

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting
Room 9, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton
January 20, 2015 at 12:00 pm**

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Jason Storch, President, AAAF
Trent Keller, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Cory Beck, Peace Representative
Doug Dallyn, Alternate Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Representative
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD

Pat called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Pat asked if there were any additions to the agenda. The two response letters that Steve received on the South Regional Resolution – Elk Population Control at Canadian Forces Base Suffield were added under new business. Jim made a motion to adopt the agenda – CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

Lloyd made a motion that the minutes from the December 8, 2014 conference call be accepted – CARRIED

Old Business

a. Letter to FAC re: decision making process

A discussion took place on this issue and it was agreed that once the FAC Terms of Reference were reviewed, the FAC Chair had the power to change how a decision was made. A decision was made not to send a letter to the FAC. Corey made a motion that no further action be taken on this issue – CARRIED

b. Streamline the resolution grading process

A discussion on how the process was working took place. Jim feels the process is working fairly well but Corey stated it is important that all Committee members be at the meeting when doing the grading. The Committee liked having the report card out before the first regional meeting. The consensus of the Committee was that they are happy with the process.

c. Meeting with Deputy Minister vs. the Minister

This was discussed on the conference call in December but the Committee didn't have a quorum that day. Jim suggested the Committee meet with the Deputy

Minister if they can't meet with the Minister. Jim made a motion to try to meet with the Minister twice a year but if that's not possible then meet with the Deputy Minister – CARRIED

d. Letter to Federal Agriculture Minister and MP Benoit – 2% strychnine shortage

The letter that Jason had written was reviewed. He said he had met with the ADMs on this issue and they said they couldn't do anything regarding this process. Steve made a motion to accept the letter as written – CARRIED

e. Letter to Kneehill – Central region ASB meeting procedures

Jim explained his reasoning for the meeting procedure at the regional meeting and what happened. A letter was written by Kneehill County regarding this and Jim responded to the letter. The Committee accepted the letter as information. No further action required.

f. ARD staff attending the ASB Provincial Conference

Jim spoke to the issue of some ARD staff being turned away from the conference when registering. He explained that registration for the conference was at capacity and the region thought they might need to limit registration to ASB members. Jason made the suggestion of putting a policy in place so that everyone can be treated fairly as they want ARD staff to be able to attend. He asked that the Committee let the AAAF look at creating a policy to include ARD staff.

New Business

a. Emergent resolutions

The emergent resolution Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan, was discussed by the Committee. The Committee decided that it met the criteria to be emergent. Corey made a motion to accept the resolution as emergent – CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:

Alberta Beef Producers

Fred Hays and Rick McKnight joined the meeting at 1:00 pm.

They did a presentation regarding ongoing predation issues. Richard said that information needs to be shared and he would like to work together with the Provincial Committee on these issues. A suggestion was made to have a Provincial Committee member be part of the Alberta Game Management Advisory group. Pat said that he would make a recommendation to the Minister of ESRD that a working committee be created that would include the Alberta Beef Producers, ASB Provincial Committee, Alberta Conservation Association, AAMD&C and others that could help with the problem

Comments:

Jason – Would there be any value in the Provincial Committee getting all stakeholders

together for a discussion?

Lloyd – The request would have to come from the Alberta Beef Producers

Pat – He could mention this to the Minister and say that the Provincial Committee is willing to participate

M.D. of Smoky River – CN Weed Control

Norm Boulet and Robert Brochu joined the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Jason asked that the Committee be briefed on the history of what has been going on with the CN issue regarding last years resolution and what the Committee needs to discuss with the Minister at the afternoon meeting. Norm advised that they had received an opinion from ARD but it was not a legal opinion and that they were told that the Deputy Minister could not provide Alberta Justice's legal opinion because of client confidentiality. He said they would like AAMD&C to obtain a legal opinion. He said that the message that needs to be taken to the Minister is that weed inspectors need to be appointed as regulators in the line of duty.

b. Seating order

Pat advised the Committee of the seating order for the resolution session during the conference and what the resolution numbers were.

c. Review Regional and Provincial Rules of Procedure

1. Motion from Peace region to change Regional Rules of Procedure

Two changes to the Regional Rules of Procedure were proposed. Section 1.(c) will now read as follows with the changes highlighted:

Election of the representative and alternate shall take place at the beginning of the Resolution session at each annual ASB Regional Conference, term of office to be **two years**. The representative (or alternate) shall assume the chair for the resolution session immediately following **the conclusion of the resolution session**. Corey stated he would choose a mover and seconder to move the second amendment from the floor. The Committee decided that Corey would move the first amendment.

2. Resolution timelines for advocacy and inclusion in report card

The following statements were also discussed to be included in the Provincial Rules of Procedure under Section 3(10).

- Resolutions passed at an ASB Provincial Conference will be advocated on for a period of five years from the date of approval. A list of expiring resolutions will be placed in the report card annually.
- If an ASB wishes the resolution to remain active, the resolution must be brought forward for approval again at the next ASB Provincial Conference.

- Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions.

Jim made a motion that the Provincial Committee add these changes to the Provincial Rules of Procedure and he would bring it to the floor of the assembly – CARRIED

d. Terms of Reference

1. Update membership names

The membership names will be updated in the Terms of Reference for the Provincial Committee and Maureen will include the AAAF President in the Terms of Reference and will bring to the Provincial Committee meeting in March to be signed. Jim made a motion to accept – CARRIED

The Committee discussed the two proposed changes to the Regional Rules of Procedure. Corey made a motion to accept these changes – CARRIED

2. Regional resolution response letters – Elk Population Control at Canadian Forces Base Suffield

This was a resolution that was regional in nature. Steve shared the responses he received to letters he wrote to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and The Minister of National Defense

e. Meeting with Ministers

A review of the briefing note that was provided to the Ministers was discussed and the Committee discussed who would address the issues with the Ministers

f. Meeting with AAMD&C

This meeting was deferred to January 23rd at 10:30 am

g. Inspiring Rural Leaders Information

Maureen stated that she was asked to bring this forward to the Committee. She explained that it is a pilot project right now and thought the Committee may be interested and that the information will go to all of the ASBs as well. The information was accepted as information

Corey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 pm

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting with Minister Olson and
Minister Fawcett
Room 9, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton
January 20, 2015 at 4:30 pm**

In attendance:

Minister Olson, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Minister Fawcett, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Bill Werry, Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource
Development
Shannon McLaughlin, Special Assistant to Minister Olson
Kaitlin Szacki, Special Advisor to Minister Fawcett
Rod Carlyon, Executive Director, Rural Development Division, ARD
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Jason Storch, President, AAAF
Trent Keller, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Cory Beck, Peace Representative
Doug Dallyn, Alternate Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
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Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD

The meeting commenced at 4:45 and introductions were made. Pat gave the Minister's an overview of what the Provincial Committee's role is. Pat thanked Minister Olson for the work done on COOL, the wild boar fencing program and the acreage herbicide program.

Enforcement of the *Agricultural Pests and Weed Control Acts*

Jason addressed this issue citing the lack of support for these Acts in rural municipalities. The Committee had requested that Pest Surveillance Branch add additional staff to assist municipalities with enforcement of the Acts. Minister Fawcett said that they are evaluating and taking feedback on what needs to be done. Minister Olson said the Pest Act is being looked at and the plan is to do some consultation with stakeholders. The Minister said they had previously talked about engaging AUMA and the Minister of Municipal Affairs but no action has taken place so far. Minister Olson said he will talk to Minister Diana McQueen and AUMA about this.

CN Railways Weed Control

Corey addressed this issue and explained the resolution from last year regarding obtaining a legal opinion from Alberta Justice. He said the Committee would like a working group established to come up with a plan to bring CN into compliance with the

Act. He advised the Minister that a legal opinion was received but that it could not be shared with the ASBs. Minister Olson said that he would talk to Alberta Justice to find out why the opinion can't be shared.

Weed Control on Provincial Lands

Jim addressed this issue explaining that ESRD doesn't seem to be taking responsibility for weed control on lands that they own or water bodies that they have jurisdiction over. Minister Fawcett said that funding is a major barrier and getting more funds is not getting easier. He asked if there were any areas to focus on that posed a specific risk. Jim suggested they focus on species such as Flowering Rush and he encouraged the Minister to consider an eradicable weed program. The Minister said this information was helpful and will take this under advisement and see if he can allocate some resources to a more targeted area.

***Agricultural Pests Act* and the creation of an Invasive Species Act**

Lloyd addressed this issue regarding the review of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the creation of an Invasive Species Act. He felt that both Ministries (ARD & ESRD) seem to have a handle on what needs to be done and would like to see them work towards an Act that would address the threat of all invasive species. Minister Fawcett said that when legislation is being reviewed the departments should work together to consolidate into an Invasive Species Act. Minister Olson said that the next step would be to take the *Agricultural Pests Act* out for consultation. Minister Olson is to get Jason Krips in touch with Bill Werry, Deputy Minister of ESRD to discuss this issue.

Funding

Pat addressed this issue explaining that ARD and ESRD need to increase funding for pest and weed control and that the ASBs are putting forward two resolutions regarding this. He said he is aware of the current situation regarding funding and hopes that there can be more funding in the future. Minister Fawcett said he will go back and look at funding for weed control on provincial land possibly reallocate some funding.

Wildlife Predator Compensation Program

Corey addressed this issue explaining that this program is not working as it is taking too long for suspected predator kills to be investigated and that by the time the producers get paid the funds have run out. He said there is a disconnect between producers and ESRD and that the ASBs could be a conduit to help ESRD get information to producers. Deputy Minister Werry said he is going to look at how this program is being delivered as he felt it is a very convoluted process to get the money out the door. Corey advised that the ASB Committee would be willing to sit on a working group to provide advice to the Minister of what is being heard at the grass root level. Minister Fawcett said he would be happy to have a Provincial Committee member sit on the Wildlife Predator Working Group.

ACTION: The Committee will contact Deputy Minister Werry to get a seat on this group.

Elk Population Control

Steve addressed this issue regarding the problems with the numbers of elk in the province and the damage they cause and how producers would like to see a significant reduction of elk in high population areas. He thanked Minister Fawcett for his response to the letter that Steve had sent to him. Deputy Minister Werry said that the goal is to take out 3000 animals and it could take two or three years to get down to a sustainable number. Minister Fawcett said there will be a year to year assessment as to how many licenses are issued. There is a plan being worked on and is almost done. Tracking the number of tags being filled will be part of monitoring over the next couple of years.

Agricultural Plastics Recycling

Jim addressed this issue and advised that no one has been able to get a successful recycling program up and running and that the recyclers are saying that there has to be a stewardship program in place in order to make this viable. Minister Fawcett said he recognized that this is an issue and of the pressure it puts on landfills. He advised that they are in the process of developing an education plan for producers and will evaluate this over the next three years to see how effective an education plan is and if there are other options that need to be taken into consideration.

Rat Habitat

Jason spoke to this and asked if there was any Growing Forward money or money under some other funding stream that could be accessed to clean up abandoned farm yards to reduce the risk of environmental and infrastructure damage caused by rat infestations. Minister Olson said he would like to talk to his officials about this to see if there is any money available for this.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 with Pat thanking the Ministers for attending the meeting and extended an invitation to Minister Fawcett to meet with the Committee annually.

ASB Provincial Committee Meeting Jan 23rd 2015 with AAMD&C

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Jason Storch, President, AAAF
Trent Keller, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Cory Beck, Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Representative
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ARD
Al Kemmere, AAMD&C President
Carolyn Kolebaba, AAMD&C Vice President
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Director District 5
Gerald Rhodes, AAMD&C Executive Director
Tasha Blumenthal, AAMD&C Policy Analyst

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 am

2. Introductions

3. Discussion

- comments were made on recent resolutions and the responses received from government agencies.
 - AAMD&C and ASB working together on resolutions, sharing of information and working towards a common goal.
- supporting each other in meetings
- 2/3rds of AAMD&C members meet with the minister so not to overwhelm him.
- AAMD&C would like to meet every year, want that embedded in the protocol, would like protocol in place for next meeting* Target is the beginning of June*
- ASB (Pat) has not heard from Jason Krips on how ARDs role may be affected on the ASB Provincial Committee

4. Business

a) Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG)

- The AAMDC is currently represented on this committee by District 2 Director Earl Graham with District 4 Director Tom Burton serving as the alternate. Director Burton was our representative on this committee since 2009. The ASB is interested in having a representative join this group.

- AAMD&C recommended that ASB have a member on this group, terms of reference will be sent to ASB to consider membership.

b) ASB Resolution 15: Farm Property Assessment

- The ASB is considering referring this resolution to the AAMDC and would like to discuss. AAMDC's positions on the assessment of farmland and farm buildings throughout the MGA focus group meetings have included:
- AAMD&C feels formula needs to be reviewed to make sure it is current. They are advocating that farm buildings be exempt, annexation of land and the timing of taxation changes discussed, assessment of land use and the support from Alberta AG needed on the issue was discussed.

c) Resolutions

- The ASB is interested in discussing in general how agricultural resolutions brought forward are dealt with to see where improvements could be made.
- Historically, AAMDC members have brought forward resolutions that address specific agricultural issues. These resolutions are sometimes defeated on the convention floor simply because they are not municipal in nature and would be better endorsed through the Provincial Agricultural Service Board. Due to the timing of conventions and internal resolutions processes, identifying this at the onset is a challenge. -some resolutions don't go through due to the makeup of AAMD&C (Rural vs Urban).
- Protocol should be set up to discuss resolutions and tweak them to increase chance of resolution passing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:24 AM.