

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2017, 8:00 a.m.
AT THE DELTA EDMONTON SOUTH HOTEL**

Present: Penny Patton - *Chair, Zone 7*
Tim Smith - *Vice Chair*
Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*
Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*
Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*
Linda Messner - *Zone 9*
Heinz Lemmer - *Director @ Large*
Brad Osadcuk - *Board Rep*

Staff: Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Guest: Ed Shaw - *CFGA*

Absent: Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*
Tyler Sawley - *Zone 2*
Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*
Devon Sengaus - *Director @ Large*

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) ABP Plan and Strategic Objectives 2017-2018:

The Strategic Objectives were presented to the delegates at the Semi-Annual meeting on Tuesday. The members discussed how the council’s fit into the strategic plan and what they can do to help ABP meet its objectives.

One ABP objective was to ensure that Alberta government land, water, and environmental policies support the interests of farmers and ranchers. Some of ABP’s environmental policy can be addressed through the Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA). AEPA is a multi-stakeholder partnership of the agriculture industry, GOA, and environmental non-government organizations, working to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective. Rich Smith and Fred Hays sit on the Advisory Committee and the Land Use Framework (LUF) Working Group; Greg Bowie is on the AEPA Water Working Group. Suntjens agreed to attend the meetings as a producer.

The carbon levy does concern many Alberta beef producers; this needs to be assessed.

(b) Fall meeting resolution:

The Wildlife Policy Working Group met on Monday to discuss a wildlife policy for the organization. Last year the Wildlife Committee had a forum in which the government took part to develop a policy for wildlife but at the time nothing came out of it. At the meeting on Monday they took a second look at the results of the forum. Waterton Biosphere has come up with best management practices on how to deal with predation. The Wildlife Working Group will work with Waterton to develop a policy that will address best management practices and wildlife loss compensation for the province.

(c) Wolf Pilot – Three Creeks Provincial Grazing Association:

Hays sent this to the council last week to read for discussion at today’s meeting. The project needs \$10,000 and is looking for \$5000 from ABP to help in hiring a trapper for two months to trap wolves in the Three Creeks area.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda 8:00 a.m.

(a) Additions and approval of agenda:

Additions: 6(f) North American Water:

Motion by Suntjens/Osadcuk:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting and the April 10, 2017 and May 10, 2017 conference calls:

Motion by Messner/Grinde:

“That the minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting, the April 10, 2017 and May 10, 2017 conference calls be accepted as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending May 30, 2017:

Motion by Krebs/Lemmer:

The council did not believe that this was something that ABP should be funding.

DIRECTION: Patton will send a letter explaining that it is not in our mandate to privately fund individual projects.

(d) Working Group Review:

Safety-Net – have not had any meetings recently. Hays did send out information on a proposal for calf mortality insurance. Grinde briefly explained the proposal to the council. The members expressed some interest in this type of insurance and suggest that the subcommittee explore the proposal. Tim Smith, Grinde, Stopanski and Graves sit on the Safety-net subcommittee.

Ecological Services – Lemmer spoke about the ecological work producers do to maintain wildlife in Alberta. ES members recently took part in a Land Stewardship Centre forum (Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network (ESBN) that would help turn this work into a positive asset for producers. Two groups presently addressing this with their programs are Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS). Looking for a pilot project to address that could possibly be with a past ESA award winner. ABP should have someone sitting on the ESBN Advisory Council when it is established.

Motion by Grinde/Mansell:

“That Heinz Lemmer represent the Cow Calf Council on the Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network Advisory Council when it is established.”

Carried

Lemmer, Grinde, Tim Smith and Suntjens sit on the ESWG.

Farm Plastics – Grinde spoke about the project but nothing has been done yet. Right now, it depends on the municipality regulation. Grinde is hoping to find someone from the south to also participate on the WG. Grinde, Mansell and Van Der Giessen sit on the Farm Plastics WG.

Colleges – Mansell spoke with a young cattleman who was a part of the Young Cattlemen’s. He would like to expand the working group into a mentorship. There are students who are not from a farming family who are in ag programs at college and where mentorship with producers would benefit them and the industry. Mansell will expand the WG membership in the near term; he will fill out the checklist and submit it to the council.

(e) Miistakis Conference Proposal:

Miistakis is proposing to help ABP develop a conference managing co-existence between wildlife and humans. The conference will focus on predation and ungulate feed loss and damage and understanding these issues. The

Wildlife Committee rejected this proposal last year but the council member see this as a positive event.

Mansell suggested putting a working group together with the Miistakis group and bring a proposal forward to the council. Patton will ask Colin Campbell, Buck Eden, Gordon Graves, Maarten Braat, Rick McKnight, Kevin Krebs, Kevin Stopanski and Stuart Somerville.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) GMO Alfalfa – Ed Shaw, Forage Exporter, Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association:

Ed Shaw from the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGa) spoke to the council on GMO alfalfa. The CFGa is doing a project on carbon sequestration that ABP could be a part of. Shaw gave some background on Alfalfa and GMO Roundup Ready alfalfa. While it is not illegal to grow GMO alfalfa in Canada, it is only presently grown and sold in Eastern Canada. There are some very strong production reasons to grow GMO alfalfa, but EU countries, China, Japan and the Middle East have banned it. Canada is an exporting nation; GMO grown forage will directly affect the export tonnage that can be exported. Some counties in Alberta are in the process of banning GMO alfalfa. The situation is more about politics than science.

(b) Beef and Green House Gas production: Consumers willingness to pay. Dr. Ellen Goddard UofA:

Dr. Ellen Goddard, Chair in Agriculture Marketing and Business, U of A, spoke to the council on green house gas (GHG) emissions from the beef sector and sustainability. Her research evaluated cow-calf producer incentive to adopt innovations in traits, such as reduced GHG production, with economic implications for the beef supply chain. There was evidence of misalignment in incentives within the supply chain; a significant proportion of the additional value of innovation was going to producers who do not incur any additional cost from the adoption of improved management that reduces GHGs.

(c) Cow-Calfenomics update – Rick Dehod:

Rick Dehod, GOA/AF, thanked the council members for their continued support of the Cow-Calfenomics. The series focuses on innovative training, new technology, and easy to use tools and strategic solutions to contribute to better informed decision making at the farm level. This year they are looking at going into Brooks Lethbridge and Olds College in November 2017 and Vermilion, Westlock and Stettler January 2018. They will be talking about market output, opportunities and threats; risk management; cost of production; financial management;

business structure and strategy; and Canadian Cattlemen Young Leaders.

(d) GF3/GOA ag extension – Rick Dehod, Herman Simons, Joel Bokenfohr, Adrienne Herron:

Rick Dehold was looking for direction from the Council for AF extension programs under upcoming GF3. Areas discussed included: How to make decisions to purchase machinery or land; important to think outside the box; networking; risk management/using different insurance products; growing farms and transaction values; importance of technology; off-farm income/lifestyle; identifying missed opportunities; identifying what works/ what doesn't; using numbers to manage the business; keeping and using good records; having a side business; working together/ agreements (collaboration) and structures; using a support system; tools to build the cow herd; alternative succession planning.

(e) Board, Committee and Association Reports:

i. Board Report – Osadczuk:

Non-refundable Checkoff talks; Beef Industry Development Fund; we need to move forward with this and what the board has been struggling with. Have to wait for the board to come out with its decision which they are hoping will be done by the July 20th board meeting.

ii. Governance Report – Mansell:

Met on Monday and also discussed the check-off and the plebiscite. Have gone through the Governance Manual and hope to be through it by the end of the summer.

iii. Audit Committee Report - Wymenga:

Met Monday morning to go over the audited financial statements. Commended Laura Procnier on her work.

iv. Research Committee Report – Stopanski:

Nothing to report at this time.

v. Safety-Net Subcommittee - Tim Smith:

Nothing to report at this time. Will assess a producer's calf mortality insurance request.

vi. Wildlife Working Group:

Report given under 4(b).

vii. Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG) – Stopanski:

Have not met

viii. Endangered Species Conservation Committee Report:

Have not met

ix. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Report (DEMAG) – Wymenga:

Have weekly reports that come out which are sent to Katelyn Laverdure who sends them out.

x. Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee report – Andersen:

Have not had a meeting. GOA has been assessing various government committees for some time. This committee falls under this umbrella.

xi. Alberta Forages Industry Network report (AFIN) – Lemmer:

Participated in a conference call yesterday.

xii. Cows and Fish Report - Johnson:

Their annual meeting is in July.

xiii. AEPA Water WG Report:

They are meeting next week.

xiv. AEPA Land-use WG Report – Hays:

They have an Advisory Committee meeting today; Hays will send the minutes to the Council from the meeting.

xv. Alberta Farm Animal Care Report – Mansell/Boeve:

Nothing to report

7. General Reading Material

(a) 2017 Resolutions and Actions Items:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Conference call before next board meeting to review Miistakis Conference

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Patton at 3:10 p.m.