

**ASB Provincial Committee Meeting
January 3, 2012
J.G. O'Donoghue Building**

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice Chair and Northwest Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Don Dumont, Peace Representative
Geoff Thompson, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative
Maureen Vadnais, ARD Representative
Pam Retzloff, ARD

1. Patrick Gordeyko called the meeting to order at 9:30
2. There were no additions to the agenda - motion was made by Jim Duncan to adopt the agenda – Carried
3. A motion was made by Lloyd Giebelhaus to adopt the minutes from November 23, 2011 meeting - Carried

A discussion took place regarding setting up a meeting with AAAF on January 31st and Geoff said he will arrange a time to meet and will book a meeting room at the Westin. The pre meeting prior to the Minister's meeting is being moved to the Westin from the JGO Building and Geoff will arrange a room for that meeting to take place at 10:00 am.

4. Items for Discussion with ADM Jason Krips

a. 2011 Resolutions/Responses

1. Agricultural Service Board Funding

The committee agreed that they need to impress upon Jason that the ASBs continue to ask for more funding and expect a complete program review this year and expect that the program review will provide more funding. They also need to ask Jason how he thinks a review panel would be formed and is there any idea at this time as to who would be on the review panel

2. Eradicable Weeds Program Funding

The Committee will discuss with Jason the proposed pilot program and briefing note asking for \$150,000 per year for the pilot program. Clearwater County carried out a very successful program in their County. The Committee was clear that this has to be new money and not money taken from the current ASB grant. They would also like to see some educational material sent out to the farmers regarding identifying the plant and control methods. They will ask Jason for ARD support and resources for putting together new weed ID booklets.

3. Monitoring of Groundwater wells

The Committee is concerned that the NRCB will give CFO's approval to remove monitoring conditions from the CFO's operating permit and would like to see conditions stay mandatory on the permits

4. Environmental regulations on crown land

There were no major concerns with this resolution

5. BSE Class Action Lawsuit

Maureen advised that the lawsuit is still being reviewed at the Superior Court level. The Committee will ask Jason for his comments on this. ARD and the Committee will continue to follow the progress of this lawsuit.

6. Disposal of Agricultural Plastics

The Committee will ask Jason for his continued support of the agricultural plastic recycling programs. The Committee was pleased with the response indicating that there was a pilot program and would like to see this program extended.

7. Enforcement of Clubroot Infestations

The Committee discussed this resolution stating that the resolution asked for implementation of the guidelines, but do municipalities want this mandated on them or do they want to continue to have leeway in how they do enforcement as it is tough to mandate across the whole province. The idea of regional plans was discussed and peer pressure could make ASBs stick to the plan, but the plan is only good if the ASBs support their staff

8. Richardson Ground Squirrel

PMRA has indicated that a 5 year Permanent Registration is coming forward but there is nothing in writing so far. The Committee will ask Jason if he has any further information on the status of permanent registration.

9. Banning of Importation of Horses for Slaughter (Bill C-544)

Bill C-544 is still currently on the schedule for second reading. It was suggested that the ASBs contact their local MP and ask to be advised when this goes onto the list for reading. ASB program staff will send out the website to ASBs with a reminder about the Bill and leave it up to the ASBs to keep track of. Maureen will prepare a statement for Pat to add into his slide presentation for the Provincial ASB Conference on Jan. 31, 2012

b. ASB Act Review

The ASB Act is scheduled to go to the Legislature in the fall of 2013. There was a discussion on how consultation will take place. It was suggested that some of the consultation will be conducted using focus groups on specific issues. The Provincial ASB Committee and the AAAF Legislation Committee will be key contributors to these focus groups.

c. ASB Program Evaluation

The Committee will advise Jason that the ASBs expect funding to be part of the evaluation and we should look at the program to see what changes can be made to date.

d. Weed Control along Provincial Highways

The Committee will advise Jason that this still appears to be a problem as things still aren't happening. They will ask Jason to talk to his counterparts in Transportation and follow up on it. The Committee will also write a letter to Transportation encouraging them to arrange another series of meetings with the contractors and to continue with training sessions in 2012. This may be an issue that the Committee should work with AAMD&C on.

e. Fusarium/Clubroot issues around the Province

The Committee would like the Minister to look at the Fusarium Action Committee recommendations and provide feedback. It was agreed that portable seed cleaning plants are a concern and they would like to see mandatory testing for all seed.

f. Previous year's resolutions

i. Tax Code Amendments

The Committee will send a letter directly to the Federal Minister with a copy to the ARD Minister with the recommendations made by Merle Good, Brian Brewin and Jeremy Robinson as recommended by Deputy Minister John Knapp.

ii. SRD Wildlife Report

The Committee will advise Jason that the report still hasn't been released to the public and they would still like to see it.

g. 2nd Generation Anticoagulants

ASBs in rat infestation areas need to have access to the products and need to be serious about getting registration.

At 11:00 am Jason Krips, Jo-Ann Hall and Murray Greer joined the meeting

Introductions were made and Jason stated that the Minister apologizes for not being able to meet with the ASB Provincial Committee sooner but he values the partnership with the ASBs and the Agricultural Fieldmen.

2011 Resolutions and Issues:

ASB Funding:

The Committee informed Jason that the ASBs continue to request more funding and will expect that to be part of the ASB Program Review. Jason advised the Committee that an evaluation will be going forward in 2012 and that external consultation will not start until late spring because of a possible election.

Eradicable Weeds Program Funding:

The Committee advised Jason that they support the pilot program and need to know where the funding would come from. Jason advised that this could be addressed as part of the review process.

NRCB Mandatory Water Testing

The Committee advised Jason that they are satisfied with the response to this resolution and would like to see monitoring conditions stay as a mandatory part of the permits

Environmental Regulations on Crown lands

The Committee is satisfied with this response and realize that some surveys have to be done and that SRD is working with producers and relaxing rules when possible

BSE Class Action Suit

The Committee advised that they want to closely monitor the progress of the lawsuit. Jason will talk to the Minister to see if he has any additional information or comments on this issue

Disposal of Agricultural Plastics

The Committee advised Jason that they are happy with the pilot project and are looking for ARDs continuing support. Jason advised that Brenda Brindle is working with the Policy Division to come up with policy shifts that need to happen. There is some potential that Growing Forward 2 could provide support to this program but are still waiting for consultation on the Federal timelines for Growing Forward 2.

Enforcement of Clubroot Infestations

The Committed advised Jason that the resolution was initially graded as unsatisfactory but they received additional guidance and clarification and are satisfied with the response. Jason advised the Committee that he had recently had a conversation with Alberta Canola Producers Commission (ACPC) and Pest Surveillance regarding guidelines for clubroot and recommended that these two groups work together more closely and that they should involve the Provincial ASB Committee. There will be a meeting with Murray Hartman, Paul Laflamme and ACPC to get more details. Lloyd is the appointed representative for the Clubroot Committee and will be contacted to be included in this meeting.

Permanent Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine

Jo-Ann advised that the Feds have indicated they will approve permanent registration but it hasn't been confirmed yet. Maureen will follow up with Cliff Munroe to see what the status of the permanent registration is with the feds.

Banning of Importation of Horses for Slaughter (Bill C-544)

Greg Oriss with Food Safety and Animal Health is already receiving briefings on this and will be asked to share this with Jo-Ann, Jason, and Maureen.

Tax Code Amendments

The Deputy Minister, John Knapp suggested that the Provincial Committee send a letter to the Federal Minister with the recommendations from Merle Good, Brian Brewin and Jeremy Robinson. The Committee is planning to send a letter to the Federal Finance Minister. Jason recommended that they cc: Minister Berger when they send the letter.

SRD Wildlife Report

The Committee advised Jason that they still haven't seen the report. Jason said he will ask John Knapp to work with the Deputy Minister of SRD to get the report or release a statement saying that they are not willing to release the report. Maureen will draft a letter deputy to deputy requesting release of SRD wildlife report.

ASB Act Review

The Committee asked Jason about the timelines for the ASB Act Review and what the process would look like for the Act Review. The response was that the Committee will be a key stakeholder in the review and that consultation can be expected in the late spring of 2012. Fall regional meetings will be one of the key venues used to consult with all ASBs.

ASB Program Evaluation

ARD to work with ASB Committee when re-evaluating .

Extension Portion

Pat asked if there were any changes anticipated for the Key Contact Program. Jo-Ann gave an update on the Key Contact program and said that overall it is working well but there is always more that can be done to improve on the program.

Weed Control on Provincial Highways

The Committee updated Jason on this issue and advised that it is working in some areas but not province wide. The resolution response from the 2010 resolution said that there would be regional meetings between ASBs, contractors and Transportation's maintenance contract inspectors but this is not currently happening in all areas of the province. Jason suggested a letter be sent from the Provincial Committee to Transportation reminding them of their commitment to the resolution response and copy John Knapp and Jason Krips on the letter.

Pest Concerns

Jason was advised that the ASBs would like to request a rat specialist for the Province similar to the specialist that ARD used to have. Jason said he will discuss this with Jamie Curran. Jamie is aware of this issue.

Wild Boar Confinement

The Committee discussed the need for fencing regulations to be put in place. Jo-Ann advised that there is a team looking at this but was not sure of the timelines for the implementation of guidelines.

2nd Generation Anticoagulants

Jo-Ann Hall and Jason Krips are to follow up with Jamie Curran on this issue. The Committee agreed that they need to meet with Regulatory Services Division to review this issue.

Clubroot/Fusarium Issues

Fusarium recommendations

Jason advised that the Minister has reviewed this document and appreciated the Fusarium Action Committee's work and recommendations. The Minister is supportive of many of the recommendations in the report and is currently looking at increasing education and training. The Minister supports zero tolerance.

Jason, Jo-Ann and Murray left the meeting at approximately 12:00 pm. The Committee returned to their original agenda.

Items for ASB Provincial Committee to discuss with Minister

- Same as with Jason
- Use these minutes as speaking notes for the meeting with the Minister
- Recommend breaking into three categories
 - Funding
 - Pests
 - Weeds

2012 Provincial ASB Conference

- The order for the resolutions was reviewed and no changes were made
- ARD has ordered additional clicker pads for use during the resolution sessions

Don Dumont made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05pm