



## Alfalfa Seed Commission

October 3, 2019

MHC Brooks Campus

**Meeting called** to order @ 9:15am

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

**Secretaries Report:** Jodi read the minutes from the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting

Business arising from the minutes: discussions about the arrangement of the meeting between irrigation research parties and Brad reported that Ron P. is recovering from something medical and he's waiting to hear back from his fill-in to set up the meeting.

It was brought to our attention that there is a CDC South substation research plot in Bow City that Ted is working on a subsurface irrigation project as well; should we be involved in this. Discussions about water stressing the plants and the outcome, should we be managing the taproot below and how could we quantify that? Could you determine the yield based on the taproot? Are we looking at the wrong part of the plant? A revisit to Len's project and why we supported sub surface when most growers are using pivot irrigation? Brian reminded the board that Len wanted to take the bees completely out if the equation and that's why we went that direction. However we need to make sure that the technology Len has is quantifiable to our growers.

**Financial Report:** Included

Jodi reported that not much has changed since the meeting last month, but all of the levy requests thus far have been paid out and Danika's invoice for her research was also paid @ \$30,000.

**Brad's Report:** Included

Discussions that there needs to be better communication between our researchers and the growers especially when they are out in the fields. Letting them know they are working in their fields and letting them help if possible. It is felt that there is a communication gap between our researchers and our board and all of the information comes second hand bounced back and forth between them and Brad. Board would like to see trying to have a researcher present at least every other meeting to discuss directly and answer any questions.

Business arising from the Minutes: Communication breakdown with Danika regarding the FSN article that her and Brad wrote together. Concerns that the board should review the article before the final cut off to make sure there is no liability concerns that could come back on the Commission. The article was read after the break and small changes were made. Brad was to contact FSN regarding. There needs to be an emphasis on progress reports VS published confirmed results.

**Alex moves** that all reports be adopted as presented, Bill 2nds, all in favor.

### **Correspondence:**

We received one levy input letter back from a producer; their thought was to put a % base on contributions. Discussions surrounding how a cap was basically the same as what we tried to implement last year with the non-refundable, which met poor reception.

### **New Business:**

a. Letter from Minister Dreeshan regarding research and ag funding meeting with commission leaders in Edmonton Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. The gov't would like input on farmer led research. Brian is going to do his best to be there. Discussions about the Board's goals for Brian to take forward to the meeting:

- 1.-what would AB Gov't involvement in the funding model look like, what is their role?  
-Will it be merit based? Volume based? Will the expertise be in place? ACIDF had a good review process in place.  
-Priority development; where will the weighting lie? Growers benefit should be as high as environmental goals  
-What will come of their assets already in place (ex. CDC South)? Will there be continuity and consistency as research moves forward or will we be on our own looking for these supports?

2.-contact with the Gov't should be biannually for follow up as a lot can change in 12 months.

3.

4.-needs to be linkage between gov't and farmer led research. Continuity is key, dissemination of information, and ag advocacy.

Side discussion regarding whether the Gov't helps University students find these research opportunities. Should the Commission be looking at setting up a scholarship for bursary program helping bring young people's interest and awareness into the industry? Or go another route where the information goes in to educate at the University level. Jodi to ask Reuben about other Commissions and scholarship/internship opportunities.

b. Brad reported that he was a call in to the Ag for Life meeting in Calgary earlier in the week and their focus is to move into the high school ages next.

c. Fall Meeting agenda and speakers was presented by Brad. Few additions made with Brian & Weldon discussing Commissions past merits and Brad giving brief financials.

Discussions about flat rates for levies/acre and presenting comparison of how little our growers pay compared to potatoes and sugar beets.

d. Weldon – Western Producer article on bees and bee vectoring technology. Discussions surrounding the possibility of this data for our use or something we can work on. Brad will contact someone to see what this CVR product is being used for; possibly something for Syama Chatterton to work on.

e. Participating Growers 2019 – Brad will get Jodi the list of grower's that need to be compensated for 2019 research participation.

**Greg moved** to adjourn the meeting @ 11:26am.

Next Meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 9am @ MHC Brooks.