

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting
Ramada Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta
January 22, 2013**

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Region Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice-Chair and Northwest Region Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Region Representative
Garry Lentz, South Region Representative
Don Dumont, Peace Region Representative
Jason Storch, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD

Pat called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Jason Storch to the Committee.

Pat asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda and Jason asked that the rat situation that occurred in Medicine Hat be added.

Jim moved that the agenda be accepted as amended – CARRIED.

Don moved to adopt the minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting of the Provincial Committee – CARRIED

1. Review of emergent resolutions

Maureen advised that two emergent resolutions had been brought forward. The first emergent resolution was “Restricting the use of ATV/Marine Hybrid Vehicles”. A discussion took place on whether this was considered emergent or not. The Committee agreed to accept as emergent. Lloyd moved this be accepted as emergent – CARRIED

A discussion took place on why the second resolution “Extermination of Wild Boar in Alberta” was emergent. It was recommended that it was not considered emergent and this resolution should go forward to the Regional meetings and bring back at the next conference. Don moved this decision be accepted – CARRIED

2. 2013 Provincial Conference

a. Seating arrangement at Resolution session

The seating arrangement for the resolution session was decided on and the order in which the resolutions would be read was also decided on.

b. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure

The Committee recommended that a change be made to the Rules of Procedure. The recommended change would be to Section 5.A.i. and would read “The Mover **and Second** **have** the right to close the debate and a maximum to two minutes **each** will be allowed for this. Jim moved that this change be accepted – CARRIED.

c. **Review of Regional Rules of Procedure**

Don made a motion to amend the Regional Rules of Procedure with the same change being made to Provincial Rules of Procedure – CARRIED. It was decided that Pat would introduce the amendment to the members.

3. Farm Safety Working Group

A discussion took place on whether the Provincial Committee should get involved with this group. Maureen agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of the Provincial Committee and bring back some information to the March meeting of the Provincial Committee. A motion was made for Maureen to represent the Committee at the meeting – moved by Lloyd.

4. Sending response letters directly from Provincial Committee

Maureen explained to the Committee the amount of time that it takes to get the response letters on the resolutions through the ARD system and advised that the letters would go out much faster if they were sent directly from the ASB Provincial Committee. Garry made a motion to send the letters directly from the Provincial Committee – CARRIED

5. ASB Grant Program assessment

Maureen advised the Committee that the recommendations have been put forward for approval to the ARD Executive Office and that we are just waiting for approval at this time.

6. Seed Cleaning Plant resolution – *Fusarium gramineum*

A discussion took place on this resolution and that there is consensus between the Provincial Committee and AAMD&C that they support zero tolerance. Lloyd suggested that the Committee listen and observe when the FAC delegation does their presentation.

7. Delegations for March meeting

Maureen asked the Committee if they would like to invite any delegations to the March meeting to address some previous resolution responses that were unsatisfactory. It was undecided on delegations. Pat suggested that we deal with the Terms of Reference at the March meeting.

8. Key contact program

It was decided that a half day meeting in February would be held with the Extension Committee to discuss the key contact program.

9. Rat situation in Medicine Hat

Jason gave the Committee an update on the rat situation that occurred in Medicine Hat in the summer. He advised that Emergency Services in the City of Medicine Hat have a plan in place for dealing with the rat control issue and that Phil Merrill worked closely with them on this. He said it looks like everything is moving in a positive direction and that all signs at the land fill point to no rats.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm for lunch.

**Meeting with Fusarium Action Committee members, AAMD&C and AAAF
Ramada Conference Centre, Edmonton
January 22, 2013**

A presentation by the Fusarium Action Committee (FAC) delegation was received. The consensus between the ASB Provincial Committee and the AAMD&C is that they maintain zero tolerance.

**Meeting with Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Ramada Conference Centre, Edmonton
January 22, 2013**

1. Fusarium Action Committee Presentation

A discussion took place on the presentation by the FAC delegation. Bob Barss stated that the AAMD&C's position is to maintain a zero tolerance. He felt also that the numbers being reported are not 100% accurate. Pat stated that the ASB Provincial Committee position is also to maintain a zero tolerance.

Maureen Vadnais will work with Tasha from the AAMD&C to draft a letter to the FAC stating their position of zero tolerance. Pat and Jason will discuss this issue with the AAAF to get their position on this issue.

2. Premier Redford's announcement of funds at AAMD&C

Maureen clarified Premier Redford's announcement of an additional \$1,000,000 for the Agricultural Service Boards. Maureen advised that Premier Redford was referring to the \$1,000,000 already received by the ASB's in February, 2012 and that this is not a one time allocation, but is continual funding.

3. PMRA registrations

Liqua Tox II

A discussion took place regarding the expiration of registration for Liqua Tox II as of December 31, 2013. Maureen advised that Phil Merrill has submitted new registrations to Bell Laboratories and is actively working of this issue. It was agreed to wait until spring to see what happens and may have to submit a joint letter from the Provincial Committee and AAMD&C.

2% liquid strychnine

A discussion took place regarding the expiration of registration for 2% liquid strychnine as of December 31, 2013. Maureen suggested that a letter be sent to Regulatory Services and to the MPs to get this renewed. Maureen and Tasha will work together on drafting a joint letter between the Provincial Committee and the AAMD&C to MP Leon Benoit.

1080 Review

Maureen advised that the review is not completed yet but Phil Merrill is tracking this and it looks positive.

4. Shelterbelt Program

Bob Barss advised that the re-establishment of the Shelterbelt Program is not looking to be a high priority on the Federal government's list. They want someone in the private sector to take it over as a business.

5. Weed Control along Transportation Right of Ways

A discussion took place on this issue and it was agreed that you only seem to get any action if a weed notice is issued and then it gets done much quicker.

6. Advocating on resolutions that come forward at AAMD&C and ASB Provincial Conference

Bob Barss stated that whoever has the resolution should take it forward. He felt it was a double opportunity to advocate for the issue at hand and it is a benefit to have both organizations putting forward agricultural resolutions. Bob also mentioned that AAMD&C has a process for advocating for resolutions that pass at one conference and not the other.

7. Rat situation in Medicine Hat

Jason informed the group of the progress being made in Medicine Hat after the rat infestation found in the land fill in the summer. He advised that Ron Robinson with the City of Medicine Hat has been working on creating and implementing a protocol for dealing with rats in the future. Bob Barss told the Committee that AAMD&C and AUMA have established a working committee looking at developing a rat control strategy for the entire province. Bob requested Jason to forward the protocol that is being developed by the City of Medicine Hat to AAMD&C and they would take it forward to the working group.

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Pre-meeting with Minister
Ramada Conference Centre, Edmonton
January 22, 2013**

1. Rats

Jason will lead this discussion and provide an update to the Minister on the Medicine Hat situation and on the implementation of an emergency plan. He will also advise the Minister on last years resolution asking for the banning of all rats either dead or alive.

2. Wild Boars

Lloyd will lead this discussion and advise that in the past resolutions have gone forward asking for fencing regulations, trapping program, total eradication but nothing has been done. He will advise that because of the lack of attention to this, two more resolutions and coming forward this year.

3. Fusarium

Garry and Soren will start this discussion. They will reinforce the zero tolerance position of both the AAMD&C and the Provincial Committee. They will advise that they have met with delegates from FAC and heard their position on this issue. They will advise the Minister that the municipalities need more support from the Province if there is an issue.

4. Weed Control Act enforcement

Pat will advise the Minister that there is a great need to prevent the introduction of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds from greenhouses and plant retailers. The committee would like to see a labelling requirement for seed packages under 50 grams.

5. Agricultural Pests Act and ASB Act

Don will address this issue and ask the Minister if the review of these acts can be moved up to 2016.

6. PMRA concerns

Jim will inform the Minister of the issues with PMRA and advise him that we want to maintain these registrations and that his support is needed to carry this out.

7. Ag Plastics Recycling

Soren will address this issue and will ask the Minister is the survey results can be released.

8. Eradicable Weeds Fund

Jim will discuss with the Minister if adequate time.

9. Transportation and Weeds

Ask Deputy Minister Knapp if he followed up with the Deputy Minister of Transportation after our last meeting regarding this issue, if adequate time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting with Minister Olson
Ramada Conference Centre, Edmonton
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In attendance:

Minister Verlyn Olson, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Nick Harsulla, Special Assistant to the Minister
John Knapp, Deputy Minister, ARD
Jo-Ann Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, ARD
Murray Greer, Branch Head, Agriculture Grants Program Branch, ARD
Geoff Thompson, President, AAAF
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Region Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice-Chair and Northwest Region Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Region Representative
Garry Lentz, South Region Representative
Don Dumont, Peace Region Representative
Jason Storch, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm and introductions were made around the table. Pat congratulated Jo-Ann Hall on her new position as Assistant Deputy Minister. He also thanked the Minister for the opportunity to provide input into the ASB Program Assessment.

1. Rat situation in Medicine Hat

Jason updated the Minister on the rat situation in Medicine Hat and advised that they are developing a policy on how to deal with this type of thing in the future and was grateful for the assistance provided by Phil Merrill. He mentioned the protocol that Medicine Hat was developing and that it could be used as a template for other urban municipalities. The protocol will be forwarded to the AAMD&C/AUMA working group to help them develop a rat control strategy for the province. He stated that all rats should be outlawed whether dead or alive as ASBs spend a great deal of valuable time in determining if it was dead or alive. He also asked that that ARD staff have the backing of the Province to ensure Lique-Tox II is registered to ARD.

John Knapp advised he talked to PMRA and had received a good response from them and that Phil Merrill has the full support of ARD to complete the registration.

2. Wild Boars

Lloyd addressed this issue and advised the Minister that there have been three resolutions in the past trying to alleviate this problem but there has been no movement in this regard. The problem continues to impact more municipalities. Lloyd asked if there was a possibility for Alberta to look at the eradication of wild boars in the province as there were not a lot of viable producers currently in the province.

The Minister felt that wild boar owners need to be engaged at this point but the question is how to engage. John suggested that some policy work and consultation with the wild boar owners needs to be done first. Committee members also identified lack of regulations regarding fencing standards and identification as other problems that were contributing to the current problems and these issues needed to be looked at as part of the policy work. Pat said we should consider working with the producers who own animals to get out of the industry entirely.

John said it was a possible solution and he would talk to Regulatory Services Division about this but could make no promises.

3. Fusarium

Garry and Soren advised the Minister on the meeting earlier that day with the Fusarium Action Committee and that the ASB Provincial Committee and the AAMD&C maintain a zero tolerance policy.

The Minister stated he is struggling with how to handle this issue. John said we may have to switch from zero tolerance to management. He said we could do zero tolerance for another year and work on best management practices and go back to FAC to see what their recommendations are.

4. Lack of Leadership by Province

Pat addressed this and suggested there needs to be more inspection and enforcement to prevent the introduction of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds from greenhouses and plant retailers. The committee would also like to see a labelling requirement for seed packages under 50 grams.

John advised that extension efforts are being stepped up and that meetings have been scheduled with urban municipalities to educate them on their responsibilities.

5. *Agricultural Pests Act*

Don spoke to this issue regarding the delay until 2016 to review the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

The Minister said he isn't sure where the decision came from to delay the review of the Act. John said he will take this under advisement and examine to see if we can accelerate the review but can't make any commitments at this time.

6. PMRA

Jim advised the Minister on the situation of 2% liquid strychnine (LS) registrations and review of 1080 by PMRA. The 2% LS registration is due to expire on April 11, 2015 but municipalities will not be able to sell the product after December 31, 2013. He also mentioned that PMRA is reviewing mitigation measures for 1080 but that rural municipalities don't want any changes to the labels. He advised that Phil Merrill is actively working on this issue and asked that ARD give Phil their full support if he needs it.

John said the municipalities have been extremely responsible and have appropriately managed the use of 2% LS and that they fully support Phil in ensuring these registrations are maintained.

7. Ag Plastics Recycling

Soren addressed this and advised the Minister on the current situation and that it has become a major concern. He thanked the Minister for the work that ARD has done to this point. John suggested checking to see if it fits with local recyclers programs. Soren asked John about the survey that was done and John said he has signed off on the survey and he will check with Alberta Environment to see if it can be released.

Pat thanked the Minister for taking the time to meet with the ASB Provincial Committee and said they would like to have another meeting in the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.