

Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
U of S Funds Board Call
January 16, 2020
Conference Call

Rick Toney, Chair
Ryan Beierbach (Past Chair)
Leigh Rosengren (Director 2)
Roger Meyers (Director 3A)
Levi Hull (Director 5)
Paula Larson (Director 7)
Michael Spratt (Director 8)
Arnold Balicki (Director 9A),
Harold Martens (Director, SSGA)
Chad Ross (Director SCFA)

SCA Staff:

Ryder Lee (CEO)

Guest:

Doug Freeman
Liz Snead – U of S

Regrets:

Kelcy Elford (Director, SSGA)
Brent Griffin (Director 6)

Rick Toney called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Greetings and thanks for attending the meeting to discuss the unique opportunity on a tight timeline.

Discussion:

- A grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.
- Federal funds for university infrastructure.
- Relies heavily on matching funds. Provincial, University, Industry.
- Can use prior spends on infrastructure or equipment as leverage
- Each College can propose – there is a campus competition to see what the University will allow to go forward.
- This is one of three grants to go forward from the U of S.
- Grant is for infrastructure but must show the science one will be using the facilities for.
- This will support the majority of the work left to do on phase 3 of the LFCE.
- There are (4) four areas:
 - Bison genome bank
 - Cattle genome bank – Waldner – Campbell work via BCRC
 - Phenomics in cattle. What are the genes that produce traits?

- Microbiome work. The population of microbes in various environments in cattle. Reproductive tracts primarily.
- Have the majority of match lined up for the grant. Hoping for a couple of industry groups that can come on for a relatively small amount of money. The support for being behind the proposal is what they are looking for.
- Hoping for \$150,000. \$16.5 million grant so 110x leverage ratio. At this moment would only need a pledge and will not move forward if the grant does not get funded. Funds can come over multiple years.
- Currently AgBio and WCVI are on for \$150,000 each.
- Thinks this is exciting from a science standpoint. Liz believes this can do a lot for the beef and bison industry. More important for her is building the capacity of the LFCE and finishing off that third stage that did not have the funding initially.
- Other Industry money? - Bison Assoc. AGM is in Feb – can not decide before then.
- BCRC received the information but was not asked for money as they are supporting Cheryl’s research and cannot support infrastructure. Providing a letter of support.
- Lab will be shared between cattle and bison for genomic work. Bull handling capacity. Lab support at Goodale, mostly around reproductive. Will be used by other researchers.
- Some work on caribou
- Includes all LFCE to the University with fibre-optic connection. Right now, have high SaskTel costs of internet. This will allow for transmission on their own network. Genomics lab development on campus, at PDS and at AgBio.
- Indigenous groups. Spoke with Blaine Flavel of Poundmaker Cree Nation. Will send a letter of support.
- Will speak with Wanuskewin. Have acknowledged that speaking with funding possibilities may have come late.
- Initially believed that they could use the Phase 1 and Phase 2 monies as leverage for this project. This has not been the case. This is the reason this ask is coming in late, believed the money was there. There is a need to put together \$3.5 million and are almost there. Trying to make sure any reviewer has no lingering questions about support from industry.

Key Messages:

- Two items rolled into this grant will allow to finish Phase 3 and will support items that will provide important items for the beef industry.
- Disappointed that bison could not contribute to this, so it does not go the way side when it involves them.

Doug and Liz left the meeting

Discussion

MOTION UofS Funds 2020-001: Ross / Larson

“That SCA support the U of S CFI grant application with a letter of support and pledge of \$150,000.”

Motion Carried

Adjourn 10:08am

MOTION UofS Funds 2020-002: Hull

“To adjourn.”

Motion Carried

Arnold Balicki

Board Chair – Arnold Balicki

____Ryder Lee__ - _Recording Secretary

Date approved June 17,2021