



**Alfalfa Seed Commission Alberta**  
**September 12, 2019**  
**MHC Brooks Campus**

**Meeting** Called to order @ 9:10am

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

**Secretaries Report:** Jodi read the minutes from the August meeting

Business arising from the minutes – follow up regarding the payment to Tom Bauman for his work and it was reported that the payment was received and shortly after the original cheque also was delivered and destroyed.

Discussions regarding seed trade; how do they ensure companies get value back but that the growers can still be guaranteed value in the product? Good discussions; left open to revisit.

**Financial Report:** The balances of the accounts as of end of July are as follows:

Checking acct \$621,279.50

Savings acct \$244,000.00

FDD Investments \$489,278.55

Approx. \$1,349,758.43

Ben reported that we are balanced basically where we projected and will be facing a shortfall for this year. Bruce and Jon discussed their projections for 2019 across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with between 500-600 clean lbs and payment for seed around \$1.25 - \$1.45. Talks around being in another 2 years of glut and decreased payments before the market picks up again, which makes it 3 years before the Commission takes in the levies on those crops. Maintaining the continuity of research needs to stay at the top of the priorities. Bee prices will of course be a factor and alfalfa hay demand will also.

Discussions surrounding another percentage refund or levy reduction, but the prices need to start climbing before being confident that the research we've committed to stays on schedule. The benefits of the membership need to be summarized and emphasized at the fall meeting.

**GM Report;** included

**Brad's Report:** Included

a. Vapona for Sale by Commission- We will need a commitment at the fall meeting, a signup sheet with contact information. Brad to have prices secured beforehand and put the offer out through the website and social media. The vapona will be delivered just prior to the spring meeting and they must take what they speak for.

b. Canadian Seed Conference Sponsorship- display and 1 registration is \$3000.00. Discussions surrounding the agenda and that a lot of the researchers that are presenting are also our researchers and we need to make sure that are growers are also having access to the information. Danika should be presenting the same info at our Fall meeting prior to this.

**Greg moves** that we spend \$3000 on a sponsorship and get the one registration for Brad with the display. Ben Dyck seconds, motion carried.

c. PGR Research - good results coming in, but still have to wait for the harvest to be finished. Potential for a combination of the 2 PGRs

#### **Old Business:**

- a. Constitutional Amendments – discussions regarding the final readings of the regulations and with no objections or changes Jodi is approved to contact Reuben and sign the agreement.

#### **Research:** discussions regarding new and continued research for 2020

a. Len's Project – Brad believes Len will be looking to extend his irrigation research past this year so we will wait to see a proposal. Brian would like Brad to organize a meeting between himself, Brad, Len, Tom, Bruce, and another board member to discuss potential combination of PGR and Irrigation Trials.

b. Drone Research – NDVI research is doing the same thing we are, possibility of a partnership here. Brad and Jon are to look into some way to work together.

c. New Project ideas moving forward – discussions were had regarding some beneficial insecticide work; preserving beneficials along with subclinical effects on bee release. These would need to be big plots over multiple years, possibility of bio health funding.

More discussions regarding new research to be continued at the next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

a. Western Alfalfa & Forage Symposium – November 19-21<sup>st</sup> in Reno with many presentations surrounding irrigation and insects – discussions about sending a board member **Greg moves** that Brian go to WAFS with all expenses paid, if it works for his schedule; Bill 2nds, motion carried.

b. Fall Meeting – Tuesday November 26, 2019 @ Cassils Hall – Jodi book hall and caterer

Possible speakers:

1. Danika – spices update
2. Len/Ted Harms
3. Hector – lygus report
4. Paul Tiegs – Authority or weevils
5. Chris Neesor – Kochia or Canada thistle if there's something to report
6. new noxious weeds
7. Ben financials and projections
8. Brian – summarize Commission commitments and accomplishments
9. Industry Report

Ben Nickel adjourned the meeting @ 12:25pm

Next meeting: Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ MHC 9am