



Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

August 02, 2018

MHC Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order @ 9:12am

Present: Brian Slenders, Chad Skrove, Greg Klassen, Brad Alexander, Ben Nickel, Bill Dickinson, Weldon Hobbs, Bruce Balog, Alex Geerligs, Jodi Niznik, Jon Wolfe (via Phone)

Secretaries Report: Minutes read by Jodi

Business arising from the minutes:

Seed contracts discussion regarding the fact that producers still have seed sitting in bins and is there more we can do to help with this. It was felt that at the moment we are doing all we can

*PH water levels in the weevil trial was resolved by using water from Travis's place.

*Weigh Wagon discussions- Flaman can build one \$12-\$18,000; small in size. Brian could talk to Gordon Frank about borrowing his, however there is concern over the canola and alfalfa crops coming off at the same time and not having access to the scale. Brad thinks that as the PGR trial grows it could be used for that as well. Discussions about getting a grain cart with a scale instead and it was felt it can be too inaccurate. Concerns over purchasing now when the markets are down and we are uncertain of the financials over the next couple of years.

*Weevil trial discussion and tossing around if it's a resistance issue or a penetration issue, or both; weevil numbers are down in Rosemary. Is it the chemical not working or we aren't getting the chemical to where the bugs are? Suggestion to have a meeting with Hector and Jennifer and discuss some of the thoughts regarding this and the life cycle of the weevil, how that plays a role. Have Hector and/or Boyd present at the fall meeting. Malfunction does not seem to be a simple answer; plant density, penetration, some resistance, timing...

Brad's Report: Included

Drone Deploy discussions; as of right now we are piggy backing off Jon's account but need to get our own. \$2100 for full access or \$700 for partial/year. To maximize usage of the drone and what we are trying to accomplish we need to have full coverage, but Brad is going to speak with them today to see if they will provide sponsorship for a discount and we give them advertising. Perhaps they guest speak at the Fall Meeting as well.

Greg moves to adopt Financial Report, Minutes, and Brad's Report; 2nd by Bill; all in favor

Correspondence: Canadian Agriculture Library was requesting a copy of our manual for a researcher and Brad forwarded it on.

Producer required information regarding shipping alfalfa internationally and Bruce contacted him to discuss this.

Alberta Ag and Forestry sent the 2nd phase of the Executive Team restructuring changes and what falls under each minister.

Ron at PPMUC sent Matador information release.

Old Business:

a. Summer Tour Feedback – various people had really good feedback from the day and some people commented a better understanding and support of some of the research and trials we are working on. Michelle's article in the Bulletin was good and possibly she can do more in the future. Meal was good, numbers were pretty good (about 105 @ lunch). Combine clinic was also well received just too bad we couldn't get them inside the building. Approximate total cost of the tour was \$3600.

b. Annual Report – all of the reports are in now and a few spelling changes noted, these will be circulated via email and on the website. SR & ED tax refund information; where is process at? Jodi is to contact Bevan and get information to keep moving ahead with this for the producers.

Research: already discussed earlier and in Brad's Report

New Business:

a. PRFSA Proposal – conference would be in Edmonton in 2020 in February and they are looking for commitment of sponsorship. Looking for \$3000-\$5000 from each group to get the gov't ball rolling for support. Discussions regarding what we are actually getting for our sponsorship and if Brad goes to speak is it cost out of our pockets? Timing can be a concern for the US meetings that all happen at that time of year as well. Peace River can be more of a grass focus than alfalfa, so how would this cost benefit our producers? In light of current alfalfa seed markets the discussions were tabled for the time being as we feel we have to be careful with funds as well as see value for the growers.

b. Reoccurring Theme - Communication seems to be the main barrier between the growers and the board. Most feel we are doing a good job, but they don't always really know what we are doing. Discussions regarding solutions to alleviate this problem and how we can do a better job of getting the information out there. Suggestions were to leave hard copies of the newsletters in places like AFSC or coffee shops; go out to the communities and have one on one or group talks, communicate more clearly at the meetings exactly what we are doing; consult with Michelle to do more articles in the newspaper highlighting research and work; putting the minutes on the website minus the financials and include Brad's reports. Jodi will speak to Michelle Gietz regarding more highlights in her column or suggestions from her as well.

c. Jon gave a report from Manitoba; doom and gloom for the soybeans but wheat will be ready to harvest soon.

Meeting adjourned by Greg @ 11:05

Next Meeting September 6, 2018@ 9am MHC (depending on harvest)