



Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

May 24, 2018

MHC Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order @ 9:12am

Present: Brian Slenders, Bruce Balog, Katie Cowie, Brad Alexander, Ben Dyck, Ben Nikkel, Bill Dickenson, Jodi Niznik

Secretaries Report: Minutes from April 5, 2018 meeting

Financial Report/GM Report: Included – Jodi will send out a report of information compiled regarding discussions with seed companies and their sale/levy reporting. Alforex was discussed as they only send 1 report and payment/year when all the seed is cleaned and completed. This goes against our constitution; discussion regarding if this matter should be pushed to make them comply and was agreed to leave it alone. Not sure companies supplying an email address is going to be feasible.

Brad's Report: Included and it was mentioned that there may be funding available to look into finding other marketable crops for the bees. Brad will continue to look into this.

Ben Nikkel moves that all 3 reports be accepted; Bill 2nds.

Business Arising From the Reports:

- a. **Fierce** – Brad is to look into pretrial work over this year before working on actual trial next year. Katie is speaking with Peter Mitchell to look further into pre-emergent Dual Magnum
- b. **Drone** - Brad could be flying drone by today, just completing all preflight requirements. Very important to have good communication with the producers who's fields we are flying over.
 - Should fly Len's trials to get confirmation and compare between AGCOM's readings and what Brad is seeing. Budget is full for this year but look into adding AGCOM partnership to next year.
 - Brad is looking into taking other drone courses, some that are more specific to programming and the direction we are taking this project.
- c. **Danika** – discrepancy between Danikas non-resistance thinking and Boyd & Scott's resistance theory. Proceed with resistance thinking and keep moving forward; look for flaws.

-Spices report is with Brian. Possibility of the trials being affected if the grind size is a factor as well as brand, so she is retrying some of the other spices like sage at different grind levels.

-Finding cinnamon in the stomachs of the bees which contradicts others thoughts and could have positive effects on size, health and reproduction of the bees.

-She will continue running tests with the bee food.

- d. **Vapona Monitor** – it has arrived and is being taken to Danika to start testing. She will be taking samples from various incubators as well as using defense strips in confined boxes, using various amounts of vapona then doing live counts. Studying behavioral as well as physical concerns; wing damage, lethargic bees, etc.

-in future do a vapona treated field vs a spice treated field and use the drone to check flight patterns of the bees.

Old Business:

a. **Summer Tour** –

Jenn Rassmussen with Crop Doc Consulting has asked to sponsor the drinks for the tour

Tuesday July 24th, 2018 – plan for 125 people

Donuts and coffee at the Medicine Hat College

CDC South – visit Len’s trial and tour/Brad drone demo *see if there’s other research to Itour, not necessarily alfalfa

Karl Slomp’s Farm – tour his shop and talk about Automation

Art Folkert’s Farm – PGR Trial

Silver Sage Community Corral –possible end site for lunch and combine demonstration

Find out if they can bring in a few different combine models and demo setting, processing and checking.

Need someone to be in charge of organizing the tour, usually a board member from that area but we have no one so someone needs to step up. Jodi will get some costs of silver sage and catering and email info.

- b. Sefina – a new insecticide used for aphids and sucking insects. We need to do a minor use submission right away, we can’t wait on this. Place some pressure in thius and find out if it is more safe

New Business

- a. Constitution – tabled until next meeting when there are more bodies at the table

Ben Nikkel moves to adjourn the meeting @ 10:45am.

Next Meeting is June 13, 2018 @ MHC.