



### ACFA Board Meeting

June 5, 2017 at the Coast Hotel, Lethbridge, AB

## MINUTES

**Directors in Attendance:** James Bekkering, Jake Bueckert, Jason Hagel, Ryan Kasko, Colleen Mackey, Craig Paskal, John Schooten, Page Stuart, and Martin Zuidhof (Chair). **Staff:** Shannon Lyons, Casey Vander Ploeg, and Bryan Walton. **Guests:** Aaron Brower, Alastair Handley, Bob McCue, Bill Newton, Rick Paskal. **Regrets:** Greg Schmidt, Jeff Smith, and Keith Ypma.

- 1) *Call to Order and Agenda Check:* Chair Zuidhof welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Appointment of an ACFA representative to the LIS Board, a report from the Western Stock Growers, the recent agreement between the US and China, and a letter from the Alberta Barley Commission were added to the agenda. Moved/Seconded by Bekkering/Mackey that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.
- 2) *Minutes of Previous Meetings:* Minutes of April 19, 2017 were presented and discussed. For clarity, the minutes should note that ACFA will not invoice NCFCA for the "fourth calendar quarterly" and that the special meeting of the membership was set for June 6<sup>th</sup>. Moved/Seconded by Bueckert/Hagel that the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting be approved as amended. Carried.
- 3) *Appointment to LIS Board:* Moved/Seconded by Kasko/Mackey that Jason Hagel be appointed as ACFA representative to the LIS Board for 2017/18. Carried.
- 4) *NRCB Appointment:* Page Stuart has been appointed to the NRCB Board. This may result in a potential or perceived conflict of interest given her role as ACFA Director. The Chair of the NRCB has stated that she can finish her term with ACFA (which ends in January 2018) but the ACFA Board should also concur. By consensus, the ACFA Board concurred.
- 5) *Strategic Plan:* The Board reviewed a summary document on the new Strategic Plan and discussed some of the project plans that will now be developed by ACFA staff to implement the plan. On high priority items, there will be direct involvement by ACFA Directors.
- 6) *Industry Governance and Funding:* As decided at the last board meeting, ACFA representatives met with the ABP Board to discuss the emerging model devised by the ACFA and ABP Executives. ABP subsequently turned down this model. Since then, the Chairs of ACFA and ABP have had discussions. The ABP Chair feels there are a few key players on his Board that are offside, so he plans to have individual discussions with each member of his Board. The potential of a plebiscite was discussed. The Board heard that the GOA and ABP know they will need cattle feeder support prior to any plebiscite. Without support, a plebiscite will be divisive and accomplish little. The consensus of the Board is that the ball is in the court of ABP for now. **ACTION: ACFA representatives to try and attend the ABP Semi-Annual AGM in Edmonton later in the month.**
- 7) *Western Stock Growers' Association Report:* Aaron Brower advised that ABP is opposed to any check-off funds going to a membership organization like ACFA or WSGA. They recently polled their membership, and found little interest in receiving one or two cents off the provincial check-off. However, that money could go into the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund, and WSGA would like a seat at the table on how those funds are spent. WSGA supports a directional check-off with a refundable option.
- 8) *Bill-17 (Labour Relations and Employment Standards):* The Ag Coalition is driving the formation of the Agriculture Safety Society. A formative board is being determined, and Chair Martin Zuidhof will serve as the ACFA representative on that formative board. The Ag Coalition is also analyzing the differences between what the Consultation Tables decided on the Labour Code, and what is included in Bill-17. Work on the ACFA Farm Safety Program is also continuing. A request has been received by the GOA to do an open house tour with OHS inspectors on a feedlot operation. The Board felt this would be a good idea, but it would be best to hold it at some time in the fall. Martin Zuidhof volunteered his operation for the tour.

- 9) *Taxation of Agricultural Land*: ACFA held a recent meeting with Brad Pickering from Municipal Affairs. He was encouraged to become engaged with this issue. To secure change, we will need to build a consensus within the agriculture community on a solution. Work is underway with the ILWG to produce a “reverse white paper” or “black paper” that will present the solution, which turns around properly assessing and taxing land used for intensive livestock and updating the farmland assessment manual. A recent meeting was also held with the County of Lethbridge on how ACFA and the County could work together to lobby for changes.
- 10) *Carbon Tax Proposal (CCSI)*: Alastair Handley, President of Carbon Credit Solutions (CCSI), made a presentation to the Board on Alberta’s carbon tax and carbon offset market. He also summarized a CCSI proposal to ACFA that would explore opportunities for cattle feeders to generate carbon credits and sell them on the carbon market, thereby providing producers with an additional revenue stream to offset any carbon taxes they might pay. **ACTION: ACFA staff to undertake some more research into the issue, develop additional context, and bring the proposal back to the Board for decision.**
- 11) *Lethbridge Business Tax*: Rick Paskal and Bob McCue joined the meeting to give a presentation on developments with the Lethbridge Business Tax and the ongoing Court action against Lethbridge County. An appeal of the original Court decision has been filed with the Alberta Court of Appeal. The ACFA Board was requested to help finance the costs of the appeal. Moved/Seconded by Kasko/Stuart that ACFA contribute up to \$75,000 for the appeal of the Lethbridge Business Tax over the next two years, and also work with the litigants to encourage ABP to contribute an equal amount. Carried. Moved/Seconded by Mackey/Paskal that in addition to securing the financial support of ABP for the appeal, ACFA will also seek their partnership in making this a more visible issue and developing a workable provincial solution. Carried. **ACTION: ACFA to approach other agricultural organizations and invite their support as well.**
- 12) *Reducing Methane Emissions*: The Board discussed a research project and request from Viresco Solutions to test a new feed additive that is designed to improve animal performance and reduce enteric emissions of methane from cattle. The Board heard that there is \$56,000 in the budget, carried forward from last year, that is allocated for research projects. Moved/Seconded by Schooten/Mackey that ACFA support the Viresco Solutions project with a \$20,000 contribution. Carried.
- 13) *Delegates to the Canadian Beef Industry Conference and CBI Forum*: The following Directors were appointed to represent ACFA at the upcoming conference and CBI Forum: James Bekkering, Ryan Kasko, Colleen Mackey, Craig Paskal, John Schooten, and Jeff Smith.
- 14) *US Access into China*: John Schooten led a discussion over a recent announcement by the US that an agreement is in the works to provide increased access of US beef into China. ACFA is currently working on a communication to the International Trade Minister to secure similar access for Canada.
- 15) *Alberta Barley Commission and Fusarium*: The Board reviewed a letter from the Alberta Barley Commission to the GOA requesting that Fusarium be removed from the province’s Pest Control Act. The commission has asked that ACFA sign the letter. Since it is unclear how this would affect cattle feeders, the Board felt it could not sign at this time.
- 16) *Next Meeting*: The next meeting is schedule for August 29, 2017 at the ACFA offices.
- 17) *Adjournment*: Moved/Seconded by Schooten/Bueckert that the meeting be adjourned.