

Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

January 11, 2018

MHC Brooks

Meeting Called to order @ 9:10am

Present: Brian Slenders, Ben Nikel, Ben Dyck, Brad Alexander, Greg Klassen, Chad Skrove, Bill Dickinson, Jodi Niznik

1. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes Read by Jodi. Amendments made to the Vapona Strips being available, need to find machine for testing. Adopted; 2nd Greg; all in favor.
2. **Financial Report:** Balance of \$376,860.49 as of January 5, 2018. 4 levy requests still to payout totalling \$36,509.93, but won't be anymore.
Levy Requests 2016 crop year- 17
Total returned \$85,742.76
CLBC has requested to pay rent bi-annually and it was approved. They will pay in June and Dec.
Financial report adopted by Jodi; 2nd Ben D.; all in favor
3. **Brad's Report** – Included
 - a. bee prices dropping a lot, but not surprising as it is the start of the seed market decline
 - b. Heat in Shelters – discussion regarding the impact of the temperatures on the bees and if we continue to have hot dry growing seasons more effort into examining different changes to impact this
 - c. Drones – hoping to hear from Cassidy in the next 2 weeks on Skymatics proposal. Technological improvements being made rapidly in the photo transfer, size and quality. Would like to see a licensing agreement from software development that our producers can purchase from us. IRT Package to be installed on pivot near Lethbridge, Dr.Woods possible Spring Meeting Speaker.
 - d. Mice Trial- will repeat testing in the college lab/office during Kelly's off season
 - e. Vapona Monitor – discussions on purchasing the machine and using for a couple of years for Brad and Danika to run tests and then rent out to our producers for personal use. Brad is to see if it can test for anything else as well, like paraformaldehyde
 - f. Peace Forage Seeds Project – more clarification on the prospective and deliverables is necessary. Brad to get Shelley and Scott involved. How will this benefit our producers in southern Alberta directly?
 - g. PMC (Federal Pest Management Center) – Chad and Brad to work together with regards to the chemical companies; regarding new products being released in particular for pest control; be involved in getting the lists the gov't is putting forward for product lists. Brad contact Ron Howard about this
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Amendments to the Constitution** - discussion regarding information sent from Reuben Josse at Marketing Council. Do we reduce to 1% or move to eliminate levy returns; both require a constitution change, one is more of a process.

Suggestion made that it be brought forward at the AGM that levy will be non-refundable and push for a mandate, then move forward with response of the the members in attendance. Discussion regarding the anonymity of refund requests; should the board be allowed to know who is asking and why to help them govern better? With the down swing in the market that is being projected the board needs to remain proactive in their budget and spending as well.

b. CLBC- Kelly Rasmussen enters the meeting for update.

250 samples in before Christmas compared to 60 from 2016; with a 2 week turn around and a final projection for the year at 600. 600 will cover the rent; sex ratios would be extra.

New machine has a few kinks, but they are working those out. The College has been wonderful and the new office is great. Only issue is that there's no work station and sink to do weighing at and they have to wait to do this when the lab is available. Looking at pros and cons to selling the old machine portion that is not being used.

All the legal business has been completed and paid for and the new board is running the CLBC now.

Discussion regarding ASCA keeping all equipment in their name to ensure we don't lose our assets. *Kelly leaves*

c. Board Positions – discussions regarding the number of seats available and when the current ones are due. Brian is going to look for a list of terms for current held positions. There is possible room for 1 more seat, but needs to be looked into further so that they don't come up for replacement at the same time. Would like to see representation from the Tilley area, north, or even Bow Island

5. Research:

a. Danika – Brian read her report; she should expand her research

b. Shelley - 1. Pesticide Residue Testing – she needs a broader geographic base over more years and would like to continue and expand the project. – approved

2. leaf cutter bee reproduction testing- test sperm viability and correlation b/w # of males and # of pollen balls. Is there a possibility that pollen balls are acting as provisions. – approved

3. Dichlorvos- chose to leave this one with what Brad and Danika are doing

c. Ron- tested multiple fungicides at Rasmussen's and Brian's; good data for the Blossom Blight Trials, just finishing up his reports

d. PGR Trials- Brad is waiting on data; looks hopeful to apply on a bigger scale. We would like to see it move to atmospheric or environmental testing stage even if it's a small plot just to give us some data.

e. Olds College - continue with their work and hoping to get into fields this year. Looking for potential for a declined field to use for 1 year study...

f. Mutant Trail – UofC Dr. Marcus Samuel – this will come up @ harvest time. Students will be rogueing fields, harvest seeds from the trial, grow these and test for viability. The "gala" alternative to GMO. -Who owns the mutagenized seed then?

g. Tillage Demonstration – discussions as to if there will be more direction or a conclusion to come from that.

6. New Business:

- a. **Eric Lutterotti email** – regarding a representative to sit on the Forage & Turf Committee. Brian and Brad let their name stand, but we should get more clarification on expectations and role
- b. **Matador** – rumors that it will be cut from usage and is being reviewed now. Need to stay on top of these developments as this outcome will be big for alfalfa seed and hybrid canola growers. Does not appear to be an alternative to this and uncertainty to the direction it will go.
- c. **Spring Meeting & AGM** – Schedule for Tuesday March 27th with March 20th as back up. Jodi presented 4 different options for meeting places and prices (Vauxhall Legion, Brooks Legion, Taber Heritage Inn, Cassils Hall with caterer/list included in GM Report) compared to what we've been offered at the Heritage in the past.

Bill moves that we hold the Spring Meeting at the Cassils Hall on March 27th; Chad 2nd; all in favor.

Jodi to book and get a 2nd catering quote from the Golf Course to compare to the Brooks Hotel.

Speaker suggestions:

Valley IR –Brad look into

Ron Howard –Brian look into

UofC PGR Trial – Brad look into

Lethbridge...

New spraying or tillage equipment in the parking lot

Jodi to arrange Carrie Gronemeyer/accountant to present the financials

Next meeting February 8th, 2018 @ MHC

Meeting adjourned by Greg @ 12:10pm