

Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association
Board Meeting
Thursday April 22, 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)
Joleen Shea (Director 7)
Brian Cole (Director 8)
Brad Welter (Director, SCFA)
Garner Deobald (Director, SSGA)
Kelly Williamson (Director, SSGA)

SCA Staff:

Ryder Lee (CEO)
Marianne Possberg (Production)
Leann Clifford (Administrator)
Glenn LaPointe (Communications)
Christina Betker (Policy)

Regrets:

Brent Griffin (Director 6)
Dean Moore (Director 9B)
Garret Poletz (Director, SCFA)
Holly Thompson (YCC)

Arnold Balicki called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2021-031: Rosengren / Cole
“To accept the Agenda as amended”

Motion Carried

1.01 Review of Minutes
March 18, 2021

MOTION 2021-032: Shea / Deobald
“To accept the March 18, 2021 minutes as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.02 Chair Report

- Attended Alberta Farm & Animal Care Conference – discussion on numerous topics relevant to VBP+ (one was navigating difficult conversations with consumers.
- Attended calls with Minister Marit, and the budget address,
- Attended CCA AGM & virtual reception on the hill, and AITC AGM
- Participated in the Manitoba Farm Animal Care Mental Health workshop,
- Did a couple of interviews – Neil Belanger & for AgriView paper,
- Attended CCA update on Environmental Awareness campaign.
- Viewed the Federal Budget – Plenty of room for conversation to be had.
- CCA and MNP having a town hall meeting in regards to reference margin limit removal.

MOTION 2021-033: Balicki / Hebert

‘To accept the Chair Report as presented.’

Motion Carried

1.03 CEO Report

- Vet shortage being addressed is great to see. Funding via tax incentive along with seats dedicated to rural aiming training vets.
- The change to AgriStability to remove the reference margin limit also came to pass. There was a concern that it would not pass as it is largely a benefit to cattle producers more than any other sector. It will make AgriStability work better for many more especially those who do not hire labour and grow much of their own feed.
- Trespass law has seen a long road. It was great to see it brought to the floor of the SARM meetings. There is widespread desire to see this law finalized and put in place.
- The carbon tax policy the board has passed previously has been very timely as the issue has kicked into high gear following the supreme court’s decision in support of the federal scheme. How the tax looks in Saskatchewan will develop with our input. Similarly, the offset market is developing. That offset piece is separate and see it moving much slower than the tax side.
- Cap ends March 31,2023. That means consults are already started on “CAP2”. While Saskatchewan has a good suite of programs it is important to let the government know what to keep, what to drop and what to improve. Noticeable on those consults over the years is a lack of groups audibly supporting research funding. This cannot be taken for granted. When Arnold and I were before a caucus committee we were the only group to mention the importance of research funding.
- The U of S Integrated Forage management and Utilization chair process is about to the point of invoicing for SCA’s commitment.

MOTION 2021-034: Hebert / Shea

“To accept the CEO report as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.04 Financial Report

MOTION 2021-035: Welter / Day

“To accept the Financial Report as presented.”

Motion Carried

1.05 Governance

- **Fiduciary Duty – Duty of Care, duty of loyalty am good faith.**

New Business

Sasktel and LFCE Committee Project

- Looking for a board member and staff member.
- Is this like TELUS looking for data farming? Not as it appears so far.
- Need to loop back and see on time commitment. What is their plan.
- Marianne - staff rep.

CCA Environment Initiative

- An FYI update on the initiative.

Carbon Offsets Pilot Project by CFGA

MOTION 2021 – 036: Hebert / Stokke

That SCA join the CFGA carbon offsets pilot project steering committee.”

Motion Carried

Kyle volunteered

CAP2

- Consults are started already. National groups need guidance too. That work is coming to the committee and board.

Research Committee Report

- Vaccine extension work by BCRC and many institutions. Full proposal is being worked up. Already something being worked on by the Team.
- Ag Climate Solutions – June deadline for first step. Second step is a five-year project beginning 2022. Research is interested but not in leading a project. SCA, BCRC, SSGA or others may be interested in leading.
- Big Goals – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is trying to fish for potential offset programs. We want to showcase the good that producers already do.
- Aggregator pulls quite a bit off the top of value of offsets. Term is also important. Not perpetual. Need to be able to re-evaluate down the road.

2020-112 amendment to funding motion

- To amend motion 2020-112 from \$30,000 approval to an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$35,000.

MOTION 2021-037: Day / Cole

“That SCA fund research project 2020-112 for an additional \$5,000 for a total project award of \$35,000.”

Motion Carried

Canada West Foundation Support

- Reviewed the pitch and a brief overview of the organization.

Communications Activity Update

- Dome film activity group is formed with AITC, F&FC, VBP+, Leanne Thompson, Sherri Grant. Developed takeaways for students and curriculum component to follow up on impact of films.
- Partnership at Rock 102 in Saskatoon.
- Talking to vendors about potential app to be used to push information. Update to come.

- Awards nominations needed. Forage Innovation, TESA.
- Vaccination video filming is coming at LFCE pending COVID restrictions.

Jeremey Pittman – Species at Risk (SAR) Project Update

- ECCC Funding through SCA. ECCC has been trying for several years to find things that work for SAR. No species have been “recovered”. Major connection is grasslands loss. That is important to many species. Some data shows that loss has slowed a bit. There is a cost to conservation that producers bear. Public benefit but private cost. There are co-benefits of some things. Drought prep for instance.
- There are habitat threats beyond the current area.
- Producers do see themselves as managing for SAR, already. Perceived costs overall are not “high” for the most part. 95% moderate, low or no cost of those who have been in programs.
- Highlights of the project:
 - Extend the service area? Most effort to date in a small area, (South of the Divide) which has most of the SAR but other areas through the mixed grassland ecozone or aspen parklands are at risk too. Opportunity there.
 - Synergy with other programs? And this work with carbon and climate change? Some strategies might work together, some may not. May make incentives work better. They need to be ever larger to compete with the economic pull of the grain sector.
- Additionality vs recognition:
 - Additionality means paying for separable costs, practice change or development of new practices – not for other benefits etc.
 - Recognition means paying for the historic and current commitment to good grassland management and stewardship.
- Ottawa seems to be focusing on additionality much more than recognition. Leaving out recognition is a challenge to keeping the grasslands that are left.
- There are potentials for legal incentives. Exemption from regulations or safe harbours.
- Next steps:
 - Will keep refining these front reports.
 - As well as barriers & threats, opportunities & costs. Interviews with program delivery orgs and participants in programs in Canada and beyond.
 - Near term is ethics application approved to be able to do interviews- some time in May.

Indigenous Reconciliation

- Talking about the recognition of lands when gathering as a group during meetings.
- Of SCA’s ongoing work to increase cattle production wherever possible with First Nations recognizing that each First Nation will be its own interaction.
- Federal project prioritize content that aims at First Nations and other underrepresented groups.
- Bill C-15 is to put UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples in Canada’s laws.
- Not supposed to be a threat to current landowners, but it is to be a bit uncomfortable to encourage thinking about actions of today and moving forward.

Fall Meetings

- Reviewed locations and dates.
- Booking face to face meetings

Weather Events and SCIC

- Can we treat losses from weather the way predator losses are treated? Producers have asked questions about calf losses due to storms. Thought is this is a level with grain farmers who see losses from weather events covered by insurance.
- Production Insurance was one idea. What would be the base line? Or weather event, take pictures and paid out like predator kills. Can that be taken advantage of?
- What deems to be a weather event a disaster? April vs May vs January
- AgriStability does take into effect, but it is a disaster tier program.
- Consider through the leans of how an insurance program must work.

Old Business

Manifest Renewal

- Draft in play

Respect in the Workplace

- Progress. Thank you to those who have completed the webinar and a reminder to those that have not completed.

Integrated Forage Management

- still looking for more detail on contract criteria to share with board.

CDC Project Update

- still looking to continue.

External Reports

Pat Hayes

CCA

- CCIA annual meeting and board meeting have passed. Big news is distribution model. Long term goals was to bring distribution in one house. Should be firmed up in a year. Will have to add staff so costs will not be down but may improve e-store usage.
- Pat let his name stand for third term and was elected. CCIA also has a 12-year time-out and that is Pat's timeframe as well.
- The board passed a new tag. ShurWell. A steel tag, a lot like the old ones. Has a transponder in it molded right around the tag. Probably a huge benefit for cows' longevity. They need more focus on proper application or abscesses happen.
- UHF tags coming? That is a preference for a lot of feedlot data systems. Problem is they are not in the ISO numbering system. Literature review has not included any use in livestock industry.
- Joint letter from CCA, NCFA and CMC to push Ag Canada and CFIA to move the process along so UHF tags get worked on at ISO. There will be a cost to it and may push that back to those organizations. Tags do cost a bit more but the system to make them work is needed. Need those international standards in place. Also need CFIA to allow to marry low and high frequency tags.
- If they are going to change it rolls all the way back to producers supporting the change.
- Issue from packers on metal tags? They must remove same as buttons.

Animal Health & Care

- Animal Health Canada process. Pork, sheep, others pushing federal government for a FMD vaccine bank. Continental bank with U.S. will not do enough of the job.

- Need to get environment information wider.

Announced

- Ryan Beierbach and Duane Thompson both elected to the CCA “Executive” joining Pat
- CCA is going to be in arrears from Alberta. Looking to be worse this coming year.
- Packers are still not reporting boxed beef. CCA continues to push hard to get this going again.

Ryan Beierbach

- Spoke of the environment initiative he is chairing at CCA.
- Food Policy committee has not met since AGM. Main focus of Ag Canada is food security and food waste. Drove home the role cattle have in reducing food waste and up cycling. That seems to be new to the table.
- MB sustainable protein initiative, looking to be part of it.
- UN Food Summit will likely be heavy on the plant-based protein. Working to engage and keep beef in a good light.
- Foreign Trade need a better tariff rate into Korea. China is unreliable. EU is exporting oversized vs Canada to EU. Need to add mature animal protocol and carcass wash approval.
- COOL is still in play. So is born raised and slaughtered animals as a new twist. Still a resource need in the U.S.
- OIE considering Canada’s status next month.

CRSB

- Council met a few weeks ago. AGM is September 28th. Engaging with Framework Partners to update CRSB Strategy and Plan.
- Recent panel discussion event.

BCRC

- In middle of sorting application.
- Living labs set up in MB and East. Looking to get some work done in SK/AB.

Chad Ross

NCO

- Thanks to SCA for sticking to the allocations of the national strategy. Asking all provinces to do the same.
- Very concerned AB might claw back some as things are fragile.
- Virtual AGM coming.
- Bylaw renewal process in play.
- Pushing on import collections including legal steps to encourage future remittances.
- Savings from lack of travel looking to be deployed to return on investment study and seeing what other value there is.
- Increasing national check off work continues aimed at ON. Working group formed with NCO. BFO, Canada Beef. Looking very positive.

Harold Martens

CRSB

- CRSB Framework Committee meeting 2 weeks ago. Extending virtual audits discussed.
- Virtual audited packers
- Good data generation at good cost, may see more in the future.

LSS

- Examining savings due to COVID. At the same time looking at whether levy is enough to sustain LSS.

SODCAP

- FRWIP is going to be managed in house at Ministry of Ag so that is a bit of a loss for SODCAP as they did some of that.
- That is the AEGP, that was decentralized. Brought it back into Regina.

Rick Toney

SK Hall of Fame

- Missed a year. Celebrating anniversary has been postponed. Once things are back rolling inductees and anniversary all together.

Arnold Balicki

AITC

- AGM and committee meetings since start of year.

VBP+

- Required by Ministry to submit activity report outlining new producers trained. Completed.
- Rob Bodner accepted so funding is flowing for another year.
- Holly put in a presentation to the Ministry, Discover AG. Arnold received positive emails on a great job she did.

Garner Deobald

SSGA

- Virtual AGM scheduled for June 15.
- Anne Marie Browrink on power of meat and Anne Wasko market outlook.
- Strategic plan renewal is going on now.

SCFA

- No report

Letters in Review

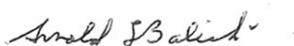
Calendar Synchronized

In Camera

Adjourn 11:55am

**MOTION 2021- 038: Hebert
"To adjourn."**

Motion Carried



Board Chair – Arnold Balicki