

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting
Cypress Centre – Medicine Hat
1:00 – 3:00 PM, January 27, 2014

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Jason Storch, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Garry Lentz, South Representative
Cory Beck, Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Darrell Hollands, Northwest Representative
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative
Murray Greer, Branch Head, Agriculture Grants Program Branch, ARD
Rod Carlyon, Director, Rural Development Division, ARD
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm

Pat asked if there were any additions to the agenda and the Saddle Hills delegation was added. Garry made a motion to adopt the agenda – CARRIED.

Jim moved to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2014 conference call – CARRIED.

2014 ASB Provincial Conference:

1. Determine status of Smoky River Resolution

A discussion took place on whether the resolution put forward by the MD of Smoky River titled “Licensing of glyphosate tolerant wheat in Canada” would be deemed emergent. The Committee recommended that this be accepted as Emergent Resolution #1.

2. Seating order

The seating order for the resolution session at the conference was determined as well as who would read the resolutions.

Terms of Reference for ASB Provincial Committee

Corey Beck is to be added to T or R, changes to logistics and change to Rules of Procedure which is part of the document. These amendments were discussed and Jim made a motion to adopt the Terms of Reference as amended – CARRIED.

Review Regional and Provincial Rules of Procedure

Alberta Agriculture has been responsible for sending out the letters for responses to the resolutions passed at the Provincial conference. A change will be made to the effect that the Secretary of the ASB Provincial Committee will now be sending out the letters and receiving the responses. Jim will speak to this at the conference.

Delegations

MD of Taber:

The delegation was a no show, so Maureen briefed the Committee on the issue of surveying for bacterial ring rot explaining that there needs to be a better way of doing the potato survey.

Municipalities want Dr. Harding to work with them on this issue. The Committee agreed to discuss this with the Minister when they meet with him later in the day.

Red Deer County:

Jim spoke to the “Regulation of Ergot in Livestock Feeds” resolution that Red Deer County had put forward to be considered as an emergent resolution and was deemed non emergent. The Committee agreed to make the issue known to the Minister.

MD of Smoky River:

This was dealt with under 2014 ASB Provincial Conference No. 1 of these minutes.

Saddle Hills County:

Dave Thompson, Agricultural Fieldman for Saddle Hills County briefed the Committee on a weed notice that was given to a producer stating that he followed the process according to the *Weed Control Act*. The producer appealed the notice to the Minister in July of 2013 and a response was not received from the Minister until November 5, 2013. He needed to know if he would issue another notice in 2014 or if the Ministers decision is upheld for 2013. The committee agreed to bring this forward to the Minister and Pat suggested they ask the Minister what a reasonable time line is for a response to an appeal.

Previous topics to be discussed at the Ministers meeting at 5:00 pm

Access to Herbicides for acreage owners

The Provincial Committee had requested the Minister work with ESRD to modify the Environmental Code of Practice at their August 28, 2013 meeting with the Minister. Jim will ask for status on this at the Ministers meeting.

ESRD Response to Chemical Spills

It was stated that ESRD won't investigate chemical spills unless they have someone to send a bill to. The Committee agreed that they would not bring this up to the Minister but they would send a letter to ESRD or set up a meeting with them to discuss this and ask if a new budget can be considered to deal with this type of thing.

CFIA – Rabies and Anthrax

The CFIA has announced they will stop investigating rabies cases after March 31, 2014. The Rabies committee is working on a plan to fill this gap. Jason will speak to this issue and thank the Minister for the work done so far.

Weed Control Along Rail Lines

The Committee agreed that they would not speak to this issue with the Minister.

Weed Control in Waterways

The Provincial Committee is not satisfied with how ESRD is dealing with this problem. Rod Carlyon advised that things are on hold due to ESRD allocating funds to the flood control in southern Alberta. Pat suggested a meeting be set up in July with ESRD and the Agriculture Minister to discuss this. Jim will make a quick mention of this to the Minister.

Review of the Agricultural Pests Act

Jim will make a comment to the Minister that they hope to open up the Act sooner than 2016.

Tax Code Amendments

The Minister had advised that he would take the Provincial Committees tax code amendment recommendations to his Young Farmer Advisory Group. Pat will ask the Minister if anything has been brought forward from the group.

Lack of Leadership on Act Enforcement

This issue will be discussed with the Minister stating that the letters being sent out are not doing the job and more provincial inspectors are needed to assist ASBs.

Saddle Hills delegation

Jason will speak to this issue with the Minister

New topics to be discussed at the Ministers meeting at 5:00 pm

Ergot

Jim will speak to this issue

Clubroot

Darrell will speak to this issue and advise the Minister that there are concerns on how the data from the Clubroot survey is being collected and portrayed. He will advise that the Clubroot Action Committee has not met in three years and ask that they meet to discuss this issue.

Fusarium gramineum (Fg)

Gary will speak to this issue and remind the Minister that the Provincial Committees position is still to see zero tolerance allowed for Fg.

Bacterial Ring Rot and Late Blight

Corey will speak to this issue and advise the Minister that they would like ARD to do some research and come up with a new survey technique that will be timely and effective.

Wild Boar Fencing Regulation

Soren will speak to this issue and thank the Minister for the work that has been done so far with the Wild Boar Fencing Regulations.

Carnivore Compensation Program

Garry will speak to this issue and Corey will fill in.