

**ACFA Board Meeting**

November 29, 2017 at the Matrix Hotel, Edmonton, AB

**MINUTES**

**Directors in Attendance:** James Bekkering, Jason Hagel, Ryan Kasko, Colleen Mackey, Craig Paskal, Page Stuart, Greg Schmidt, Keith Ypma, and Martin Zuidhof (Chair). **Staff:** Shannon Lyons, Joe Novecosky, Casey Vander Ploeg, and Bryan Walton. **Guests:** Devan Kolk, Gord Winkel, Bev Yee, Jamie Curran, Dave Burdek, Freida Molenkamp-Oudman, Lisa Sadownik, and Bruce Mayer. **Regrets:** Jake Bueckert, John Schooten, and Jeff Smith.

*1) Call to Order and Agenda Check:*  Chair Zuidhof called the meeting to order at 7:59 and asked for additional agenda items. ABP-

ACFA discussion on governance and funding, rural crime, and import-export issues were added. Moved/Seconded by Stuart/Ypma that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

*2) Minutes of Previous Meeting:* Minutes should reflect that R. Kasko will be the Vice Chair of the 2018 Canadian Beef Industry

Conference and Chair for the 2019 Conference. Moved/Seconded by Kasko/Paskal that the minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting be approved as amended. Carried.

*3) Business Arising:*  None.

*4) Meeting with Agriculture and Forestry Officials:* The Department has been busy with changes to staffing and a review of

investments. Budgets are tight so officials want to ensure investments are being made in the right places. Alberta is close to signing the agreement on the new Canadian Agriculture Partnership. Work continues on Alberta specific programs. In January and February 2018 the province will solicit input on CAP programming. The funding envelope has not increased but there are new areas such as public trust and climate change. The Department is pleased with the new AgSafe Alberta Society. The ABP-ACFA proposal for industry governance and funding was discussed, as was the Western Cattle Price Insurance Program. The province is continuing to talk with industry about what is working with WCPIP and what is not. The Department believes that NAFTA talks are at an impasse. Issues outstanding include supply management, bio-tech, dispute resolution, intellectual property, and autos. Concerns were expressed by the Board on the distribution of antimicrobials such as Tylosin and Tetracyclines under the new federal regulations. No one argues with increased oversight but how the product is dispensed is not related to oversight. Producers need access to these products from multiple suppliers where competition keeps pricing affordable.

*5) MLA Dinner:* Topics for the evening include rural infrastructure, modernizing assessment and taxation of agricultural land, labour

shortages in feedlots and packing plants, ACFA’s Feedlot Safety Program, the impact of the Carbon Levy, and the value of global trade agreements, especially NAFTA, CPTPP, and pursuing an FTA with China.

*6) Position Statements:* Directors and staff split into two groups, each taking half of the ACFA Position Statements for review.

Suggested changes were noted.  **ACTION: Statements to be brought back to the Board with changes for final approval.**

*7) Request for Decision-Sponsorships:* J. Brunette requested the Board a development approve development of a sponsorship plan

that would guide ACFA in making charitable contributions as per the Strategic Plan. Total cost is estimated at $10,000. Moved/Seconded by Bekkering/Paskal that the RFD submitted be approved as presented. Carried.

*8) ACFA 2017-18 Budget:*  J. Novecosky joined the meeting by telephone and guided the Board through the 2017-18 proposed

budget. Discussion was held. Moved/Seconded by Ypma/Bekkering that the 2017-18 Budget be approved as presented. Carried.

*9) Governance*

*a) ACFA Membership Fee:*  Implementation of the proposed ACFA-ABP governance and funding agreement over provincial

check-off funds requires decisions to be made on how a membership structure can be retained for ACFA. Various models were discussed, as well as various membership fees. Moved/Seconded by Paskal/Ypma that ACFA membership be set at $500 per year upon commencement of a check-off agreement with ABP. Carried.

*b) Bylaws:* The Board reviewed a set of proposed by-law changes emerging from the recent governance review and the pending

agreement with ABP. There was consensus around all the proposed changes except for association membership. It was agreed that the current membership provisions remain as they are currently. In addition, all references to “Chairman” should be replaced with “Chair.”

*10) Board Self-Evaluation:* Directors were asked to answer how well they thought the Board was functioning across a number of

metrics. The results were reviewed. On most items, the numbers average between a four and a five (a score of one was low and a score of five was high). By consensus, the Board agreed that such a review should be done annually so any deficiencies could be corrected.

*11) Technical Support:* Cattle feeders are operating in a much more complex environment with issues such as AMU, AMR, and

CRSB. There is a need for technical support on managing these issues. Dr. Van Donkersgoed has often been called upon to fill this role. The Board discussed if this should be formalized, whether others might be considered, and how Dr. Van Donkersgoed could be acknowledged for her contributions. It was agreed by consensus that Dr. Van Donkersgoed continue to serve in this capacity as required, but the door also be kept open to involve others. It was further agreed that when the CFAC program is completed, that ACFA publicly acknowledge her at the 2019 AGM.

*12) Antimicrobial Usage and Dispensing:* New federal regulations over the usage of antimicrobials requires some products to be used

only by veterinary prescription. In Alberta, regulations for such prescriptions require that dispensing be done only by a veterinarian. This is arising concerns over access to these products and a lack of affordability if competition in supply is restricted to veterinarians only. It was generally agreed that dispensing is not a requirement for oversight and that multiple vendors keeps pricing competitive. This is a big issue for feeders using micro-machines to prepare their own medicated feeds. A proposed resolution coming to the floor of the ABP Annual General Meeting was discussed. Moved/Seconded by Ypma/Schmidt that ACFA support the ABP resolution on the dispensing of antimicrobial drugs by veterinarian prescription that will be presented at the Alberta Beef Producer’s Annual General Meeting in December 2017. Carried.

*13) Presentation:*  Gord Winkel made a presentation to the Board on the work of the Ag Coalition, developments with application of

OH&S rules to agriculture, and AgSafe Alberta Society, the industry’s new safety association. The Ag Coalition ensured that 23 out of 70 seats at the six provincial consultation tables were filled by agriculture representatives. The GOA now sees the Ag Coalition as the voice of agriculture. The first meeting of the safety association was held on November 13th in Red Deer. The next big thing that has to be dealt with is Bill 30, which is a piece of legislation designed to implement OH&S in agriculture. Implementation of regulations or guidelines have to work for the sector or there will be big problems with compliance. The Bill states that operations with more than 20 employees need a farm safety plan, and operations larger than 5 employees need a safety representative.

*14) ACFA and ABP Executive Meeting:* Sharing of check-off will be based on a dollar amount and not percentages. If the check-off

changes, these dollar amounts will be changed in the agreement. There is consensus that the agreement be reviewed after two years, and that a legal opinion is needed on an agreement. The Western Stock Growers’ Association is opposed to this proposal. ACFA and ABP are writing a joint letter to the WSGA explaining our point of view. **ACTION: A summary of the meeting will be circulated to the Board for review.**

*15) Annual General Meeting:*  The AGM will be held in Red Deer on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 3:00 PM. Agenda items were

discussed as well as the nomination of new Directors. A list of individuals proposed by Directors was reviewed. **ACTION: All individuals on the list should be contacted to gauge their interest and can then be nominated by the Board.**

*16) Other:* A recent article in the Taber Times noted that discussion has taken place within the MD of Taber on infrastructure, and

mentions a levy on potatoes and beets. The idea of special levies is spreading. Increases in rural crime were also discussed. This can be raised with MLAs at the upcoming MLA Dinner. Various import-export issues were also discussed. The US has opened a consultation on border issues, and NCFA will be making a submission to that consultation.

*17) In Camera:* The Board moved in-camera.

*(CVP Dec-19-17)*