



## Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

April 01, 2019

MHC – Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order @ 9:10am

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

**Secretaries Report:** Jodi read the minutes from last month's meeting March 4, 2019, the AGM March 27, 2019 and the board meeting minutes following the AGM. Amendment to AGM minutes to add budget comments from Ben D. regarding the Authority Trial costs had not been included in the budget because they weren't yet finalized; costs will come from 2019 budget.

**Ben D. moves** that all 3 sets of minutes be adopted with the amendment; Greg Klassen 2nds; motion carried.

**Brad's Report:** Included

Need to get accurate and exact information to growers on the website regarding where to purchase the right cinnamon and where exactly to put it. Bold notes on how too much, wrong place, etc. can be harmful or deadly to the bees.

Discussions about Len having plots flown daily, however logistically that will not work due to CDC office hours and other projects Brad is working on. Possibility of Len's office purchasing one, or him borrowing the Commission drone while Brad's on holidays. Satellite imagery isn't going to be accurate enough.

**Chad moves** to adopt Brad's report; Bill 2nds; carried.

**Correspondence:** FSN needs an article by April 26<sup>th</sup>; Brad's Spice Article will be in there as well as Summer tour advertisement.

**Financial Report:** Jodi will have reconciled statements for the next meeting after speaking with Carrie now that the 2018 books are completed. She will also have a summary of expenses for the Spring Meeting as advertising invoices are yet to be paid.

The balance of the checking account as of March 28, 2019 is \$356,280.19. There was a deposit of \$5500.00 for sponsorship made.

Discussions over the 2018 research expenses being so small and that was because the invoices from Peace River Project and Danika were not submitted in time to be paid in 2018, due to Gov't paperwork. We will make sure to discuss this again at the 2020 AGM so members know some of the expenses occurring in 2019 financials are actually research from 2018.

Insurance is due \$2302.00 and the Drone renewal still to come.

Discussions around what deficit the board is comfortable operating at. Our mandate is to fund legitimate concrete research balanced with fiscal responsibility, therefore we need to keep designing research projects and moving ahead while still balancing the books.

## Old Business:

a.Spring Meeting – feedback was positive for the most part, a good overall feeling. The guest speaker was well received; about 100 in attendance.

b.BELEAF – discussions about the information that's out there, nothing confirmed as of today, but new label is being worked on.

c.Brad's tweet – discussions around the fallout from the tweets and the gov't laws during election time. What does the board need to have in place for social media and personal vs work? Brad will no longer post personal positions on the Commission Facebook or on twitter account without putting it past the Board first, just research and facts, but we do not need at this time a separate account for twitter.

d.AFIN – Bill reported from the conference in Leduc; Ducks Unlimited presentation, Sainfoin research on new strains; alfalfa winter hardiness research on going; bale drying, keynote was on reversing the publicity trend and getting accurate information out to public.

Bill questioned if there was value in membership - \$250.00/year and it gives you voting rights. If after this year there is still value a board member can sit on their committee.

**Chad moves** that we pay membership for a year to AFIN for \$250.00; Greg 2nds; motion carried.

e.Directors In Training – we need to work on formulating our own policy and then can put it to Reuben for suggestions and approval. We cannot officially bring someone into this position until our new regulations are approved.

## Research:

a.Authority – was some confusion on number of years with this trial but the final paperwork shows 2 years for about \$33,000.00/year.

1. Authority 480

2. Supreme (Authority&Focus) \* Confirmation that both are available for 3-5 yrs

We will use the data we already have from Chris Neesor and FMC; put the balance Paul and let PPMUC do the rest. Ron and Paul are in discussions on this already.

**Chad moves** that we partner with Paul Tiegs for 2 years at \$33,230.40/year on the Authority Project commencing in 2019; Ben N 2nds; motion carried.

b.Brad has all cooperators in place for the 2019 growing season.

## New Business:

a.FGI Survey – Recently there was a question on a survey sent out to FGI Growers regarding their position on growing Round Up Ready Alfalfa. Discussions regarding the purpose behind the question and if there is a direction FGI is trying to move things. It took ASCA by surprise and had some members questioning what we were up too. Representation from FGI states that to his knowledge it was just a feeler question and that they are not moving in that direction. There is poor management of the Roundup Ready fields and transportation of seed in the US creating ditch seeding issues, etc. however it is all tested before and no contaminated seed or Round Up Ready Seed can cross the border into Western Canada. Discussions regarding ASCA's position paper; should we be renewing it, adding other companies that might enter the market, discussing crisper varieties, etc. Should it be presented to growers to see if they still have the same perception as the board or is there market acceptance for this now? Put a letter and questionnaire forward to members via both mail and email to get feedback from the membership and then reissue the Commissions letter of intent regarding GMO's. Emphasis is to be put on making certain we are on

sure footing regarding our position and how to move forward. Brian, Greg, & Weldon to draft up a letter/survey and email to board for discussions before being put forward to the members.

**b.** Leaf Cutter Bee Council – Ben Nickel agrees to be the Commission’s liaison with the Council which is made up of Darren Nikkel, Art Folkerts, Sask/Manitoba reps.

They have 2 issues: no money

no official plan to replace equipment

Discussions on the council standing alone, however we do still have a vested interest with the equipment ownership. Can they get a yearly funding commitment from the other provinces to put towards future repairs/replacement?

We need to know what they need to operate. There is a need to have them come up with a budget and a plan in order to make a decision on support. The other provinces benefit from all of our research and equipment ownership, how can we ensure fair restitution? They would like to have a stakeholders meeting next year in Saskatchewan to gage the interest, but Ben is to take our concerns to them before we can commit support.

**c.** Weigh Scale purchase is off the table for the time being.

**d.** Summer Tour – Advertisement needs to go into the FSN. Set for Tuesday July 23, 2019 in the Rolling Hills area – more details to follow through the website and communications; Chad and Bill to coordinate in organizing and planning. Ceruus Equipment possibly wants to do a showcase of their new field data app.

**Next Meeting** (depending on field work) **Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9am.**

**Meeting Adjourned @ 12:08pm**