



## Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

January 15, 2019

MHC – Brooks Campus

Meeting Called to order @ 9:15am

**Present:** Brian Slenders, Chad Skrove, Greg Klassen, Bruce Balog, Bill Dickinson, Weldon Hobbs, Ben Nickel, Katie Cowie, Alex Geerligs, Jodi Niznik, Jon Wolfe (via phone)

**Secretaries and GM Report:** Read by Jodi; both included

**Business arising from the minutes:** Discussion regarding levy requests being up and the dollar numbers higher than projected, and exactly how much. Jodi suggested waiting until she has finished paying them out and the 2018 books were finished to look at exact numbers. Ben D. and Jodi will discuss once Ben's back and have some answers for the next meeting.

Should Carrie Gronemeyer be asked to present the financials at the AGM; agreed and Jodi will contact her and book her.

**Brad's Report:** Included

Discussion regarding Danika's findings with the pollen balls and discovery of fungal infection, the samples from our growers. Is this a manageable problem and do we need to determine which came first, the pollen ball or the infection?

Kelly Rasmussen joins the meeting to discuss as well. Her counts of pollen balls are also higher, but she doesn't separate the types or look for reasons;

124 samples read this year: Southern Alberta 35% increase pollen balls

Manitoba 25% increase

21% pollen ball average – 15% normal average

Brian will contact the CLBC to see if they think this is a bigger issue that needs to be addressed or if it should be rolled back to ASCA for a research project. The last 2 years have had similar counts of pollen balls and what's the correlation, possibly dry hot weather? Representative sampling is also part of the problem, possibly Kelly and Danika will need to sit down and examine a few samples together to compare what they're looking at and use the same descriptions.

**Possible Solution:** try and find a correlation between the pollen balls. Brad is to design a survey to put out to the producers who have brought in samples to Kelly to find some correlations, (stay away from custom pollinated fields) with the possibility of an incentive to get them to complete the survey. Brad can gather and write up the findings.

**Correspondence:** The ATB requires some government documentation regarding the registered association from 2011 that they should have had on file, Jodi will get this to them.

Reuben informed Jodi that legally the board minutes need to be emailed to the governing body within 30 days of approval. They were missing in the gap since I started, as I didn't know this expectation, and have sent all the minutes in between.

### Old Business:

- a. Darren's Constitution Changes – Jodi read over the explanations that Reuben sent and all were understood. Discussions again regarding custom pollinators and associate memberships. Jodi is to contact Reuben and discuss if there are any other Commissions that have an "Associate Membership" in their regulations and if it's something we can add in through a recommendation by board or an application process where they must have a vested interest and then pay a yearly fee of some amount.
- b. Spring Meeting – Wednesday March 27, 2019 with Todd Hirsch booked as the guest speaker. Jodi to book the Cassils Hall and caterer. Other possible speakers discussed; Halley Cattan or Sherry Strydhorse, Len Hingley. Agenda tabled to next meeting.

**Research:** Danika Baines – It was felt there was misinterpretation in Danika's report at the Fall Meeting which didn't leave a good impression on board or membership. Brian has spoken to her and feels it was more in the way the info was presented. She is doing more investigation into the Vapona trials and will train Brad on going out into the field to do the testing. Discussion over why the top trays are slower to hatch; does Vapona linger here? She is also looking at cocoon depth, tray spacing, timing, application rates, humidity, density...

Food Trial – continuing and now doing bee testing with this as well; adding in a prebiotics

Dust Trials – Danika conducting studies also, finding turmeric and cinnamon the best, and looking to dust in the nesting blocks in the field. Working with 12 fields.

Essential Oils – most notably eucalyptus, using it on washed blocks for antimicrobial/antifungal effects. Could be useful in controlling chalkbrood.

\*discussed the need to keep the sharing of dust research results to ourselves otherwise anyone else can publish data before Brad and Danika. Danika will be the lead and Brad will be 2<sup>nd</sup>, he feels she has more expertise.

### New Business:

- a. **AFIN Meeting** – AGM is in March and discussions involved the benefit to our growers with representation there. Tabled until next meeting, but Bill said he'd be willing to attend if no one else wanted to.
- b. **Authority and PPMUC** – Chad expressed his frustrations with the organization and the lack of communication and information sharing. Needs to be more involvement in PPMUC on ASCA's part. Questions surrounding a direction to go with Authority; do we continue to proceed with registration for use on crops after 1 year? Alfalfa Seed is on the label for Chateau already, is this the tripping point for Authority and if it is already on the label is there a need to push Authority further? Valtera is already done so we should register that as well. Chad is to speak to Ron to see the price comparison between Valtera and ask about Focus as well.  
PPMUC AGM has been moved to Lethbridge for February 27<sup>th</sup>, Chad to find out where it's being held.
- c. **Performance Evaluations** – Discussions regarding employee performance evaluations and setting this procedure up for ASCA. Brian has a sample review from Jon and Pickseed and will rework it to fit ASCA's needs. Board will have opportunity to input on the review, but only 2 will present to employees; Brian and Alex agreed to sit on the panel. Discussions about a self-evaluation as well. Brad and Jodi will both go through the review.
- d. **Weldon's Concerns** – Discussions were held regarding the conduct of board members and advisors and if there are issues they should be brought to meetings or added to the

agenda to be discussed. Discussions about publishing minutes on the website again and Jodi will forward these to Brad after their approval to have them put behind the members wall.

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:35pm

**Next Meeting February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ MHC**