

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS  
MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL  
MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2019, 8:30 a.m.**

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**Present:** Tim Smith - *Chair*  
Shane Hansen - *Vice Chair, Zone 2*  
Keith Chitwood - *Zone 3 (via phone)*  
Katlyn Benedict - *Zone 5*  
Kolton Kasur - *Zone 6*  
Emil Dmytriw - *Zone 8*  
Jodi Flaig - *@ Large*

**Staff:** Tom Lynch-Staunton - *GR & Policy*

**Absent:** Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*  
Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*  
Martin Clausen - *Zone 7*  
Kody Traxel - *@ Large*  
Brodie Haugan - *BOD representative*  
Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*

The conference call was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda 8:30 a.m.**

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(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Flaig/Hansen:

**“That the agenda be approved as presented.”**

Carried

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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(a) Minutes of the June 12, 2019 Meeting:

Spelling mistake of “wildfire” to “wildlife”- fixed.

Motion by Smith/Hansen:

**“That the minutes of the June 12, 2019 Cow Calf Council Meeting be approved.”**

Carried

(b) Matters arising:

- (i) **DIRECTION: Lynch-Staunton to follow up with Greg Bowie to see if there is an update from the Battle River Watershed.** Lynch-Staunton has sent several requests to Bowie for updates. Will continue to do so.
- (ii) **DIRECTION: Smith asked Lynch-Staunton to see if NCC would share information on how much land they have put easements on or purchased.** Lynch-Staunton did talk with NCC and they said they would be able to share this with the council. Will follow up.

**3. Financial Report**

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(a) Financial Statement ending Aug.31, 2019:

Lynch-Staunton gave the financial update to the council. The major expenditure for the June 25<sup>th</sup> Miistakis Workshop was invoiced in September and will show up on the next update. There have not been many expenses yet to date.

Motion by Flaig/Kasur:

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

Carried

**4. Discussion Items**

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(a) CCC 2019-2020 Workplan Update:

Lynch-Staunton gave an update on the progress of the workplan objectives to date, and most items are on track with some completed.

(b) Board and Committee updates:

(i) Board Update:

Smith gave a quick update on recent board discussions. Kasur asked about the state of the committees- CCC and Cattle Feeder Council, and ABP restructuring ideas. Board is looking at ways to be more effective, save costs, and whether there is a need for the councils, considering whether the committees can better serve the purpose to address cow/calf issues. Board will be proposing a few big changes and there will be lots of discussion at producer meetings and the AGM. Benedict asked whether the Board will release what the proposed changes for the fall meetings. Lynch-Staunton was asked to follow up with Rich to see if there will be a discussion document for the fall meetings. UPDATE: Lynch-Staunton followed up and a discussion document with proposed changes will be circulated to the delegates for the fall producer meetings.

Upcoming Board meeting will discuss the Beefier Barley billboard from the UofA- seems to be a bit of discussion on this subject.

(ii) ABP Research, Audit, Governance Committees:

*Research:* Update from Flaig- Research committee is now accepting full proposals for review, selected from the previous call for Letters of Intent. The proposals address forage research, animal health research- respiratory disease, reduce antimicrobial use- as well as other areas.

(c) Cow Calfenomics

The council had a discussion on the value of the workshops- concerns about students attending just for the meal. If ABP puts it together it should be focussed on beef production (not plant science). Perhaps don't need free tickets for all students. Some

members didn't want to support the current focus but would support ABP running the workshops if they were rejigged to make them more effective. Also, can look for ways to reduce the costs of the workshops.

Flaig highlighted that the Cow-calfenomics were useful and could be used to communicate better with producers and to help producers support ABP. There is not much out there that reaches out to producers in this way. Also agreed that we don't need to support students to attend for free. AB Milk charges \$75 for similar workshops, and ABP could charge a similar price with student discounts (not free), leaving extra dollars to bring in good speakers. Questions arose about staff time needed to organize. Flaig thinks it wouldn't be too bad to organize. Brand new researcher at UofA who is super keen to get in front of producers. Massive feed shortages would be a very good subject. Need to pick timely themes for the workshops. ABP already struggles with reaching out to its membership, this can be a good venue to do this. Producers are hungry for information and can get good feedback from all producers- The Cow-Calfenomics Workshops create a forum for sharing information and create value on many other operations.

Hansen recommended that staff explore funding and think about organizing workshops next year since it may be too tight to do it this year.

Benedict suggested ABP can take it on for a year, try it, and if it doesn't work, we can always cancel it later.

Motion by Hansen/Chitwood:

**“The Cow Calf Council recommends ABP take on organizing the Cow-Calfenomics Workshops and seek alternate ways of funding the workshops to reduce costs to ABP.”**

Carried

**The Council further recommended that the Cow Calf Extension committee help organize/set direction.**

(d) CCC Working Group updates:

(i) Safety-net Subcommittee update:

Lynch-Staunton and Smith gave an update on a recent meeting between the committee and AFSC senior staff to discuss the committee's recommendation and encouraging AFSC to prioritize improving hay, forage and pasture insurance programs over already working crop insurance programs. AFSC mentioned they will have improvements coming next year. Most of the discussion was on implementing a Feed-need model which they think is doable. AFSC also proposed a cost share with producers to install more weather stations. Flaig and Dmytriw mentioned it was a great opportunity to build a stronger relationship with AFSC and considered the meeting very worthwhile.

(ii) Ecosystems Working Group: OECMs/ NAIT project

Lynch-Staunton gave an update on the progress on ABPs draft position on classifying grazing lands as “Other Effective Conservation Measures” to help Canada hit its biodiversity

conservation targets of 17% of all lands in Canada to be conserved for biodiversity. The committee has drafted a potential policy position for ABP to consider. The main reason for this would be to keep grazing leases on public lands intact well into the future so they don't get converted to parks.

The Council discussed the CAP Project Proposal: “Integrated Modeling to Assess the Ecosystem Service Benefits of Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices”. Dr. Marian Weber who wrote the proposal is asking for ABPs involvement and a cash contribution of \$5000.

Motion by Hansen/Kasur:

**“That the Cow Calf Council approve funding of \$5000 for ‘Integrated Modeling to Assess the Ecosystem Service Benefits of Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices.’, out of the CCC budget.”**

Carried

(iii) Environmental Stewardship Award Judging update-

Kasur gave an update on the ESA judging which includes a score out of 100 with metrics like range and cropland management, including how grass, riparian areas, and water are taken care of, community involvement, extension, other environmental stewardship activities, partnering with ENGOs, winter feeding systems, manure management, wildlife habitat management, animal welfare, goals for the operation, and implementation of those goals. The nominator for the winner this year was a conservation association that has worked with the ranch for awhile

Smith asked how subjective the selection is when comparing to other ranches.

(iv) Cull Cow Working Group update: On farm Slaughter

The working group has drafted recommendations on how to allow for the sale or donation of meat for on-farm slaughter. The main problem that restricts this is the regulatory requirement for an ante-mortem inspection by a vet. Some suggestions include using photos and video submitted to a vet for inspection or certifying other qualified inspectors like a mobile butcher.

Lynch-Staunton has submitted our recommendations to AB Agriculture Food Safety department and to the Minister of Red tape Reduction. Food Safety staff will be providing feedback soon.

Kasur wanted to ensure we keep up with pushing this through government so that they don't forget about it.

Flaig mentioned that AFAC, including Karin Schmidt and ABP director Melanie Wowk, have also been advocating this as well. Good that government are hearing this from several avenues.

Smith suggested we should also consider pushing for tax exemptions for donations.

(e) Wildlife Working Group update:

Hansen gave an update on the recent WWG activities- discussed our debrief on the WWG conference call about the Miistakis

Workshop on June 25<sup>th</sup>- This meeting was very positive and brought in many stakeholders including ACA and Fish and Wildlife Officers from the Solicitor General. Travis Ripley from AEP Fish and Wildlife Policy division is still very interested and supportive of the groups proposed pilot project. The project includes using the compensation recommendations of the Waterton Biosphere in the south and applying in the NW. Lots of MLAs interested in the project including MLAs Grant Hunter, Roger Reid, Jason Nixon also very interested. ACA has not been involved deeply yet, but needs to be, and need to have ACA on board. Meeting on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> with ACA to discuss compensation. Some on ACA board haven't been as supportive for predator compensation or increases to it so far.

Another gap was to find an association to coordinate and organize the project in NW. Lynch-Staunton has had a very good call with the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association who is very keen to coordinate the project in the NW. Lynch-Staunton has also updated Alberta Lamb, who is also very supportive of the project.

(f) Association updates:

(i) Endangered Species Conservation Committee:

Flaig gave an update on the ESCC- main point is that the government will continue with this committee and sees value in it. Smith asked about classification of Bison as wildlife. Lynch-Staunton will follow up to see where this is at.

(ii) Cows & Fish:

Lynch-Staunton has been working with Cows and Fish and the government to create a plan/strategy for the government's investment of \$1million per year into Cows and Fish. He attended a recent workshop with stakeholders to form the plan's basis and objectives.

(iii) Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group:

Dmytriw and Lynch-Staunton attended a recent conference call. Many areas in Central/Northern AB still don't have the crop in as things are too wet or cold. Much of S. Alberta has been harvested, and still a drought in SE AB, but they have been getting moisture. Dmytriw's area only has about 10% of the crop in.

Lots of moisture everywhere and harvest is very delayed in many places. Smith said that AFSC will provide more wildlife damage compensation and is extended. Adjuster said there was a deadline in Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. TLS to follow up on wildlife damage to get an extension on coverage. Update from AFSC.

(iv) Alberta Forage Industry Network:

Benedict had conference call last week. AFIN was looking for another article for their fall newsletter. Lynch-Staunton can work with Benedict on an article- perhaps grasslands can be a topic. There is a Canadian Forage Production school in November, hosted by the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association, AFIN looking for input if there is

anything, they should bring up on behalf of ABP at this conference.

(g) Watershed updates:

No updates since last meeting. Council is curious to know whether there will still be funding from government for watershed groups. Will need to wait until after the budget is released on Oct.24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**5. Additional Reading Material**

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**6. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events**

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- (a) Grasslands Conservation Markets Symposium, Calgary, AB, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Smith suggested the CCC pay for 2 people to go to this workshop. Lynch-Staunton can see if the Ecosystems Working Group wants to go first, if they can't then will circulate to the rest of the council.

Motion by Dmytriw/Kasur:

**“That the Cow Calf Council approve funding to support 2 people from the Council to attend the Grasslands Conservation Markets Symposium.”**

Carried

**7. Adjournment**

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Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kasur at 10:50 a.m.