

Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

April 5, 2018

MHC Brooks

Meeting called to order@ 9:08am

Present: Brian Slenders, Brad Alexander, Greg Klassen, Weldon Hobbs, Chad Skrove, Bruce Balog, Bill Dickinson, Ben Nickel, Alex Geerligs, & Jodi Niznik. Jon Wolfe and Katie Cowie via phone.

Brian welcomes Katie and Bruce to the board and gives them an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report: Minutes read by Jodi; Greg adopts; Chad 2nds.

Jodi also read the minutes from the AGM and the board of directors meeting following the AGM. Adopted by Greg; Ben N 2nds.

GM Report: Included

Discussion regarding benefits of an AFIN membership and decided against it. Will continue to support and stay involved how we have been.

Discussion about visiting Karl Slomp's bee shop during the Summer Tour to see what automation has been done to it. Further discussions about staying around the One Tree Area' heading to the CDC South to see Len's project and also bringing combines to the field at the college.

Len Hingley needs to hire a summer student and waiting to hear if he needs our support with that. Danika also needs to hire a student, but waiting on final numbers to see exactly what she needs.

Vermillion Ag Society Summer Fair – tabled for now to see if it fits into the summer schedule.

Brad's Report: Included

PGR's – will be discussed at the next meeting as Brad needs 4 sites and will add compensation to the cost of the trial for the participants. Possibly Slomp's or Rassmussen's and add to the Summer Tour

Chris Neesor says that Fierce would be a good product to look at and to start setting things up to trial next year. Suggestions made to try and do our own prework with it on small plots first.

Discussions regarding the drone and the legalities in flying it. Jon explained that the license Brad will need is what he's taking in Calgary and that basically everything else in the air has the right of way or he can make flight plans and call them in.

Old Business:

a.Spring Meeting- discussions regarding the vote and the outcome. What does it mean exactly? How can we improve the perception of the work being done?

Jodi will be in touch with the producers who request a levy and see why they do and what they would like to see done differently.

More communication and transparency on a regular basis outlining what we are doing and any reminders or updates to note. We need to figure out what is the best method of delivery if we email or mail it out. Jodi to request email addresses from the seed company's when they submit their reports.

Show a reflection of exact payables for our contributions to research projects.

b. Forage Seed News – Brad missed the cutoff to submit

Research:

a. Danika and the Weevils study in Rosemary – Ben N and Bruce to set up a meeting with as many Rosemary area growers to discuss the weevil resistance and figure out what is happening with this

b. Vapona Monitor – has been ordered and should be here in the next week.

c. Mutagenesis Trial – Chad reports it may be compromised as the field is under water and ice.

d. Katie and Chad looking into some alternate chemicals

Blazer (UAP)- group 14 and looks promising

Duel Magnum (sygenta) – pre-emergence application

Fierce (valant) –

*all the research projects will be on track once we have the PGR locations finalized

New Business:

a. Newsletter – submit a monthly or bimonthly one page newsletter highlighting research or other important information to the industry. To be emailed out to producers and have the seed companies share the information as well.

Can have a “for sale” page for submissions from producers to buy and sell new/used equipment.

b. CLBC – Brian read a letter from Darren and the CLBC board wondering if ASCA wants to be a member and/or what we are going to do regarding the equipment we purchased for the CLBC to use. Discussions regarding gifting the cooler and x-ray machine as a one time deal and have them figure out budgeting in replacement in the future, or ASCA just retains ownership. Issues regarding the liability and insurance come from ASCA remaining the owners so it may be easier to gift it and let the, figure out those details. Should there be some cost recovery from the other provinces that now benefit from using the lab, but don't contribute to our Commission (about 25% of samples)? Brian will discuss this with Darren.

c. Insurance – Jodi reported we have \$2million liability for injury or damage as well as \$2million in directors insurance. We are currently waiting on quotes to insure the Red Dragon, drone, cooler and x-ray as they are not covered under the policy.

d. Constitution – Must be reviewed every 5 years and ours needs to be completed by July 2019. It is a long process that is outlined by Marketing Council to start now.

Brian read through the “Authorization Regulations” and there was discussion regarding how custom pollinators get paid after the levy is removed and if they should be contributors as well. No changes suggested to this document at this time.

Brian read through the “Alfalfa Seed Commission Regulations” with discussions arising around common seed being eligible for levy deductions and how that could not be policed easily.

Bruce questioned why we use a percentage calculation as opposed to a price/pound like the US. It was felt it was comparing apples to oranges because the US government does so much of what the commission does ourselves that we need larger budgets to operate.

Discussions about adding emails to the list of requirements from the seed companies (**subsection 4.5 point 5**) and Jodi to ask Reuben if there are any FOIP laws involved with this request. Also discussed how seed companies are not submitting all of the required information in their reports according to our constitution. Jodi is to contact the seed companies and look into the way our form is set up and if there could be changes made to make it more accurate or efficient.

Ben N moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:05pm.