alberta cattle producers."**

Carried

Hillmer, MacArthur, Stanley, Grinde, T. Smith and Sharp agreed to sit on the working group.

Christy encouraged the directors to speak with their counties to see where they are on declaring a disaster.

**DIRECTION: the working group to scope out current situation, where we are going into winter. Analyze where producers are right now and what they need to make it through the winter to spring and consider recommendations for ABP action.**

### **(b) Plebiscite Update and Plans:**

Discussed earlier.

### **(c) Supply Management Policy:**

There was a meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> with Cattle Feeders and Stock Growers and with members of the supply management sector. Lowe was attending for CCA and Christie suggested that Wowk attend for ABP. The purpose of the meeting was to hear what they have to say, not to convince them to stop supply management. ABP has the responsibility to make sure there are no trade barriers for the export of Canadian beef.

Most of the directors agreed that it was important that ABP be there and at least hear what is being said among the other groups.

Motion by Osadczuk/Grinde:

**"That Melanie Wowk represent ABP at the meeting with the Supply Management Group."**

Carried

Wowk gave the directors an update on the supply management meeting and felt that it was a good thing that beef had attended to address some misrepresentation. There was discussion of Class 7 milk products and whether it is worth the effect it is having on the beef industry. Lowe

also gave his impressions of the discussions. They agreed that it was good that they were both there.

(d) Response to Liquid Strychnine amendments:

R. Smith provided a copy of the letter CCA had sent to Health Canada regarding the use of liquid strychnine. Larry Thomas worked on the letter and thanked us for the help we gave. There is no alternative right now to control Richardson Ground Squirrels and the use is already very strictly regulated. There is no evidence that liquid strychnine is being misused.

Motion by T. Smith/Osadczuk:

**“That ABP write a letter to Health in support of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association’s letter on liquid strychnine.”**

Carried

(e) Response to Fisheries Act changes:

The proposed changes to the Fisheries Act will encompass more moving water than previous. The changes will make any water with the necessary flow to sustain fish deemed a fish habitat. This will affect producers across Canada and CCA has been working on this and ABP may want to send a letter of support.

Motion by Osadczuk/Stanley:

**“That ABP send a letter to the federal government supporting the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association position on the changes to the Fisheries Act.”**

Carried

(f) Miistakis Institute Forum:

In the package was information on the Miistakis forum and the ABP speaking points for the forum. The Problem Wildlife Working Group prepared the speaking points and these were approved by the CCC. Two members of the working group will be representing ABP at the wildlife forum and want support from ABP for their speaking points. The information has gone out to the CCC for their input and the document is the key issues to discuss under the forum.

Motion by Grinde/Campbell:

**“That ABP support the speaking points developed by the Problem Wildlife Working Group for the Miistakis forum on ‘Human-Wildlife Coexistence on Agricultural Lands.’”**

Carried

(g) Competitiveness Study:

There was a project outline in the package. In 2005, ABP went together with ACFA to have a large competitiveness study done. With the upcoming elections, ABP and ACFA

felt it would be timely to update the study. It will cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000 and would be split evenly between ABP, ACFA and the processors.

The board was supportive of the concept and will await a formal recommendation from Cattle Feeder Council and actual project costs.

(h) Ottawa Fly In:

There are some dates available for fly-ins in October and November. R. Smith scheduled ABP for a fly-in for November 27<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in attending let R. Smith know.

The fly-ins are a chance for producers to speak to MP’s in support of the lobbying that CCA does for cattle producers across Canada.

(i) CRSB Council representative:

The CRSB has a council that directs their activities. The positions come up for election every two years and this year one of the position open is for a producer organization representative. Greg Bowie has been there representing ABP for the last two years. Bowie has indicated he would be willing to serve another two years if the board agrees. Bob Lowe is also sitting on the council.

Motion by Stanley/Campbell:

**“That ABP nominate Greg Bowie as a producer organization member of the Council for the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.”**

Carried

(j) ABIC update and Board meeting:

Typically, ABIC has been held in February but they have now moved it to March 12-14, 2019. Typically, ABP has held a meeting the day before the beginning of the conference. Does the board want to hold a board meeting in Red Deer before the conference?

Motion by Osadczuk/Israelson:

**“That ABP hold the March 2019 Board of Directors meeting in Red Deer in conjunction with the Alberta Beef Industry Conference.”**

Carried

(k) U.S. State Cattle Meetings:

Dave Moss, CCA, put together a list of US cattle meetings that would be strategic for Alberta members to attend. We might want to consider Montana Stock Growers meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Beef Farmers of Ontario meeting in February would also be a good meeting to attend. We should also consider attending Manitoba’s meeting in February.

Hillmer would be interested in attending Montana and an Executive member should also attend.

(l) Zone 1 CFC appointment:

The zone has a candidate for the open CFC position. His family runs about a 6000 head operation. After some discussion it was agreed to wait until November to have him appointed.

## **7. In Camera**

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### **8. Discussion Items**

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(a) Fall Meeting Dates and Delegate Elections:

A list of the meeting dates was provided in the meeting package. Directors were asked to let Allen know if there were any changes or corrections. There will be a delegate engagement activity again at these meetings.

(b) CBIC/CCA Report:

The Agency is moving in the right direction and we should know by March how to allocate our funding for the 2020/2021 year. The conference was well attended, and the tour was instructive. The directors who attended felt that it was successful and were impressed by producers who attended from western Canada at their own cost. Dr. Eugene Janzen received the BCRC Researcher award.

The CBIC is getting away from committees to do the work setting up the conferences and moving towards having one committee of people who get the job done. Laverdure and Brad Dubeau will be assisting for the 2019 conference.

(c) United Conservative Party (UCP) Meeting:

Tom Lynch-Staunton, R. Smith, and members of the Executive will be meeting with the UCP at 3:00 p.m. in Calgary on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Supply Management met with them last week. Will be discussing Bill 6, grazing lease rental rates, and the plebiscite.

(d) BCRC Report:

There was a short report in the package provided by Lozeman. He spoke briefly about the meeting.

(e) Prescription Only Antibiotic Distribution:

We have been working with the ILWG on the cost and distribution of prescription only antibiotics. ABP approached the Ag Minister with our concerns and he said to speak directly with the ABVMA. We believe there are clauses in the ABVMA regulations that would give producers more options for acquiring prescription only antimicrobial drugs. This is an ongoing issue, and ABP will continue to work with our colleagues to address it.

(f) Mental Health Resource for Producers – Smith-Fraser:

This year at the Stampede a young girl gave a speech about mental health in the agriculture industry. She gave the speech at the Young Workers for Agriculture Program. Fraser thinks that this is something ABP should address on their website or newsletter so that the initiative does not die out.

(g) Pipeline Right of Ways – MacArthur:

MacArthur has brought this forward to address the issues of old pipelines and well sites that are being abandoned. In some areas, oil and gas companies want to put in new pipelines without releasing the caveats on old pipelines. MacArthur would like to see a letter from ABP

Motion by MacArthur/Stanley:

**“That ABP write a letter to Alberta Environment Regulator about releasing landowners from encumbrances on abandoned wells and pipelines.”**

Carried

(h) Harvest Gala:

For information. In the past ABP has sponsored a beef station at the Harvest Gala and we will be doing it again and as part of the sponsorship we receive a table for eight. The Gala will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at Spruce Meadows.

(i) MLA Dinner with ACFA:

We worked together with ACFA on a MLA reception in the spring and ACFA has a dinner on November 7<sup>th</sup> for the government MLA's. They have invited us to attend.

(j) Zone reports:

*Zone 1:* Osadczuk will be the acting Zone Director. Porteous is unsure whether he will be returning and will be taking the fall off. Meeting in August and recruited a new CFC representative. Reaffirmed fall plebiscite; Sponsored ABP booth at Medicine Hat; Sponsored Up in Smoke BBQ competition in Jenner.

*Zone 2:* Held a meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss strategy on getting producers out to meetings to vote. Added a third meeting location this year; Next week Elanco is doing a BBQ in support of the Alex Group; participating in Aggie Days in Raymond.

*Zone 3:* Eliminated one meeting for this fall; have a new delegate; hitting the auction marts to speak with producers about plebiscite and voting.

*Zone 4:* The zone hasn't had a meeting; there will be an election.

*Zone 5:* held a zone meeting last week; there is a bear issue in at Rocky Mountain House; discussed game plan for auction marts; supported a summer synergy auction; 4-H kids manned the booth at AgriTrade; there will be an election in the zone.

*Zone 6:* have held no meetings; the zone attended a local trade fair where there was very poor attendance.

*Zone 7:* they held a meeting last week; there is a new delegate; will be holding two meetings with supper.

*Zone 8:* held a couple of conference calls; zone has 2 vacancies.

*Zone 9:* held a conference call a week ago to discuss fall meetings; have added a meeting in La Crete.

(k) Grazing Lease Holders meeting:

John Buckley and Roland Cailliau met with a number of grazing lease organizations to discuss the proposed changes to the grazing lease rates. They also discussed the bison issue and the government proposed policy that would ban any domestic sheep west of Highway 22.

(l) CFIA proposed traceability amendments:

Sekura was given a letter about traceability and the proposed traceability amendments. Sekura wanted to know what proposed amendments they are talking about. The CFIA will be introducing the regulations for the national traceability framework early in 2019. The industry has been working closely with CFIA to insure the regulations are consistent with our traceability implementation plan.

**9. Reading Materials**

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- (a) ABP BOD Resolutions and Action Items:
- (b) Beef Supply at a Glance:
- (c) 2018-2019 Delegate Phone list:

**10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events**

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- (a) Board of Directors Meeting – October 17, 2018 –  
Calgary, AB
- (b) Staff Appreciation – November 22, 2018

**11. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Israelson at 4:15 p.m.