

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Meeting
Room 200, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
March 18, 2013**

In attendance:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Region Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice-Chair and Northwest Region Representative
Phillip Massier, Central Region Representative (Alternate)
Garry Lentz, South Region Representative
Mackay Ross, Peace Region Representative (Alternate)
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 10:00 am.

Garry moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of one item under Old Business - CARRIED

Pat asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda and Tax Code Amendments review was added. Garry moved that the agenda be adopted - CARRIED

Lloyd moved to adopt the minutes from the January 22, 2013 meeting – CARRIED

Old Business:

a. Review of the Terms of Reference for the Provincial Committee

The Terms of Reference were discussed and several amendments were suggested. Pat suggested that the Terms of Reference be sent out to all of the ASBs before the fall regional meetings are held and any issues with the Terms of Reference could be brought forward at the meetings and any required changes will be made. The Terms of Reference will be signed off this summer when the Committee meets with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

b. Rat Control Plan for Medicine Hat

Jason reported that the City of Medicine Hat now has a Municipal and Regional Rat Control Protocol Emergency Management plan in place and he updated the Committee on the plan. He also reported that the Province of Alberta Rat Control Plan has been approved and it will be sent to AAMD&C as well as the City of Medicine Hat. The Committee were provided with copies of both plans.

c. Tax Code Amendments Review

Maureen gave an overview of Joel Bokenfohr's response on the Tax Code Amendments review. She advised that the Federal government's response on this issue is strong and that a stronger case needs to be made as to why producers should be extended an increase in taxable benefit.

New Business:**a. Suggestions on criteria for Environmental Funding Stream allocation and reporting requirements**

Maureen reviewed the timelines on the Strategic Plan and reporting template for the Environmental funding stream. Discussion took place on whether October 1st was a feasible date for the Strategic Plan update. Pat suggested a date of October 15th and Maureen will take the recommendation to the Focus group discussion in Lacombe on March 19th, 2013.

b. Stance of AAAF on issues of mutual concern between AAAF and the ASB Committee

Jason advised that he had a discussion with the AAAF on this issue. He said that the Agricultural Fieldmen are still required to enforce the Acts they are responsible for. The AAAF will look at everything on a case by case basis and will consult with the Provincial Committee on issues as they arise. He advised that the AAAF support the Provincial Committees stance of a zero tolerance on Fusarium.

c. AAMD&C process for advocating for resolutions

Maureen advised that she had received the process for advocating for resolutions from Tasha Blumenthal at AAMD&C. She is still waiting for a response on how to handle the situation of a resolution passing at AAMD&C and not at the ASB Provincial Conference. Pat said that if this happens then a discussion should take place between the AAMD&C and the Provincial Committee to try and gain consensus.

Items for information:**a. Ag Plastics Survey**

The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Municipal Waste Authorities Survey and the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Agricultural Producers Survey were handed out to the Committee members for them to review.

b. Injury Prevention Working Group report

Jason advised he had taken part in a conference call with this group and gave a summary of the call and an overview of what this purpose of this group is. He questioned whether there was a role for the Provincial Committee within this group. He said he will sit in on another conference call or two and then a decision can be made as to the Provincial Committee's role.

Paul Laflamme with the Pest Surveillance Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development entered the meeting at 1:00 pm

Paul was asked to address four resolutions that were passed at the 2012 ASB conference that received a grade of incomplete or unsatisfactory.

Resolution #8 – 2011 Provincial Enforcement of the Weed Control Act

Paul advised that letters have been sent to retailers in Alberta for the past two years and that responsibility for enforcement lies at the local level. If enforcement is a problem at the municipal level, the Agricultural Fieldman can contact Gayah Sieusahai with the Pest Surveillance Branch and the province will step in to help with the enforcement. Paul advised that they are working on a training place to educate people on this issue.

Pat felt that the letters are good but there is still a need for more to be done.

Resolution #9 – Requiring labelling of flower seed mixes with all species present

Paul advised that this is Federal legislation so it is difficult for ARD to do anything since it is Federal legislation. He has written letters to Ag and Agri Food Canada but has had no response yet. He said the biggest issue is not our legislation and pressure needs to be put on the Federal government. Pat suggested that the Committee draft letters to the Federal Minister and MPs.

Resolution #10 – Request for ARD to take a more forceful approach to selling on noxious and prohibited noxious weeds at greenhouses and plant retailers

Paul said they will continue to send out letters on a yearly basis.

Emergent Resolution #1 – Ag Pests Act Review

Paul advised this act was to go forward in 2014 but has been put back to 2016. He said that the Minister and Deputy Minister said nothing can be done about the place of the Act in the queue. He advised that there is a plan to merge the Weed Control Act and the Ag Pests Act into a new Invasive Species Act for 2016 and it will define who is responsible for what.

Vaughn Christensen with the Regulatory Services Division of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development entered the meeting at 1:25 pm

Vaughn was asked to address three resolutions that were passed at the 2012 ASB conference that received a grade of incomplete or unsatisfactory.

Resolution #4 – Wild Boar Eradication Initiative

Vaughn informed the Committee that a survey has been done to determine how much of a problem wild boars are and that the information is currently being compiled. Vaughn said that a live trapping and eradication regulation could be built from what the survey results show. He said that total prohibition of wild boar is not on the radar at this time. He advised that on March 20th, 2013 Phil Merrill will be attending a workshop to discuss a national strategy for wild swine in Canada.

Pat said the Committee will look forward to the recommendation from the Minister and that this issue can be discussed at the next meeting of the Provincial Committee.

Emergent Resolution #1 – Ag Pests Act Review

Vaughn advised that Regulatory Services has had some input into this issue.

Emergent Resolution #2 – Compound 1080 Review by PMRA

Vaughn advised that the review is still being done and that Phil Merrill hasn't heard anything yet.

Vaughn mentioned the issue of Rat Control and advised that the Assistant Deputy Minister wants to increase support to the program. He said a communications plan is in the works for dealing with the press for the next situation that occurs.

Joel Bokenfohr with the Livestock and Farm Business Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development entered the meeting at 1:40 pm

Joel was asked to brief the Committee on the Tax Code Amendments Review. He felt that the policy proposal was well crafted and outlined very well the benefits of the recommendations made. He felt that due to stronger commodity prices and higher gross revenues, a much stronger case needs to be made to the Federal government.

Pat agreed that it was hard to take anything forward due to the economy. He said the Committee would be willing to help lobby with any young groups that need support.

Other items:

Maureen advised that she has drafted a letter to the Fusarium Action Committee from AAMD&C and the Provincial Committee to reinforce their stance of zero tolerance. AAMD&C are currently reviewing the letter.

Maureen advised that she has drafted a letter to Leon Benoit, MP from AAMD&C and the Provincial Committee regarding PMRA registration of strychnine. The letter will be going out in the near future.

Garry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 pm