



Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

December 6, 2018

MHC – Brooks Campus

Meeting called to order@ 9:15am

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

Secretaries Report: Included; Jodi read Greg's minutes

Business arising from the minutes:

Spring Meeting - trying to secure Todd Hirsch as a speaker, we can be flexible with the date of the meeting in order to have him be there. Jodi contacted Jon and he will see if there's anything else his office can make work.

Ben D. spoke about moving the money allocated for specific research projects into a separate account to show the producers that that money isn't just adding up in a bank account. Jenn Stuber from the ATB suggested either a savings account or a cashable GIC.

Ben Dyck moves that we transfer all allocated research money into a separate savings account, call it the "research allocation account" and move money over as needed to pay invoices. The accrued interest is to be left to cover any miscellaneous needs. **Bill Dickinson 2nds; all in favour.** Ben to set this up with Jenn Stuber at the ATB.

GM Report:

Included; discussion over success of the Fall Meeting and overall thoughts, approximately 115-120 in attendance. Cost breakdown shows this year's meetings totalling \$5100.66. Questions arising regarding the cost of advertising and if we felt we needed to advertise in 5 newspapers and the FSN. Overall consensus that the broader base we can reach the better, keep the same.

Reg Schwartz attended the Fall Meeting and asked again about the availability of research information for non-members. Discussions regarding the other 2 provinces not contributing to research, either in financial or actual research projects information ways. Jon reported that he didn't think Manitoba had anything on the go but is attending meetings in January and will know more after that that he can share. It was felt that if any research paid for by the Commission was property of the members paying into the Commission then that is who should solely have the information. Left to be revisited again.

Ben Dyck moves that the minutes and the GM report be adopted; Greg Klassen 2nds; all in favour.

Financials:

Included; checking account balance as of October 31, 2018 \$742,718.20

Levy refunds are higher than was budgeted for. Discussions surrounding publishing member's names who request levy refunds to everyone or even just the board members so that it is open and transparent. Discussions about charging an administration fee for those requesting levy refunds for the

cost to process. \$100-\$500/or a percentage of refund... Jodi is to ask Reuben if we can even do this and add it to the Constitution.

There are 3 GIC's up for renewal at the end of December. Ben Dyck moves that we transfer them all into a 3 year fixed term. Chad Skrove 2nds; all in favour.

Ben Dyck moves that the financial report be adopted, Greg Klassen 2nds, all in favour.

Correspondence:

Elaine Herperger of Atwater, Saskatchewan sent a list of seed and bee supplies they have for sale. Brad was putting it out there for the members to see.

Brad's Report: Included

Mutants discussion regarding the possibility of creating a new strain of alfalfa then do we own that? Do we need to have a contract or do we just take whatever piece of what we put in. Brad will look into that answer.

Asis Model of Weather discussed and Brad will look into making a simple app to create interactive maps and predictive models for producers.

Research:

Bruce and Katie spoke regarding Fierce and Jason at Nufarm is trying to get minor use; if so he will possibly get us some. Note: Focus

Authority Supreme(Authority with Focus in it)

a. Degassed H₂O –putting water in a vacuum chamber to degas and mixing with organic oils. An emulsifier is not required. Are sprayer solutions a possible direction to go with this? Brian spoke to Danika and there are a multiple of potential projects. Eliminate emulsifiers and antigens and test on bees.

b. Broflanilide – (Haley Catton who is a partner to Hector in the cereal sector) possibly replacing Neonix and we should keep an eye on this

c. Pteromalus & vaponia - talk about having separate trays and nesting facilities out in the field, placing tray huts staggered in various places so the pteromalus or other parasites possibly stay behind. Create specialized shelters for laying and hatching... ozone sanitizing bee equipment as opposed to bleaching. It's being used in food production practises; disrupts spore production and could help with chalk brood.

If vaponia is run correctly parasites should be very low. Wayne Goerzen originally registered this and even though he's retired he will continue to register however ASCA should get their name on it so if something happens we can register it ourselves in 5 years if he's no longer involved.

PPMUC – Chad has nothing new to report until January and is struggling with the lack of communication. Discussions about Authority, will it ever get registered or will they if Authority Supreme is out there. We should seek out Focus; it is not registered for Alfalfa Seed and covers mostly grasses and pulses so it could work. Katie will talk to FMC about this.

Leaving winter survivability and irrigation discussions until Len's project is wrapped up.

Electrifying weeds a possibility?

New Business:

a. Board travel reimbursement- Discussions surrounding whether the Commission should put money towards travel to meetings for board members. The meetings have to be of value to the commission and are a great opportunity to network, put ASCA's presence out there, and bring back

valuable information to share with producers. Should the cost be specific to registration, or travel, covers the cost of one whole trip, or should board members be paid instead...

Ben Dyck moves that ASCA make a \$500 stipend available to each Board Member annually to use towards attending meetings for professional development. Greg Klassen 2nds, all in favour.

b. Darren's constitution changes- Darren Nikkel provided the board with comments and recommendation that were to be made 5 years ago at the review of the bylaws and regulations. The notes were gone through item by item and some changes had already been made, the others were discussed. Jodi is to contact Reuben with the updated changes and questions.

c. Three young people approached Chad about sitting on the board in the future. Is this the time to institute directors in training? Discussions surrounding custom pollinators being made members and do they have as vested an interest in the Commission/Board as producers? Tabled until the next meeting.

Jodi and Brad leave the room for board to discuss Brad's request for a raise.

Jodi and Brad return. Board voted to give Brad a 5% raise effective January 01, 2019.

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:40pm

Next meeting: Tuesday January 15, 2019 @ MHC Brooks Campus.