

**Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association
Board Meeting
Thursday February 17, 2022
The Atlas, Regina, SK
8am**

Arnold Balicki Chair (Director 9A)
Rick Toney (Past Chair) – call in
Kyle Hebert (Director 1)
Leigh Rosengren (Director 2)
Keith Day (Director 3B)
Randy Stokke (Director 4) – call in
Levi Hull (Director 5)
Shelby Corey (Director 6)
Joleen Shea (Director 7)
Chad Ross (Director, SCFA)
Garret Poletz (Director, SCFA)
Garner Deobald (Director, SSGA) – call in
Kelly Williamson (Director, SSGA) – call in

SCA Staff:

Ryder Lee (CEO)
Leann Clifford (Administrator)
Glenn LaPointe (Communications)
Christina Betker (Policy) – call in

Regrets:

Roger Meyers (Director 3A)
Dean Moore (Director 9B)
Garner Deobald (Director, SSGA)
Marianne Possberg (Production)

Arnold Balicki called the meeting to order at 8:05 am

1.0 Approval of Agenda

**MOTION 2022-011: Shea /Rosengren
“To accept the agenda as presented”**

Motion Carried

**1.01 Review of Minutes
February 17, 2022, Minutes**

**MOTION 2022-012: Hull / Hebert
“To accept the February 17, 2022, minutes as amended.”**

Motion Carried

1.02 Chair Report

- Attended Sask. Hall of Fame announcement, VBP+SK AGM, SBIC and the IFMU Chair candidates' presentations.
- Chaired the SCA AGM.
- Met virtually with Minster Marit and his team in a Livestock Industry Roundtable.
- Virtually attended the Next Policy Framework discussion with our SK Government Ag team, with another meeting schedule for Feb 16th.
- Virtually attended the SCA consultation regarding regulations under the animal protection act
- Fielded several calls from producers regarding extreme high feed costs & if there is another ask under the AG recovery, a few calls for CCA branding & a deluge of producer calls regarding CCAs signatory to two media releases, the border closures.

MOTION 2022-013: Balicki / Day

“To accept the Chair Report as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.03 CEO Report

- Since last meeting have had Research funding announcements, SCA AGM, protests and occupations across Canada and changes to public health orders in Saskatchewan.
- The Next Policy Framework consults are ongoing. It appears the priorities SCA has put forward align well with the provincial government. Now negotiations with the federal government and other provinces. This will be a frequent topic for the next year.
- Have participated in the interview process for the Integrated Forge Management & Utilization chair at the U of S. It is a long process with the third interviews earlier this week.
- Feb 18th marks the last meeting as Chair of the National Farm Animal Care Council. There will still be challenges going forward. Governance review is healthy for an organization. More importantly, participant groups will have to lean in to get important work on Code development and assessment programs done. Canada's beef code will be due for a renewal next year.
- Held SBIC virtually this year, looking for any suggestions for next year.

MOTION 2022-014: Hebert / Shea

“To accept the CEO report as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.04 Financial Report

- Reviewed the balance sheet and profit/loss. Activity costs are likely to be down again this year.

MOTION 2022-015: Ross / Rosengren

“To accept the Financial Report as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.05 Governance

Development commissions such as SCA are governed by the AgriFood Act and the relevant regulations (in our case the Cattle Development Plan). In addition to those two the Board can also pass Orders setting out certain operating details for the industry. Those orders have sunset dates and are to be reviewed annually.

New Business

AITC sponsorship \$50,000

MOTION 2022-016: Toney / Shea

“That SCA fund AITC in the amount of \$50,000 for the 2022 year.”

Motion Carried

- It is used as core funding rather than guided at one or another specific project.
- Due to get Sara in for a board presentation.

STARS \$15k for 3 years

- Email request for funding. SCA funds STARS in the past.

MOTION 2022-017: Hebert / Ross

“That SCA explore supporting STARS at a recurring amount.”

Motion Carried

- How would that look? They do actively serve levy paying producers.

Species at Risk Project

- Jeremy Pittman joined the board via phone and presented an update on the research.
- Legal protection is further along in the U.S.
- Challenges with timelines of commitments. Preference lean toward stewardship support restrictions.
- Results based programs are big in the E.U.
- Grassland CRP may have a similar program coming in Canada. Paid to do a plan up and follow it.
- REDD+ in Amazon is a paid to avoid conversion programming. Lots of hesitancy in Canada to do this, additionality is part of it. Cost is also.
- Regulations of wood cover are already in place in Canada (municipally in ON, maybe others).
- Opportunity on community pastures. See management help on those and voluntary program would see some acceptance.
- Living Labs proposal is included in this.
- Target 1 being very strict about eligible land is a challenge. Opening it up a bit to include shorter term easements and management agreements would help.
- Timeframe being in perpetuity is still a problem.
- Reclaimed coal mining land is also a positive target for improvement. Limit on lease lengths are illustrative on the constraint or lack of improvement that happens.
- Target 1 numbers were looked at. Can find on the web.

CCA Branding

Guests present – Rayn Beierbach, Pat Hayes, Reg Schellenberg, Duane Thompson

Call in - Bob Lowe, Lynn Grant

- Ryan Beierbach – presented
- Known for integrity. Looking for evolution, not revolution.
- Logo only, no alphabet.
- Government looks at ideas that include gender, inclusivity, indigenous. This conversation is already happening.
- Several options explored considering modernization, history and acronym, pressures faced.
- To recommend to CCA board at AGM.

- Experience of women having to explain inclusivity has impacted opinions of the working group. Time spent explaining that is not moving issues forward.
- Duane Thompson is the SK rep with Ryan Beierbach as the chair.
- No favor for being pushed by the politics of the day. Very strong positions in this conversation.
- Why doing this? To improve the industry. To strengthen the industry and ensure it is inclusive.
- Cattle Canada works well with Canada Beef.
- One idea is Canada Cattle Association legally with Cattle Canada as the operating name (like Spirits Canada).

Border Release

- Job of CCA is to keep product flowing. Nothing in the releases had anything to do with the issues in Ottawa about COVID.
- Steps taken are about getting things done now and to the future. No apologies about border because the costs are unmanageable.
- Division cannot help. CCA is there for them as is SCA. Any thoughts they are not, come to a meeting.

MOTION 2022-018: Hebert / Rosengren

“That SCA prefers Cattle Canada with a legal entity name of Canada’s Cattle Association.”

Motion Carried

Veterinary Conversation with Dr. Stephanie Smith, Chief Veterinary Officer for SK

- In attendance
- Vet shortages – examining vet tech vs veterinarian work allocations. Done already in some states. This can also be a turf issue. Discussed at SVMA Council. This is already an issue where vets are already not letting techs do things they can do under the current regulations.
- The shortage issue is not a tied recruitment AND retention. Both are issues.
- SVMA and SAVT can work on retention. This is an immediate solution.
- Recruitment is a longer solution.
- Trying to drive this through SVMA Council – could tell the Registrar that we want vets to be better satisfied.
- Are drug and vaccine sales an issue in retention? IS a pharmacy model a way to help vet retention? New vets pressured out by big clinics selling for 20% less and pressuring producers to keep the VCPR.
- Need to keep vet selection away from drug prices. The current situation not helping on this. Profit isn’t high enough on farm to support the new entrant with higher prices.
- With the changes in bylaws, there is a way to prescribe to be filled out of other clinics. Some considerations and expectations of records and vets need a relationship, but there are hills to climb (profit, ego, etc.)
- U.S. cost vs Canadian there are 30-60% of local price. There is money in the system.
- Swine model service demands are much different.
- Our service demands as an industry have to be recognized. A lot of the solution lies in technician situation. Nurse Practitioners have been a critical bridge.
- Is a third option between or beside Techs and Vets – animal science trained people who could help service this?
- Work going on through SaskPolyTech and SAVT have been pushing for Nurse Practitioner for the veterinary side. What is the cost? How many clinics could support this? Already some practices that only afford a vet and a tech.
- Looking ahead – growth, consolidation and specialization is going to impact how veterinarians are used.

- Vet shortages have come up numerous times at CCVO table (Council of Chief Vet Officers)
- Second piece is the national perspective. CVMA work on veterinary shortage is a discussion. Many provinces discussing this. Canadian CVO connected with CVMA- they have a working group on promoting industry, recruitment, and retention.
- Regulators are meeting and then bringing in stakeholders. Immigration and accreditation is on that table.
- Federal support for veterinary infrastructure is also on the table. Right to level or school spots and people to train.
- Foreign credentials process – seen as difficult and slow and pushing people away. Certainly, a challenge for countries not equivalent. Titles are different. Sounds the same but sometimes it is not. There is a learning curve to taking the practitioners exam.
- Have heard the support to get through the process is not enough. SVMA staff has tried to support some individually. Here is something for SCA to champion, program supporting foreign vets credential process – learn more about what other places do.
- SK does have a temporary license program to get the hours o=in to be able to take the practical credential exam. They can do but sign off on things.
- Federal funding, CFIA, they use vet techs. They take a lot and have the funding structure that outcompetes practitioners.
- CFIA is also facing a shortage. They need to invest in that training.
- Rural vets and retention program – told or let choose? They choose. That results in spots open for long times.
- Dr. Smith is on the same page as we are regarding rural vs urban programs out of Advanced Education.
- That program was based on nursing, based on address where the person resides. If they live rural, access to the program regardless of where working. Another thing for SCA can champion – aim Advanced Ed's vet program better.
- What can be done in P.A. area? Work with the clinics to let them know there is support and concern and demand for the coming season.
- CFIA has been paying students to go to vet collage and then work for them for a specified time. It is something to explore for P.A. and any other area.
- Consolidation and growth is changing things.
- More vets in the field does not mean they will want to be on call or in single vet practices.
- Consolidation in that business will have to come. Multi vet practices with satellite clinics (for example P.A. having a rotation)
- As cattle operations grow, husbandry practices improve, vet demand is much less.
- Expectations of veterinarians are much higher than when we do for specialty care for human care (driving to the city for human medical care vs expecting on site care for animals)
- On the national side, Dr Smith is involved in talks and will champion bringing industry to the table, national and provincial.

Vet Drug Availability

- Scourguard takes a long time. PegG, Ivermectin. Pre-pasture turnout issues. Supply chain delays are very real.
- CAHI – vet drugs industry group is an ally on working on these issues.
- CCA is also engaged
- NCFA has been engaged.
- Work to harmonize with the U.S. would be appreciated.
- Telemedicine Policy at SVA+MA.

- Vets have had an opportunity to think about doing this in different ways. It is up to the vet's comfort. We should help vets know what bylaws allow. So, they are not working on that as a customer friendly operation?

Check Off Agency Business Plan

- Meeting is coming up March 9th for the Agency to consider input from all the members.
- Looking into SRED Credit. Cost vs reward.
- Drawing on reserves is not a concern, COVID savings. Some were set aside for reserve to face potential future challenges. Decreased admin % and may decrease in the future if ON comes on board.
- ON and increasing their national check off. Line in the sand is a permanent seat on the national marketing committee for Ontario Corn Fed Beef. A lot of SK calves become ON Beef. Alberta Beef is another provincial brand name marketed. Is that going to come from this?
- The marketing committee at present is appointed (4 Meat Council, 2 producers, importers, and exporters with four members at large elected at AGMs) There has yet to be an election for the at large members (acclaimed).
- Conventions with members at large have been suggested without positive reception. The line in the sand is writing in a permanent ON member on that committee.
- Request to make the business plan contain more tactics vs strategy, easier to read
- Import levy process? CBSA to Ag Canada to NCOA who bills importer of record. They need to know these things, so they are not hanging on a charge they did not levy.

National Levy Allocation for 2023-2024

- Current 65% marketing, 30% research, 5% public and stakeholder engagement.
- Desire is to leave at the current levels.

SCA Committees

- As circulated.

Reps to Other Boards

- Should have circulated time commitment awareness to the board.

MOTION 2022-019: Ross / Hull

“That SCA appoint / nominate the reps as listed.”

- Saskatchewan Forage Council – Kyle Hebert
- SODCAP – Keith Day
- PCAP – Keith Day
- Farm and Food Care – Shelby Corey
- AITC – Glenn LaPointe
- VBP+ - Arnold

Motion Carried

Review of Orders

- Reviewed the orders.
- No comments were noted.

Fall Meetings

- Discussion on two locations for District 6.
- One is favorable.

Grazing Project

- Discussion of opportunity to help deliver Grazing Mentorship program through a new federal project. Extension Specialists should be used.

MOTION 2022-020: Rosengren / Hebert

“That SCA work with CFGA to deliver the grazing mentorship program.”

Motion Carried

Old Business

District 8 – Leon Lueke

- Rosengren to look at the potential candidate.

External Calls

SCFA Update

- AGM January 26 – resolution –
- “Whereas federal policy of Ag Policy Framework has stayed the same for the last two rounds. And whereas there are discussions ongoing on the next framework. Be it resolved that SCFA work through SCA for an increase to the funding for the framework.”
- Also, discussion about need to include all classes of cattle in any programs.
- Negative margins, slow deliveries (six weeks), high cost of feed grain coupled with slow delivery are real challenges at feedlot level. Border disruptions have compounded these challenges. Price insurance premiums seem very high to utilize the program. Wondering on uptake of program. Cost of \$50-60 premium, that is the profit. Continue to talk.

SSGA Update

- AGM on February 2nd.
- Passed resolution are found on the SSGA website.

Board Round Table

- Struggle for feeders now. Big glut due to come out in May. Feeder prices are strong. Took some calls about name and press release.
- Local abattoir up and running and doing well. CFIA vet came in a month ago and told they need to add when animal was removed from feed, water and rest or not in compliance. Only place he has heard about it.
- Few producers are asking what SCA is taking to government regarding the drought. Still looking very bad in the west end. Arnold and SARM have. Severe winter is making it worse.
- Grasshoppers amplify the drought issue. Is there work done in this area?
- Transport regulations are also coming up to people’s awareness. Was there work to build facilities? Yes.
- Reporter searching a lone woman running an operation. Rick had one -Nita Wilson
- Changes on CFIA rules of what animals are fit to go to market. They are being turned away; it may have been most humane way to be disposed. Back to operations where they are not going to be put down. Unsure how to handle those.
- Cattle like this are going to be an increasing risk in the coming months.
- Do we talk to LMS about communicating what they will not take and about the local abattoirs that should be the destination or on farm slaughter?
- Gophers are a real issue come spring where grass is already low. No strychnine!


- Cash advance program pay back due in March is a concern
- FCC issue with loans coming due.
- APSS apparently watching herds.
- Update on absinth wormwood. Worked to add as a noxious weed. Government is now paying half of the chemical cost. Need to keep it on the list. Terrible weed especially around mines.
- RM is going to mandate spraying on that leased coal mine land. Government is now paying half, RM half and application to the leaseholders. Need to keep going.
- Where should SCA go on the drought:
 - What feed do you buy?
 - If it does not rain, cattle will sell, and cash will not be the challenge
 - What do you say to government? And when?
- Keeping an eye on what is happening in the U.S. is one approach. Their trucking program was a basis of what happened here last year. Do we ask for a conservation response program to keep cattle off the land?
- The land was clobbered last year, do we ask government to open land that was not accessed last year?
- Shortage of liquid molasses is real too. Tough to get enough up from the U.S. Part is due to the shortage of sugar beets due to a poor harvest last year. Its not a “supply chain” and “border” issue but and actual “supply”.

In Camera

Adjourn 4:11pm

**MOTION 2022-021: Hebert
“To adjourn.”**

Motion Carried



Board Chair – Arnold Balicki

____ Leann Clifford ____ - Recording Secretary

Date approved