

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Meeting with Minister Oneil Carlier
Shaw Conference Center, November 19, 2015**

In attendance:

Minister Carlier, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Bev Yee, Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Tony Clark, Ministers Chief of Staff
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Cory Beck, Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Representative
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative
Doug Macaulay, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Trent Keller, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President

The meeting commenced at 8:30am with introductions and welcoming.

Pat gave a brief history of the ASBs and their mandates. He gave a summary of the resolution process and the Provincial Committee's role in providing a voice for all the ASBs across the Province and vice versa as well as passing on information to the ASBs of the province from the Minister. He then described the working relationship with Alberta Agriculture in the past.

Pat emphasized the ASBs direct contact with producers/grassroots and their concerns/knowledge of environment and stewardship.

Minister Carlier discussed his knowledge in agriculture and forestry and the 160 plus stakeholder groups he has met with as Minister. He mentioned the ASBs being the boots on the ground in Agriculture. The Minister mentioned that he appreciated the invitation to the ASB Conference and discussion was held on setting up the next meeting there.

Jim had a positive discussion on the Zebra Mussels and the inspection stations within the province and how 22,000 boats were inspected and 17 boats found infested.

Jimsonweed was discussed and the efficiency of Alberta Agriculture, the ASBs and the Fieldmen in getting the inspections, identifications and the awareness campaign completed.

Minister Carlier spoke about the importance of timely weed control and additional costs in the future if they are not dealt with. Discussion took place on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds and their placement on the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

Corey spoke on the Wildlife Compensation issues, the importance of timely inspections (24hrs or less) and the difficulty in getting a confirmation on a kill. He then mentioned that compensation payments are taking up to a year and is frustrating producers.

Steve spoke on the elk populations in the Suffield area numbering approximately 8000 head in 2104. Numbers of 1250 to 1300 were thought to be harvested in 2015. The population goal is to be around 3000 for the area going forward. Other areas of the province have issues with swath grazing and feed stack damage. The fencing of feed stack program has been eliminated.

Resolution 11-15 Wildlife Predator Compensation for Domestic Equine Loss was discussed and a copy is to be forwarded to the Minister.

Water fowl damage and scare cannon/crop insurance availability was discussed.

Pat brought up the Ag plastic recycling concern and the need for a stewardship program in the province. Tonnes of plastic have been shipped to China. Landfill and burning is not the answer.

Steve spoke on the Fusarium issue advising that the Provincial Committees position is 0 tolerance. Fusarium is spread throughout the province at different levels and all but 5 municipalities surveyed for Fusarium. Seed producers would like the 5% tolerance, resample until they receive a non-detectable sample at this point. The committee is aware of the Fusarium Action Committee recommendation and waits for the Minister's response.

Lloyd spoke on the Clubroot issue, best management practices, movement of equipment in industry, dealerships, farm operations and the need to clean. Discussion was held on the use of resistance varieties to date and the need for additional resistant varieties for Clubroot pathotypes that have recently been found. The need for a stronger awareness campaign and manageable enforcement within the *Alberta Pest Control Act* was also discussed.

The weed control and maintenance on provincial highways was discussed by Jim. The various ways that the issues were dealt with such as weed notices, awareness letters, and phone calls were mentioned. The concern about the province not setting an example and following the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and the need for the budget to be increased was brought forward. The Minister was asked for support in bringing this to the attention of the Minister of Transportation.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:33 am.