



Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

March 4, 2019

MHC – Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order @ 9:08am

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

Secretaries and GM Report: Minutes read and report presented by Jodi; both included

Business Arising from the Minutes & Report:

PPMUC & Olds College Weevil Invoices to be paid.

Director's In Training Policy (DIT) - Discussions continued on instituting this into ASCA's work. Jodi reported what she learned from the Turkey and Egg Growers who also use a DIT; overall consensus that this would have positive benefits for the board in bringing on new members and helping to get more growers involved in the business of the board. Agreed that 2 at once was a maximum but that there didn't need to be a specific restriction on number of years of being a producer prior to. Jodi is to circulate the info received from the Turkey and Egg growers and get input from everyone, as well as talk to Reuben about the formulation of the written policy and confirm that we implement this starting at this AGM prior to the new regulations having been approved?

Ben Dyck moves that the Secretaries and GM Report be adopted; Alex 2nds; motion carried.

Financial Report: The accountants have sent the review engagement questions which Ben and Jodi answered and sent back; financials from them should be complete soon. Jodi hasn't done a new reconciliation from the end of January; she's waiting for the books and reports back from the accountants to discuss the placement of some expenses before moving forward.

Ben Dyck presented a preliminary budget for 2019 with discussions surrounding number of acres after input from board advisors.

Projecting: 46,000acres - 500lbs/acre - \$1.55/lb \$445,000.00

Amending: 42,000 acres in 2019 and 36,000acres for 2020. He will continue to work the numbers and email the revision.

Discussions about presentation at the AGM surrounding dollar losses over the next 2 years. The research money has been set aside and the GIC's are there for when we need them. It is important to have a stable funding model so that we don't lose researchers like we've seen in the past. Brad is to put together a one page synopsis of the research projects, length, dates and dollars committed for Brian for the AGM.

Ben Nickel moves the financial Statement and amended budget be adopted; Greg 2nds; all in favor.

Brad's Report: Included

Spice publication hoping to be finished in the next 2 months.

Pollen Ball Survey finalization; Brad to have 50 hard copies for those who don't do it online.

AG Drone School – Brad will be updating his drone courses with the 2 day course being offered at Cassils. Discussions surrounding the drone project direction with the satellite programs

that are also producing data now. We may need to reevaluate the direction of the program over the next couple of years.

Correspondence:

a.ASB Letter – Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee with regards to resolution input; tabled until the next meeting

Old Business:

a.Spring Meeting/AGM – Elections Alex, Chad, and Brian all up for re-election into 2nd term; all will let their name stand. Discussions regarding multiple board members leaving at the same time, solution might be to try and find another member to sit in the 8th seat. Several different people discussed and Brian will put some feelers out and see.

Need a chair for the AGM, Jodi to forward last year's minutes to Greg to review and present at the AGM. Also need an agenda for the AGM.

Carrie Gronemeyer for Bevan and Partners will be there to discuss financial statement; Ben Dyck to present the budget.

Set up Tuesday @7pm. 110 financials copies/ have extra agendas

Research:

a.Authority Project: Possibility to do a 2 year trial with 3 sites testing through Olds College; could cost \$30,000/year however we could apply for funding and could do some if the work at same time as the weevil trials saving costs OR Robert Doel from AgQuest might be able to fit something in, but was unsure of cost specifics.

Brian talked to Jason Lindgren @NuFarm about using Fierce on alfalfa.

Do 4 trials; tilled vs no till/ Chateau & Fierce. Discussions about trying to do both trials at the same time, because it's cheaper to do more chemicals at once, and we should explore doing Focus at the same time as Authority. Questions about needing to have a check and if we use Chateau.

Emphasis needs to be on 1. Authority – an old trial registered

2. Focus – new Registration

Discussions that the trials must be done in Southern Alberta and emphasis on not repeating the same mistakes as the first time; ensure we know what needs to be covered properly.

Brad is to speak with Ron and Paul to get the proposal, plot plan, budget, etc ASAP to get approval to get this moving. Contact Ken Coles with Farming Smarter to have them connected to this project as well as FMC to make sure they are aware and on board.

Other chemicals to look at moving forward might be sulfoxaflo for lygus; possibility for Paul to do efficacy test because he still has chemical and check for lygus.

Bruce questioned where the information for the spore forecaster was at and Brad said he would contact Syama Chatterton regarding that.

New Business:

a.Ag Expo: discussions regarding if ASCA should have a presence at ag expo; If the PR and exposure would be dollar worthy to our producers. At this time it doesn't seem to be, but can be revisited.

b. Seed Royalty issues: discussions about whether this issue is something that affects our board and growers directly. Most do grow multiple crops that are affected; however our reply must come from the alfalfa seed commission view point. Jodi is to contact NFU with the following

response “As Alfalfa Seed Growers we do not feel that at this time this is an issue that has a substantial impact on the Alfalfa Seed Industry.”

Chad moves that this be our reply; Greg 2nds; motion carried.

Other Business:

Bill and Brad are off to AFIN meeting in Leduc.

Aggie Days in Calgary April 3-7th; Brad is looking for help at the booth.

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:00pm

Next Meeting: Monday, April 1st @ 9am.