



Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

June 4th, 2019

MHC – Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order @ 9:05am

Attendance: Brian Slenders, Brad Alexander, Bill Dickinson, Ben Nickel, Bruce Balog, Jodi Niznik, Alex Geerligs, Katie Cowie, John (via phone), Ben Dyck

Secretaries Report: Jodi Read the minutes from April's meeting; no May meeting.

Business arising from the minutes- Cinnamon information was not published in the FSN because Brad was not yet allowed to write publicly about it. The potential publication date was June 1st, but looks like it will be fall. Danika would also like to be in direct contact with any producers who want to try it to, making sure they are well informed on the proper usage.

Alex adopts the minutes; Ben Nickel 2nds; motion carried.

Financial Report/GM Report: Included

Balance on the checking account \$400, 811.42 as of June 2nd. The drone insurance has been paid and the Bevan and Partners invoice is due. The CCTC has been sent an invoice for Jan-June rent, and 2nd round of levy reports will be out in July. We are being audited by the CRA for our SR&ED tax credit on the drone project and Len's Irrigation Project. Meeting will be June 20th @ Brad's office.

Bill adopts the reports; Alex 2nds; motion carried.

Brad's Report: Included

Hector Carcamo is looking for more weevil issue sites. Brad will contact Hector and then reach out to more growers in the Rosemary, Duchess, Millicent, One Tree areas.

Boyd Mori is moving to a new position at a different University, and Hector is taking lead on projects. Discussions regarding what we need to do to keep continuity of the research. Boyd says he will be staying involved, but Brad is to stay on top of things.

Alfalfa App discussions regarding the cost and budget restriction at this time. Questions surrounding what seems like we have already paid for all of this information through Syama research, why are we paying again? Can we get access to the information and put it out to the members without the app? Brad could talk to Syama and once he knows what specifics we are looking for put it on the website, then send out tweets and messages to let the growers know to check the website for more information. This will also increase traffic to the website for all things.

Danika joins the meeting for an update on the spices publication and vapona testing. Brad is trained on the vapona monitor and is waiting for growers to call and test their incubators. She is conducting further spring studies with the dust controls to confirm some varying results and will be genotype testing.

Old Business:

a. Reuben and Marketing Council need us to review the last set of regulations that were forwarded for approval prior to the pause for provincial elections. Jodi will forward this last draft again and urges everyone to read through it and get back to her ASAP.

b. DIT Policy writing for ASCA has been put to the side when there's more time but needs to be mentioned in the new Regulations.

c. Letter addressing the new Government – Brian is putting together a letter on behalf of ASCA regarding commission thoughts on research and Ag funding, the possible ACIDF reinstatement, and that research funding should be industry led not government led. If anyone has any thoughts or comments to add please let Brian know.

New Business:

a. **SR&ED Tax Credit** – as mentioned above we are being audited by the CRA with regards to 2 of the projects reported; Len's Study in Alfalfa Irrigation and the Drone Project. Meeting was put off due to information regarding meeting requirements being received 2 days prior to the meeting in the mail. Our accountant is off on mat leave and the other staff working on the file will be back from holidays by the June 20th meeting. Jodi, Brad, Len, accountant and 3 CRA staff to attend @ Brads office. Jodi will let the board know how things go and what the outcome is.

b. **Summer Tour** – Chad and Bill are planning as it will be out in Rolling Hills, we will start @ 8:30am at the RH Community Hall and return there for lunch. Bill will book the hall and ask about catering, then will be in touch with Jodi if we need to look outside for lunch options. Ideas of stops and crops to see in the area were discussed. Jodi is to contact FCC regarding the coffee and doughnuts now that Kami is no longer at that office. Bill will talk to Chad regarding Cervus coming to present.

Any Other Business:

Questions and comments arising from producers regarding our choice of accountant firm because it was felt they are most expensive; discussions that this is discussed at the AGM every year and members have an opportunity to have a say or make suggestions. We have been staying with Carrie Gronemeyer because of her professionalism, willingness to work with us to quickly resolve issues (even when she's on mat leave), efficiency, and overall work ethic. This can be brought up and looked at for the next AGM. If they would like to attend or get some pricing together.

Could we please present as one budget/expenses instead of 2 so it is easier to follow.

Discussions regarding how Brad is making out managing his time and he feels things are busy but working well. Danika has noted she would like more Brad involvement so Brad will contact her as to what she's looking for because he has offered. Could we possibly have "Len" update at the next meeting as he is in full swing and Brad is flying his trials weekly.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:50am

Next Meeting: Thursday July 4, 2019