

November 8 2011 Conference Call - Provincial ASB Committee

Tuesday, November 08, 2011
10:58 AM

Attendance:

Maureen Vadnais, ARD
Pam Retzloff, ARD
Pat Gordeyko, NE Regional Rep
Lloyd Giebelhaus, NW Regional Rep
Greg Hawkwood, Central Alternate Regional Rep
Don Dumont, Peace Regional Rep
Garry Lentz, South Regional Rep
Soren Odegaard, AAMD&C Rep

Motion to adopt agenda: Lloyd Giebelhaus, carried

Reviewed resolution responses

Resolution 1: ASB Funding

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Leduc County submitted a response to Lloyd suggesting that the response to this resolution should be Accept in Principle. Their comments were that the Provincial ASB Committee needed to ensure that a occurred in 2012/2013. The review had been promised to occur in 2010 and was delayed. Maureen informed the Committee that the ASB Program staff are currently working to get approval from the Deputy Minister (DM) to start the review in early 2012 with completion scheduled for 2013. Discussion ensued among the committee members with the consensus that the resolution response should be graded as accept in principle with a note added to the report card that the program would be reviewed starting in 2012 with the review completed in 2013.

Resolution 2: Eradicable Weeds Program Funding

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Maureen reviewed what is currently ongoing regarding this resolution. A meeting was held between municipalities that are currently trying to manage prohibited noxious hawkweed species. The outcome of this meeting was that a proposal was developed to seek funding for a 3 year pilot project to show that this principle can work. The proposal is going to request \$150,000 each year for 3 years (total \$450,000) to eradicate hawkweed. The question was asked if this was going to be new funding or if it would come from the "surplus" ASB grant funding. The answer was that all dollars for the ASB Grant, including the surplus dollars, has been allocated for the next two years so any funding would have to be new funding. ASB is working with Pest Surveillance Branch (PSB) to forward this proposal to the DM. Discussion among the committee members was that this needed to be new money to support this program and that the response should be graded as accept in principle.

Resolution 4: Natural Resources Conservation Board

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

The feeling of the NE Region was that the response answered the resolution. Discussion at the NE Region had also asked who the members of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) was and the request was

made to add the members of the PAG into the report card. Concern was expressed by the Central Region that this is something that CFOs should be doing anyways and that NRCB was amending permits to remove or modify the monitoring conditions. The Committee members were satisfied with the response that indicated that professionals were conducting the monitoring where it was required. The committee rated this response as accept in principle because it was satisfied that the monitoring was being conducted by qualified contractors but were concerned that CFOs have the ability to remove the monitoring condition from their permits.

Resolution 5: Environmental Regulations on Crown Land

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept the Response

The committee was satisfied with the response given by SRD to this resolution. The response indicated that the requirement for preconstruction wildlife surveys was reviewed and that the new system developed only requires surveys in the Grasslands Natural Region/Prairies Region of the province where the majority of species at risk are found. The committee overall felt that SRD was trying to work with producers to accommodate their needs as well as mitigate impacts on wildlife. The South Region rep was asked if he had received any additional feedback on this resolution from his region as the environmental assessments would be required largely by those producers and he said that it remains a concern of the producers but that he had not received a lot of feedback from his region on this issue. Overall, the committee felt that the response answered the resolution and graded it as Accept the Response.

Resolution 6: BSE Class Action Lawsuit

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

The response to this resolution from the Department of Justice Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada was that they couldn't comment on the resolution at this point because the allegations had not been substantiated at that point in time. The Committee discussed and felt that the response should be graded Accept in Principle because of the sentence included in the response that says: The allegations in this action, including negligence and misfeasance in public office, are serious and have yet to be substantiated. There may need to be more follow up to the resolution as this case proceeds through the court system.

Resolution 7: Disposal of Agricultural Plastics

Provincial Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

The Committee was satisfied with the response to this resolution and would like to see some of the findings from the pilot project added in to the report card. They need more information about what has happened to date and we need to let all the ASB members know the current challenges associated with recycling agricultural plastics as well as what has happened to date. Maureen and Geoff are to work together to contact those municipalities that participated in the pilot project and find out the challenges and successes that happened with the pilot project.

Resolution 8: Enforcement of Clubroot Infestations

Provincial Committee Grade: Unsatisfactory

The Committee felt that the response did not answer the question posed by the resolution. The response centered on the biology of the disease and how it can be controlled but did not address the intent of the resolution which was stronger guidance from the province regarding management of clubroot. The resolution asked for uniformity in implementation of the Ag Pests Act regarding clubroot. Maureen was asked to work with Paul and Gayah to get a better response to the resolution.

Resolution 9: RGS Control - Emergency Registration**Provincial Committee Grade: Accept the Response**

The Committee felt that because the emergency registration was granted for 2011 that the grade should be Accept the Response.

Resolution 10: RGS Control - Permanent Registration**Provincial Committee Grade: Unsatisfactory**

The Committee is encouraged by the news that PMRA is considering permanent registration of strychnine again but would still like to see confirmation of a permanent registration. The question was raised about the final reports for the research conducted in Saskatchewan. Maureen replied that they are available and that she would include the links for finding them in the final report and send it to the Provincial Committee members.

Emergent Resolution 1: Banning of importation of horses for slaughter**Provincial Committee Grade: Accept the Response**

The Committee felt that the response was adequate for this resolution and that it was in support of the resolution. Maureen was asked to add the current status of the bill into the report card.

Other Business:**Ag Pests Act Resolution**

Gayah has asked for support from the ASB Provincial Committee in putting forward an emergent resolution at the Provincial ASB Conference regarding the Ag Pests Act. The intent of the resolution is to add aquatic, semi-aquatic and tree pest species to the Act to make it an Invasive Species Act. Enforcement would be delegated to the appropriate department under this Act to ensure that agricultural fieldmen would only be responsible for agricultural pests.

The question was raised as to how do we qualify it as emergent. The response was that this was an issue that recently came up at the interdepartmental Invasive Alien Species Working Group and that it did not have time to be brought forward at the regional meetings.

Maureen is to work with Gayah to complete the whereas sections and background and bring it to the Committee for the organizational meeting to be held in November.

Organizational Meeting

Discussion was held as to when to hold the organizational meeting for the Committee. It was suggested that the Committee meet either before or after the AAMD&C Convention. The suggestion was made to hold the meeting during the afternoon the first day of the conference. Suggested time was 2:00 pm with the meeting to be held at the Shaw Conference Center or one of the hotels.

Pam is to work with AAMD&C to secure a meeting room.

New Minister

Committee is requesting that a meeting be set up with the new Agriculture Minister. Suggestion was made that the Committee try to meet with the Minister for 15 minutes immediately following the AAMD&C Ministerial Forum. The Committee also wants to try and set up a meeting with the Minister to discuss the resolutions the first day of the ASB Provincial Conference.

Pat Gordeyko is going to draft letters on behalf of the Committee thanking Jack Hayden for his support and to welcome Evan Berger as the new Minister.

Contact Information

Geoff is going to send a form to everyone requesting their contact information. Last summer when the Minister cancelled the meeting with the Committee on short notice, Geoff and Maureen were scrambling to try and contact everyone to let them know that the meeting was cancelled. Geoff would like to get email, home phone, cell phone, fax etc. numbers so we can contact everyone quickly. Pam will work with Geoff to compile the list for everyone.

Motion to adjourn: Garry Lentz

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.