

**Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday March 10, 2022**  
**Zoom Call – due to weather**  
**8am**

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

**SCA Staff:**

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

**Regrets:**

Keith Day (Director 3B)

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

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION 2022-022: Hebert / Rosengren**  
**“To accept the agenda as amended”**

**Motion Carried**

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

**MOTION 2022-023: Ross / Rosengren**  
**“To accept the February 17, 2022, minutes as amended.”**

**Motion Carried**

## 1.02 Chair Report

--attended the Next Policy Framework meeting to provide input on negotiations regarding BRM Programs  
--attended to SCIC Technical Briefing  
--attended BCRC chair producer meeting in regards to IFMU Chair at U of S  
--attended SCIC press conference  
--participated in AITC-C Farm Tour Rehearsal  
--attended Simpsons Centre Beef Focus Group  
--attended ABP AGM  
--attended Ag Curriculum meeting  
--attended CCA meeting in regards to traceability & TOC  
--attended SCIC producer info session  
--attended Beef & Forage Research Forum  
--had discussion with MP Randy Hoback in regards to carbon tax; trying to connect with MP Ben Lobb in regards to bill c234 (carbon tax exemption on grain drying & barn heating)  
-- registered to attend Cattlemen's Idea Summit on the 09th of March  
have had a lot of producer calls asking us to request further funding thru Ag Recovery. SARM & LMS has also fielded a lot of producer calls asking for the same.  
Park Range Vet Services in PA are already dealing with the fallout of their not being able to provide large animal emergency services to their clients.

### **MOTION 2022-024: Balicki /Corey**

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

**Motion Carried**

## 1.03 CEO Report

- The e/Next Policy Framework consults are ongoing. It appears that the priorities SCA has put forward align well with the provincial government. Next step is to work on negotiations with the federal government and other provinces. This will be a frequent topic for the upcoming year.
- Have participated in the interview process for the Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair at the University of Sask.
- Next week will mark the last meeting as Chair of the National Farm Animal Care Council. Canada's beef code will be due for a renewal next year.
- Have wrapped up the Virtual SBIC, hopefully for an in - person next year.

### **MOTION 2022-025: 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.
- Reviewed the history of the National Bank Financial reserve funds.
- Reviewed CCA Legal and how it works.

### **MOTION 2022-026: Ross / Rosengren**

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

**Motion Carried**

## 1.05 Governance

Duty of Care reviewed. Training can be accessed if board members desire.

## **External Reports**

### **Harold Martens – CRSB**

- Semi Annual meeting in Ottawa around the corner, joining virtually. Working on establishing a review of the five areas of requirements to achieve certification for VBP+. Will be working on it right to October to cover it all.
- Moving from Prescriptive instead of Outcome based is challenging. Lots of leaning toward prescription. Harold is cautioning that the lack of critical mass in this program means it is a place to be careful how you define the requirements. Producers are still the ones that have to do the work.
- Some talk of matching VBP+'s audit with Where Food Comes From as the latter audits for many less things. Some voices saying, add more don't take away criteria, but that doesn't match up with the challenge of enrolling.

### **LSS**

- Negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement. Any significant increase will mean LSS is operating in the red. Adding \$0.25 to the brand inspection fee would mean \$400K per year. This is not driven by inspectors. It is influenced by their union negotiation as well. They want to see the amount collected out of legislation and into policy. Needs some regulation and how change comes about but policy not reliant on Minister is needed.
- Working on an e-manifest for transport of animals and transfer of care. Goat and sheep industry want that too. Waiting for industry to come on board. There is money to be saved in moving away from paper.
- Humane transport of cattle is a big issue. Need to add those requirements onto the manifest.
- CFIA is pushing to get it done. There is no traceability and cattle movement. Can be smartphone and app based. Transfer of info to trucker can take place, markets a well.
- Cybersecurity is a concern
- An appointment for SCA is needed for Brad Welter's spot at the coming AGM in June.

### **Ryan Beierbach**

#### **BCRC**

- Has been quiet Reviewing research proposals.

### **CCA Branding Update**

- Presented to some provinces with similar feedback as SCA. Support for name change and new logo and combined operating and legal name. Will come to annual meeting in a couple of weeks.

### **Lynn Grant**

#### **CCA**

- Domestic ag issues deal with potential changes to live horse transport and satellite imagery as a tool for grass insurance.

**Will Lowe****NCFA**

- Virtual lobby days a few weeks ago. Pushing irrigation infrastructure, looking for national support. Supply chain issues continue as a threat.
- CP potential strike is looming. Will be meeting with MPs this week regarding this. One thing after another for feeders this year.
- Continue to work on truckers' availability as the ag driver supply is less vaccinated than the "10%" touted, that also doesn't count US drivers who cannot come up.

**Scott Gerbrandt****YCC**

- Cow/calf near Swift Current. Professional engineer for Borgeault in design. Grain background and calving cows since 2015. CYL program last year. Was appointed to Foreign trade for YCC.
- Will be attending lobby day in Ottawa
- In SK, looking to promote pasture tours. Will be pursuing some collaboration with YCC promoting the tour to build YCC awareness and tour awareness.

**Duane Thompson****CCA Environment**

- TESA to Mannings from Falmouth NS. One of the main things now is SARPAL funding. Partner with Environment and Climate Change Canada. Scoping on term easements.
- Randy Stokke is involved in this. Also meet with SSGF to ensure synchronicity in development.
- Survey of producers showed that the area of sage grouse critical habitat draft easement has been created. The draft has been shared in the area.
- Fisheries Act work continues- Slow. Migratory Birds regulation includes the pileated woodpecker. That could have some significant consequences.
- Strychnine, despite voicing our concerns and notice of objection, got a flat not to reassessment. Can not use
- International year of pastoralists looks positive.
- Canada Water Act is being renewed.
- Environment Canada is not liking easements for term. Industry is strong on this. The battle is ongoing.

**Chad Ross****NCO Agency**

- Board held a hybrid meeting. Presentations from service providers – very positive.
- Plan was approved by council. Concerns raised last meeting were brought up. Changes will be made, and input is appreciated.
- Will need delegates to Penticton annual meeting.
- Jack Chaffe is now BFO president. He is on CCA ab NCO Agency board. Seen as positive to move forward.
- Marketing committee being reviewed. Changes were made to separate marketing from the Agency.

- Still Agency's job to look after governance of that committee. Will do that this fall.
- Adding a youth rep to the board this fall. Presenting to CCA at the AGM.

### **Rick Toney**

#### **SK. Hall of Fame**

- Picking the next round of inductees. April 9 is induction ceremony.

### **Shelby Corey**

#### **Farm & Food Care**

- Clinton has been in touch with information.

### **SSGA Update**

- State of the industry is concerning. Extreme weather and lack of optimism. Driving price levels. Producer calls are coming. CP strike.
- Working to advance satellite-based forage insurance.
- Foundation held a webinar regarding conservation easements. Available to watch via link. Planning a live, in person AGM in June in Moose Jaw or Assiniboia. Zone meetings coming soon in Fir Mountain

### **SCFA**

- Feedlot school was a success. No meeting since
- Cargill is not taking cattle or pricing and fats are backing up.
- The hurt in feeding is well covered. Glad the board has that on the agenda. Encourage reaching out to the MPs.

### **AITC**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> is Arnold's last meeting. The AGM is in the afternoon.

### **VBP+**

- Strategic Planning in May
- Getting back into the groove of in person meeting.
- National Meeting coming soon.

### **New Business**

#### **Drought Response**

- One mechanism to deliver funding is via the Drought response initiative names and numbers. That would have the same limitations and exclusions as that original program.
- Calls continue to come on all fronts and to many organizations. There is feed out there but fund to buy are limited. Winter's severity has added to this. Financial institutions are tightening up, lower value for cows and not signing off on security to access cash advance program. These will be mentioned on a call with the Minister tomorrow. With it being at least 3 months from grass makes everything difficult right now.
- Generational farms are having tough conversations about this. The challenges of legacy is a real one to add to the economics/ Feed prices are not going to come down for at least a year.
- With record high grain prices the fight for land is intensifying. It pencils to grow grain even on land that is less marginal. This is pushing land conversion.

- A big dump of cattle pressures their price down
- Animal welfare is a big concern as well. Cattle coming to market in bad shape already and a long way from grass.
- Bankers and accountants do not value the environmental conversation. Crop insurance offers are so valuable that grass, even native, cannot compete. It is a no-lose situation with crop insurance. There are no checks on inputs in crop insurance, premium is paid, production is not tested. Government needs to be honest with themselves. Do not see government offsetting the value of grassland conservation.
- Can they free up and make grass more affordable? Canola calls to cattle producers right now. The \$200. That came, programs like that skew values of the marketplace and sometimes encourage bad short-term decisions. People that held out and it was not enough, that program, that influences decisions has come up short.
- To say that producers don't have the cash to make it through, what has changed? Winter was harder but a lot has changed. Have to make a case that something done will change the long-term viability of the industry. With inflation and operating costs where they are an exceptional fall run is needed.
- Concern over cattle supply and packer concentration. Worried about the industry here in Canada. Short term payment would be helpful but does not address the challenges out there. They could pull up stakes as well.
- Some conversations with FCL on packing plants idea.
- Mental Health is a real challenge.
- While crop insurance reflects the marketplace it is frustrating how packers continue to control the price of cattle and continue to dribble out excuses for lack of run up in fat prices. Industry is challenged to hold out until that day off in the future when the adjustment up happens.
- Plan from here?
- Continue the talks with government and producers. Bring together potential partners to move forward packing plant ideas
- Short term emergency plan to get cows through this period and keep them from flooding markets.
- Move this discussion to Government Policy and Programs committee to generate ideas for short and long terms.
- Is there supply issue coming up with serving international market? Kyle to host the committee meeting next.

### **Transfer of Care**

- As long as animal outcomes are positive the risk of enforcement is reasonable, but it is coming and could be in now if paperwork on feed/water and rest is not satisfactory.
- Concern over the ability to adopt new technology at receiving places. Sounds like LSS is behind digital but in the field challenges.
- E manifest is very attractive, but with transfer of care getting more difficult and employee turnover issues, it is very concerning. This is not difficult in shipping off the farm. It gets a little more challenging at the auction mart levels.
- Talked of the manifest conversation. Governments with different requirements and not wanting to pay for another government's requirements or saying they don't require that document.
- Continue on the same road for now
- Ideal solution is a single national document but that is likely unrealistic presently.
- Different provinces fighting over approval is not helpful.

## **Communications Strategy**

- Update with help from Arnold and Rick.
- Went through the plan and discussion.
- Discussed risk of promotional items – seen as a risk
- Rink board spot – could be part of HPP – need to engage.
- Modernize our communications, website more mobile friendly, hard to navigate and not mobile friendly
- Tabled to next meeting.

## **Memberships**

- Reminder to the board of membership in NFCA, CRSB, YCC. They have been budgeted.

## **PNWER Sponsorship**

### **MOTION 2022-027: Stokke / Rosengren**

**“That SCA fund PNWER in Calgary in the amount of \$1000. for the 2022 year.”**

**Motion Carried**

## **LMAC AGM**

### **MOTION 2022-028: Rosengren / Hebert**

**“That SCA sponsor the 2022 event for \$1000.”**

**Motion Carried**

## **Ottawa Fly Ins**

- Talked of dates and personnel needs. Will handle it offline. Twice per year is seen as positive.

## **Ag Hall of Fame**

### **MOTION 2022-029: Toney / Hebert**

**“That SCA support the nomination to the Canadian Ag Hall of Fame while seeking other funding support.”**

**Motion Carried**

## **Bill C-234- Carbon Tax Exemptions**

- Repeat and expand from previous session of parliament. Exempting grain drying fossil fuels was the original. Now to include buildings. Aim to go wider? Last bill did not pass and concern is this will go to committee where expansion proposals can be made.
- Unfair that heating shops, water bowls, tractor plugs ins etc mean exemption should be for electricity as well/ See it as unfair that combustible energy will be exempt but other sources will not.
- That might be handled better by a new bill. Thus is very targeted. Maybe ask an MP to target the electricity side.
- This should be on the table of options to help the industry. These added costs continue to hamper the industry’s ability to persevere.

## **Ag Curriculum**

- Discussion with Jock and put forth committee suggestions for the production curriculum. Split between crop and livestock sides. 10,20,30 levels.
- Want to see SAR, impact on the land, cattle care and handling, business management – there is an ag business course on top of this – may be able to integrate.
- Also to include transport regulations, euthanasia within handling sections that are core. Some are uncomfortable with the issue but it needs to be part of the discussion.
- Ag Communications are included, public trust and working with consumers

- Some provincial program highlighting
- Cow calf course is most requested

#### **PC Party of Saskatchewan**

- Holding a policy meeting April 2 / 3 in Saskatoon. Asked if we would have someone come to speak to them A place for Sca to speak to what we see as issues and needs for work.

#### **MOTION 2022-30: Corey / Moore**

**“That SCA is willing to participate in political party round table discussions but does not present at partisan conferences.”**

**Motion Carried**

#### **Old Business**

##### **District 8 Rep**

- Invite Leon Lueke to the next board meeting in April.

##### **Grazing Mentorship**

- Call to action for board members to recommend grazing mentor possibilities.

##### **STARS Sponsorship**

#### **MOTION 2022-031: Hebert / Ross**

**“That SCA support STARS for \$5,000 per year for three years with staff choosing the partnership that works best.”**

**Motion Carried**

#### **Board Round Table**

- Consultations are going on with the province over crown lease ranch land critical habitat protection. Discussion is how to handle this in the future. Timothy Nichol is the consultant hired for this.
- Need is there as reps to keep a positive outlook and come up with solutions to face the challenges not just talking of the challenges.
- Veterinary discussion ongoing, good to see.
- Crop insurance discussions seem to have opposing policy. Asked all over to be environmental stewards but every angel get told cover crops are not insurable, yet they are front and center in environmental discussions. Needs better timeline with crop insurance.
- Funding for cover crops is available from Ottawa (OFCAF program still developing).
- Federal reduction of fertilizer consultation is open right now.
- Positive discussion on NCO going on.
- The Prince Albert vet shortage is burning out Melfort area vets as a result.

#### **In Camera**

#### **Adjourn 1:40pm**

#### **MOTION 2022-031: Shea**

**“To adjourn.”**



**Motion Carried**

*Arnold Balicki*

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Board Chair – Arnold Balicki

\_\_\_\_ Leann Clifford \_\_\_\_ - Recording Secretary

Date approved