

**ASB Provincial Committee Meeting
Shaw Conference Centre – 12:00-3:00 pm
March 20, 2017**

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
David Melenka, Alternate Northeast Representative
Corey Beck, Peace Representative
Doug Dallyn, Alternate Peace Representative
Phillip Massier, Alternate Central Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Representative
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Garry Lentz, Alternate South Representative
Randy Taylor, AAMDC Representative
Elden Kozak, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Maureen Vadnais, Executive Assistant, ASB Provincial Committee
Doug Macaulay, ASB Program Manager, AF
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, AF

Meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm

1. Adoption of Agenda

Three items were added to the agenda:

- Summer meeting with the Minister
- Wild Boar at Large Ear Bounty Program
- Medical Marijuana and its' relation to Bill 6.

Lloyd moved to adopt the agenda as amended – CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

Steve moved to adopt the minutes from January 24, 2017 – CARRIED

3. Old Business

a. Agricultural Plastics Recycling Committee

Pat advised that the Committee hasn't met for a while but they have been talking to producer groups to get support for a stewardship program and that the response has been positive. Elden advised that he had received a phone call from a company looking for plastics and can circulate that information to the Committee. Steve mentioned that there was a new company in Lethbridge that was also taking plastic that Merlin wasn't and he will find out more information and update the Committee.

**ACTION ITEM: ELDEN CIRCULATE INFORMATION ABOUT
RECYCLING COMPANY TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

ACTION ITEM: STEVE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT COMMITTEE AG SUPPLY IN LETHBRIDGE AND CIRCULATE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

b. Bill 6 Working Group

Corey advised that the work is done by the Technical Group that he was part of and hopes to see the report before it goes out. A discussion also took place on the use medical marijuana on the job site. Corey stated that it is not legal yet but companies would have to create their own policy when this happens.

c. Alberta Transportation 2017 Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

Pat advised that the plan has been sent out to everyone and that it is a work in progress so will have to monitor it for a while.

4. New Business

a. Resolution responses

A discussion took place on the resolution responses received so far. There will be a conference call to rate the responses once they have all been received. Maureen said she hopes to have them all back by April 5.

b. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Budget update

Doug Macaulay advised that funding for the ASB Program is the same as in the past. He said that the next step will be to get the Grant Agreements for the next 3 year program out to the municipalities.

c. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Wild Boar

Doug Macaulay advised that there has been some misinformation in the media saying that the Wild Boar at Large Ear Bounty Program is over but this is not true. He said that consultations will be done with the municipalities to see if they would like to continue with the same program or see some other type of program going forward. The consensus of the Provincial Committee was to continue with the bounty program.

d. Key Contacts

Doug Macaulay advised that the Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has given direction to reinvigorate the key contact program. Doug is working with the Ag Info Centre on this.

e. ASB Program Review

Doug Macaulay advised that the ASB Program will be undergoing a program review beginning in the fall of 2017. A stakeholder group will be formed and that representation from the Provincial Committee will be part of the group

f. Obtaining meetings with Ministers

Elden said he had been asked by the President of the AAAF about the difficulty the Provincial Committee has had obtaining meetings with

Government Ministers and can only seem to meet at Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister level. It was stated that this is a new government with new processes and everyone is having difficulty getting meetings with the Ministers. Pat said that if things don't progress then possibly a letter should be sent to the Premier.

g. Meeting with Minister Carlier, AF

Maureen will try to set up a meeting with the Minister for late July or early August.

5. Delegations

a. Agriculture and Forestry (AF) ADM Jamie Curran

Committee members introduced themselves to ADM Curran. The Committee members discussed the current situation regarding *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg) and enforcement for it. The Committee was particularly concerned with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) providing insurance to people that had Fg. ADM Curran reminded the Committee that AFSC was not a regulatory body and that in the past AFSC had been used as a "cross compliance" tool. AFSC is currently being instructed by AF to provide insurance for all producers regardless of their Fg status as the government is currently in the middle of a policy review and it is not AFSC's role to act as a regulatory body or to set policy for government. The Committee indicated that this policy was causing confusion with producers because it looked like AFSC wasn't in compliance with the APA. The Committee said it understands that the Fg situation has changed across the province but that ASBs still support a zero tolerance policy for Fg as there are still parts of the province where Fg is not currently found. The Committee and ADM Curran also discussed the role of seed cleaning plants for preventing spread of Fg, how the current education programs weren't working effectively and enforcement of the Agricultural Pests Act. The Committee stressed that AF needed to provide better support to municipalities with enforcement. ADM Curran asked them to consider what enforcement looked like going forward and how they Act could be adapted to not only deal with Fg but other emerging pest threats. Pat Gordeyko said this needed to be put on the agenda for the summer meeting.

The Committee asked ADM Curran if he could assist them with meeting with the Environment Minister. DM Yee had indicated to the Committee in January that she would help them with arranging a meeting with the Environment Minister. ADM Curran asked the Committee to remind him about this request so he could work with the DM on it.

**ACTION ITEM: SUMMER MINISTER MEETING AGENDA ITEM:
AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT AND ENFORCEMENT**

b. CN Rail – Brent Kossey

Mr. Kossey introduced the new vegetation management program that CN will be implementing for 2017. Municipalities across the prairie provinces have been complaining about the lack of communication and spraying not being completed in a timely manner so CN has listened and wants to implement a more robust and timely vegetation management program. CN has a new contractor, Wilderness Environmental Services, that will be doing full right of way (ROW) and ballast spraying for Alberta and B.C. that is scheduled to start May 1st and be completed by July 31st. CN has signed a new contract that allows them to direct the contractor more and is based on efficacy of work, not number of miles of track covered in a day. The contractor has been instructed that they must submit a daily report that includes reasons why work doesn't get done, for example due to weather, and that it is expected that they will achieve 85% control along the ballast and right of way. Efficacy is measured 21 days after application for forbs and one year for brush. Contractor has to respray at their cost if control doesn't meet CN's standards.

Mr. Kossey said that municipalities are supposed to be contacted as the contractor is going through each area. Mr. Kossey is also working with the local track supervisors to educate them on the importance of vegetation management but if there are any problems, the municipalities may contact him directly but one of his primary goals was to increase collaboration between the local track supervisors and municipal agricultural fieldmen.

The Committee was told that this program was being implemented on a three year cycle and that it would be a full ROW spray. Mr. Kossey wasn't sure which products would be used as the laws for each province differed as to what could be used. The program would be reviewed with the contractor in the fall and Mr. Kossey was willing to come and meet with the Committee again to discuss the results of the program at that time.

The Committee asked Mr. Kossey if there was any collaboration between CN and CP on this program. Mr. Kossey indicated that there was currently no collaboration.

ACTION ITEM: SEND BRENT KOSSEY'S CONTACT INFORMATION TO ASB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACTION ITEM: INVITE BRENT KOSSEY TO FALL ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO REVIEW 2017 CN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

c. Ag for Life – Luree Williamson and AF – Karen Carle

Ms. Carle and Ms. Williamson taught the committee about the curriculum system and some of the work that has been done to date. They indicated

to the Committee that teachers are supposed to teach multiple perspectives and that there are many different areas that agriculture could be integrated into the curriculum such as science or social studies. There is a need to build resources that are readily available to teachers. Ms. Williamson described some of the resources that Ag for Life has started to develop to support this such as:

- Agriculture 101 course for junior and senior high students
- Videos and podcasts about agricultural production in Alberta
- Take teachers on farm tours
- Launching a teachers conference for Fall 2017 focused on agriculture
- Bringing the Ag Careers program over from Saskatchewan

The primary focus currently of Ag for Life is to provide funding to deliver agricultural education programs and that they receive most of their funding through corporate donations. They use this funding to be proactive in developing and delivering agricultural content for teachers.

Ms. Carle said that any resolutions or letters going forward on this issue should be more specific with questions or programs that they want to see implemented and that she would be happy to work with the Committee on this. She indicated willingness to work with the Committee on this resolution.

Ms. Williamson requested that the Committee keep her updated on any meetings that the Committee might have with the Education Minister so that we could all work together.

ACTION ITEM: MAUREEN TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH AG FOR LIFE REGARDING THIS RESOLUTION