

**Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association  
Board Meeting  
Thursday March 18, 2021  
Conference Call**

Arnold Balicki Chair (Director 9A),  
Rick Toney, Past Chair  
Kyle Hebert (Director 1)  
Leigh Rosengren (Director 2)  
Roger Meyers (Director 3A)  
Keith Day (Director 3B)  
Randy Stokke (Director 4)  
Levi Hull ( Director 5)  
Brent Griffin (Director 6)  
Joleen Shea (Director 7)  
Brian Cole (Director 8)  
Dean Moore (Director 9B)  
Brad Welter (Director, SCFA)  
Garret Poletz (Director, SCFA)  
Holly Thompson (YCC)  
Garner Deobald (Director, SSGA)  
Kelly Williamson (Director, SSGA)

**SCA Staff:**

Ryder Lee (CEO)  
Marianne Possberg (Production)  
Leann Clifford (Executive Administrator)  
Glenn LaPointe (Marketing and Communications)

**Regrets:**

Arnold Balicki called the meeting to order at 8:08 am.

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 2021-023: Rosengren / Shea**  
**“To accept the Agenda as presented”**

**Motion Carried**

**1.01 Review of Minutes**  
**February 11, 2021**

**MOTION 2021-024: Hebert / Day**  
**“To accept the February 11, 2021 minutes as presented.”**

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion:**

Crown Land update: not planning to change Crown Lease according to Minister’s office and Deputy Minister’s office.

## 1.02 Chair Report

- Attended numerous calls and zooms
- Met with Minister Marit
- Minister Carr addressed the SARM convention. Positive message about Western Canada and internet services.
- Wolf predation, some producers believe it would be easier if big game hunters could get a wolf tag. In Hudson Bay area it has happened in the last five years. It is noted that it appears to have helped bring down the numbers and keep the wolves in the forest.

### MOTION 2021-025: Balicki / Day

**“To accept the Chair Report as presented.”**

**Motion Carried**

## 1.03 CEO Report

- The latest inventory report had SK as the only province with a slight increase in cow numbers. The fluctuation in feeder imports and turns is a higher contributor to fluctuating check off amounts than that small change.
- The contribution for research capacity at the U of S is still in the offing. Contracts have to be done between funders and funded – due to the multi-year commitment it is taking some time.
- There have been many discussions since the AGM ‘s Cattlemen’s name conversation. The guidance the board is getting via direct interactions, in public discussions and via our survey, points to a strong desire to leave the name as is.
- CCA’s meetings are taking place. Very notable is Saskatchewan’s participation – both as chairs of committees and as participants.
- The environment Committee recently spent ample time on SCA’s policies around protected lands and around carbon taxation.
- Mental Health Training is moving along as we can find the resources. Several have completed Respect in the Workplace there are still a few left to get completed.

### MOTION 2021-026: Welter / Day

**“To accept the CEO report as presented.”**

**Motion Carried**

## 1.04 Financial Report

### MOTION 2021-027: Moore / Day

**“To accept the Financial Report as presented.”**

**Motion Carried**

## 1.05 Governance

Continuance Planning

### New Business

#### LSS Theft review

Jason Pollack and Garth Wood joined to speak on what ensues when a theft complaint happens

- They are moving to providing updates to members that update on cases that are in the works. To improve the line of communication. Have talked about doing it quarterly which seems appropriate and supports the Directors on the LSS board. Different if Civil or Criminal.
- RCMP F- Division is the lead.

- Complaint is typically filed locally. Can be a bit complicated as only certain ranks can take issues out of detachment and only some ranks can go cross detachment. Chain of command rules of RCMP
- Criminal code provides the authority and guidance to how things unfold.
- Provincial legislation provides peace officer status so links in too.
- RCMP Liaison has improved. Finding the right person can be a big job.
- LSS is on the ground. Know of anomalies, must have enough to build a case. LSS's local knowledge and business knowledge are key to getting things completed.
- Nature of RCMP source of officers leads to a lot of complaints sitting for a long time. LSS has been working hard with RCMP to change this. When LSS was in the Ministry it was invited to present at Depot during training to provide some level of understanding.

#### What can SCA do?

- LSS benefits for support. Strong civil arrangements prevent cases from going sideways. LSS's communications focus on good paper. Encourage branding. Last 6-8 months have seen increase in requests for brands. Need to keep the tools in legislation as they have.

#### Questions

- What is the process in letting inspectors and marts to watch for certain lots of cattle that are suspect to be missing?
- All cattle reported start off as "missing livestock" at the start. LSS enters in database and brands if possible. That puts an immediate pop up if that brand is entered in system from there forward.
- Don't specifically let markets know unless something is "in progress" with that specific market. Essentially brand inspectors are eyes on everything that comes through marts anyhow.
- RCMP have a communications division that may or may not be connected to the livestock industry. Working with the Liaison on this and many other issues. From an organizational position, LSS does not see an issue with SCA writing an awareness letter or complaint letter to the RCMP. That supports LSS's work with the Liaison.
- Peace officer status allows LSS inspectors to gain access to a bit more than the public. Powers of Inspection in Animal Products act allows for search in offence. Can look for what they need to look for without warrant, if it is looking like criminal then often get a warrant to help in court. Authority to demand records, direct payment, withhold animals or payment.

Action for the Board Members – to visit local detachments. Communicate, become a source.

#### **Livestock Price Insurance Priorities**

- Take to the committee

#### **Cleaning Trailers**

- Went through the research committee first.
- Very concerned that industry would be interested in sanitizing between loads. Would be a nightmare to day-to-day operations. The hog industry is already on this road.
- Hog industry was likely in the same outlook prior to PED. Wash and bake have allowed to walk it back out of Canada.
- Discussed being ready for a challenge vs doing something that becomes regulated by being available.
- SCA does look into foreign animal disease preparedness. SCA needs to be aware of that threat.

## **Veterinarians**

- Hard getting vets to champion the issue. They are concerned with getting into the crosshairs.
- The issue is gaining attention from MLA's.
- SSGA is talking about sending a letter to Minister Marit about the issue. It is still evolving and still in discussion stage.
- The lack of transparency is the driver of our concern. This is seen as inhibiting attracting and retaining rural veterinarians.

## **Membership**

### **MOTION 2021-028: Poltez / Hebert**

**"That SCA renew memberships to YCC \$2,625, AITC \$50,000, and F&FC \$21,000."**

**Motion Carried**

## **STARS**

### **MOTION 2021-029; Hebert / Poletz**

**"That SCA support the STARS on the Air Radiothon for \$5,000."**

**Motion Carried**

## **In Person Meetings**

- Can only have at the Atlas Hotel in Regina and Saskatoon Inn at present as they have the space and infrastructure required for the size of your board.

## **Sask. Science Class**

- Need to get on agenda and really push.

## **Auction of Crown Lease in the SW**

- 11 quarters sold for over \$250,000 for the right to lease it. That land would run 80 cows. These were lands that were given up. That is why the right to lease was up for auction. Concern over this was raised

## **External Reports**

### **Holly Sparrow**

#### **YCC**

- Had a YCC meeting, talked media training.
- YCC delegates participate in CCA meetings and in virtual fly in.
- Hold Monthly virtual meetings
- Looking to meet U.S. Young Producers for virtual round table.
- VBP+ February was a good month. 14 pre audits. 8 in March. Slowing down a bit as work gears up around calving.
- Webinar on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March saw only 5 participants. May have conflicted with calving but has not slowed down the calls.
- Holly gets many calls regarding Systems Assurance program.
- VBP+ has audit payment options, up front whole five years, or annually. CAP program can offset some of the costs. Works better if you pay the five years.
- CAP program expires Dec 31, 2022.
- All the webinars are on the national page. Website training has been down for week.
- How is VBP+ communicating with the wider industry?

- They are in SCA's Communications, through social media (lots of inquires come from there), collaborate with Ministry of AG who advertises their programs, Cargill program has hard copy in marts.

## **Ryan Beierbach**

### **CCA Food Policy**

Legal opinion on Beyond Beef came back with a few small items. Nothing that will be game changing. Ag Canada guest at committee, drove the point that cattle are positive on food waste as waste is a big priority right now.

- Canada Beef 's undertaking update.
- Manitoba is working on being part of their Sustainable Protein program to ensure beef is part of it.
- Engagement in UN Food Policy Summit to ensure cattle's place in environment and food system are recognized.

### **Foreign Trade**

- Still higher tariff rate into Korea affects shipments. China restrictions are a problem. BSE restrictions still linger but move to OIE negligible risk vote is end of May. This may help in those markets.
- U.S groups pushing mCOOL again with new administration. Not just R-CALF. USCA is pushing for born raised and processed to be part of buy American.
- Climate change will also be a concern.
- Producers held up at the border and should not be.
- Exports down in volume but up in value. EU sent over 4X as much to Canada as we exported to them. Not COVID, non-tariff trade barriers. Want to get VBP+ okay for EU export.
- Will BSE haunt us forever? Negligible risk should help tart the conversation. It is still a protectionist world.

### **CRSB**

- Had a quick council meeting. Approve remote auditing of processing facilities. Deals with COVID restrictions.
- AllTech Planet of Plenty program working with CRSB on a contest. Approved.

### **Feeds Research Council**

- "on hold" is the latest. Not much happening.

### **BCRC**

- Calls opened. Working on refining goals. Not quite done but five- year call is the goal.
- Next step will be to put out to Associations for suggestions.
- Attended SCA research forum. Lots of great information. Intense. Suggestions for future is to have more time for feedback while fresh I one's mind.

## **Will Lowe**

### **NCFA**

- Has not met since end of January. AGM April 1.
- AMR research by Joyce VD is in year two. Should see some results soon.
- Will is now on Beef Grading Agency.
- Lot of discussion about yield and grade where they are going. Discussion on bringing back to sweet spot that balances yield and quality.
- Concern about feed grain supply raised on January call. Global shortage of feed grains will be a challenge for feeders to get through the summer.
- BSE negligible risk is one step. Next is changing processing rules in Canada to be more competitive.

## **Pat Hayes**

### **CCA**

- BSE timeline review. Working with CFIA is in place regarding the short list vs long list. Have done what they can until we get to negligible. Looks positive though as a working group is in pace.
- Ultra-High Frequency Tags are in discussion. There is no standard around the tags yet so we cannot go there right now. Right now, manufacturer only guarantees for 18 months. Only dangles. Emphasis of the trial was security. Can get 30% of UHF tag numbers which is enough for the Feeder Association to do a check in.
- Shane Schooten pushing hard to get adopted. Wants to have UHF and LF married.
- Bison were using UHF, but only at limited ports.
- Passed a motion and will be talking to CCIA on how to facilitate.
- CCIA did a literature review, came back saying no literature in livestock use of UHF usage.
- Cost to set up feedlot system? It was made of components they already had but had to modify the system to get it to work. Maybe \$25-50K. Bison would only allow one kind of tag for export.
- Talked about FMD vaccine bank, NFACC, NFAHWC.
- Questions – most calling about UHF do not like it. Access to people knowing all things on the farm at all times, is creating discomfort.
- Talk about what ISO means. These tags are not “on the shelf” yet. They are not part of the traceability standards. Nor have they been tested by CCIA as ready for the Canadian market.
  
- Packers used to have to report boxed beef price to CanFax and that was put in the report. We need those numbers to fight trade cases. We had to redo how those were collected. Redid the program to modernize.
- Packers took advantage of COVID saying they do not want to report. Pat is taking that forward to the board. Looking for support from others to get a resolution from CCA to get compliance.
  
- Pat has let his name stand for a third term as chair of CCIA due to not having the Trace regulations in yet. Few have sat for a third time, but it is allowable. Would be one more year.
- Annual meeting of CCIA is coming in April.

## **Harold Martens**

### **CRSB Framework Committee**

- Packers pushing back on onsite audit. Much of it is done virtually.
- Bison – want to keep that as a domestic animal? Engage with government.

### **LSS**

- Worried about break even. Talking about increasing the levy.

## **Far and Food Care**

### **Brian Cole**

- Winter speaker series going on Feb/Mar/April. Can register on their events page and watch past presentations.
- Ag in the City is not in person so switching to online Events starting in mid-April. Some beef and cattle content.
- Breakfast from the Farm with AITC and elementary schools providing breakfast and lunch.
- Looking to add vegetable membership to F&FC. Leigh is former member and will reach out to them.

**Keith Day****SODCAP**

- Had an in-person meeting in Swift Current. Co-Executive Directors seemed excited about set up.
- Some issues with ECCC about funding projects on Crown Land. Still working on it.

**Brent Griffin****PCAP**

- Discussion regarding defining native prairie is developing now. Will report back on this as the foundation of the conversation is better laid out.
- Discussion of the role of PCAP in advocacy. Should they be firm on things or not. Decisions are based on full support of participants.

**SK Forage Council**

- Meetings coming up.
- Tamara Carter was recently hired to be Nature Conservancy of Canada lead. That is Tamara's role at the Forage Council now.

**Rick Toney****SK. Hall of Fame**

- Looking at having 2020 and 2021 people all named at the same time.

**Garner Deobald****SSGA**

- Held semi-annual, not planning an in-person AGM for the year.
- Held a successful auction.
- SVMA complaints keep coming up. They are sending a letter to SVMA and leaving it in their hands.
- Two recent funding announcements. SARPAL and Weston.

**Brad Welter****SCFA**

- Questions coming up about the carbon offsets program. Wondering if there are ideas from SCA or what position might be coming. Meeting yesterday and today, did not have anyone from SCFA attending. Leigh, Christina, and Marianne were on the call.
- Went through the documents that have been sent out. Went through C offset plan, protocols and how they will be developed.
- Farming and ranching will be a priority for protocol development. They are hoping to put in place in 2022.
- Some of the practices that are in place already qualifying in AB but SK was talking about them not qualifying is a concern.
- Zero till is probably not going to be allowed. Standard practices that the majority do will not count. Only going to credit "new" or "innovative."
- What about mob grazing?
- The cut off is apparently 40%. If 40% of the industry is doing something, then it is called standard practice.
- Things that jumped out included requirement that carbon captured is long term. It is the responsibility of the person acquiring the credits to do the monitoring, it is alarming that this looks like a massively administratively intense program. Must be careful that protocols set up are not just paying aggregators to do paperwork.

- Concern that government is making a diversion with cap and trade and other programs. If they are concerned about making Paris accord, then why are we allowing big polluters to continue.
- We will not get to that goal by “buying credits”.” Worry that intent of the tax is not to lower emissions.
- Need to keep pushing with government is the work of cattle producers is a carbon positive story. Grain Farmers are working on a carbon sequestration plan. It will make straw harder to get. New practices will be promoted that make it more difficult for cattle producers.

**Arnold Balicki**

**Ag in the Classroom**

- Organization is gathering itself together. Committees have been formed, change in bylaws to add HR, Finance, Recruitment, and Bylaws committee.
- 3 categories - Government, Board Nominations ( succession plans) and member nominations ( endorsed reps)
- Received \$400K from leftovers from GRIP program. Represents all areas of agriculture. SCIC contribution.
- AITC Canada received \$2 million from the federal government. Hope to see it matched. Bayer did for \$600K.
- Looking for support to stand again. On the last term then maxed out.

**VBP+**

- Last meeting had hiccups with IT.
- Discussion regarding Conflict of Interest within the organization. Full disclosure required by all members.

Arnold will remain SCA’s rep to AITC and VBP+ as the board did not show any interest in changing representation.

**Letters in Review**


**Calendar Synchronized**

**In Camera**

**Adjourn 1:45pm**

**MOTION 2021- 030: Day**  
**“To adjourn.”**

**Motion Carried**



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board Chair – Arnold Balicki

\_\_\_\_Leann Clifford\_\_\_\_ - \_Recording Secretary

Date approved