

Alberta Lamb Producers Board Meeting Minutes  
January 8 & 9, Airdrie, Alberta

Present: Norine Moore (Chair); John Haarman; Kathy Parker; Irene Rutledge; Ronald den Broeder; Phil Kolodychuk  
Staff: Margaret Cook

1. Additions to **agenda**: Environmental Farm Plan; Diversified Livestock Advisory Committee; Governance training; AB Farmer Express editorial

**Motion: to approve the agenda as amended.** John Haarman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Irene Rutledge.  
Carried.

2. **Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company** will be wound up as delivery has been moved to Alberta Agriculture. One further meeting may be required to hold a vote to formally wind up the company. Completion of an EFP is required to access some Growing Forward funding.

3. **Election of officers and committees for 2009/10**

**Chair**

Irene Rutledge nominated Norine Moore - nomination accepted  
Ronald den Broeder nominated Phil Kolodychuk – nomination declined  
Nominations were called for three times. Norine Moore is 2009/10 Chair by acclamation.

**Vice-Chair**

Kathy Parker nominated Phil Kolodychuk nomination accepted  
Nominations were called for three times. Phil Kolodychuk is 2009/10 Vice-Chair by acclamation.

**Finance Chair**

Phil Kolodychuk nominated John Haarman nomination accepted  
Nominations were called for three times. John Haarman is 2009/10 Finance Chair by acclamation.

ALP Chair	Norine Moore )
ALP Vice Chair	Phil Kolodychuk)Executive
ALP Finance Chair	John Haarman )
Canadian Sheep Federation	Norine Moore & Phil Kolodychuk
Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy	Irene Rutledge
On Farm Food Safety	Kathy Parker
Diversified Livestock Advisory Committee	Irene Rutledge
Industry Communications	Norine Moore
Flock Health incl Biosecurity	Kathy Parker (Chair), John Haarman, Phil Kolodychuk
Flock Management	Phil Kolodychuk (Chair), Ronald den Broeder
Incl Grazing	John Haarman
Traceability	Phil Kolodychuk, Kathy Parker, Norine Moore Ronald den Broeder
Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC)	John Haarman
ALERT line	Kathy Parker
Alberta Symposium	Norine Moore, Ronald den Broeder
Goat liaison	Norine Moore

## Term as director

Zone 1	Norine	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, year 2
Zone 2	John	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, year 3
Zone 3	Kathy	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, year 1
Zone 4	Irene	2 <sup>nd</sup> term, year 2
Zone 5		
Zone 6	Ronald	1 <sup>st</sup> term, year 1
Zone 7	Phil	1 <sup>st</sup> term, year 3

**Motion: to approve the officers and committee list as above.** Irene Rutledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Haarman. Carried.

The Chair reminded everyone of the need for confidential, frank and respectful sharing of opinions at the board table to reach board decisions which must then be supported.

**4. Media:** When a media person contacts any board or staff member, the call must always be referred to the chairperson to ensure a uniform message is given. It is very helpful if the chair is advised that her name has been given out.

**Action:** When possible, all interviewees will be given a very short period to review their comments before publication.

**5. Susan Hosford, Agriculture & Rural Development,** reviewed the **Traceability Pilot Project** to date.

An update will be circulated next week to all co-operators. Collection and instruction on equipment is scheduled for 4 locations during the last week of January, weather permitting.

The focus of the project is to develop capacity and functionality of traceability and to find some management benefits of EID.

Alberta Lamb Producers/LTPP3 will send a letter to ALMA and Agriculture & Rural Development advising them of the appointment of supplementary equipment distributors in Alberta. As the project moves ahead, it may be necessary to create new protocols and ensure that appropriate communications are maintained.

**Action:** Ensure that all co-operators have given written permission for their CSIP tag numbers to be released to LTPP for entering on Sheep Central. (Margaret)

An updated **Alberta Sheep Industry Development Strategy** was circulated for information. The amount of work involved in the LTPP has caused some other projects to be put on hold, but this strategy will be kept in mind as other materials are created within the industry – there is need for collaboration and sharing.

**6. Financial Report** – reviewed, all expenditures are on track and within budget.

**Motion: to accept the financial report as presented.** John Haarman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Irene Rutledge. Carried.

**Action:** The audit costs is considered to be quite high, please investigate the reasons. (Margaret)

**Red Meat Reception** – a reception for all MLA's and senior government staff usually takes place in late April; it is provided by Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork and Alberta Lamb Producers. The cost is \$5000 for the reception. Fi Alberta Lamb Producers participates, it is considered that all directors attend and a board meeting be arranged to co-incide with that date.

**Action:** to find out what type of reception and costs ABP and AP envisage for this year's event. Margaret.

**Reimbursement of zone directors** – Ronald presented a request for the board to consider the rates of reimbursement paid to zone directors. The latest survey of per diem payments was from 2007, but a copy was provided to all directors.

**Action:** Margaret will circulate the amount of time spent on conference calls in 2008/9 and directors will provide feedback and/or proposals as a board briefing for the next meeting.

**7. Education** – where do we go from here?

- a. **Health Resource Service** – Kathy has outlined a health resource service with Dr Chris Clark from WCVM to use producer questions as teaching tools. This would provide a service to producers and the Q & A would be available on the website. It would also help to interest and prepare future veterinarians for working with sheep.

**Action:** Kathy will investigate this idea further and circulate a more detailed proposal by the end of January 2010.

- b. **BBL industry improvement and extension** – Margaret provided an outline of some areas/topics where education is needed, both for new and expanding producers attracted by our campaign.

**Action:** Consider in conjunction with strategy 1 of the business plan.

- c. **Calgary Stampede** – want to create new displays for the sheep industry at the stampede as there will no longer be a sheep show. One conference call has already taken place and we are awaiting a proposal from the stampede sheep committee.

**Action:** the proposal will be discussed by conference call when available.

- d. **Lakeland reports**

**Action:** Margaret to obtain a copy of the final report and also to find out when the scientific paper will be published. Kathy has volunteered to assist with communication of information to producers.

**Action:** the Flock Management Committee will create a proposal for extension services as part of the business plan strategy 1, further discussion during Saturday's update.

**8. Predation – Coyote** predation is a significant challenge to sheep production.

We have obtained copies of the CSF briefings on predation as well as details of the forthcoming workshops in Saskatchewan.

**Action:** Norine will find out the source and composition of the \$1 million compensation referred to in the CSF briefing.

Three possible options were briefly considered: education of producers; disposal of deadstock and lobbying for a bounty on dead coyotes.

**Action:** Kathy will lead a team in preparing a producer survey to gather information on predation and other education needs and report back to the board by the end of January. See further discussion on Saturday.

**9. Canadian Sheep Federation**

**AGM 2010** – will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Calgary, November 2-4, 2010.

**Action:** Kathy will request of Barb and Norine will request of Jennifer, that the OFFS meeting does not run concurrently with the CSF AGM.

**Action:** Kathy will help with the planning of an event for AGM attendees to be hosted by Alberta Lamb Producers and seek sponsorship if required.

**Action:** Request a log in for each director (or board log-in) to the CSF website secure area, recognising that this will need to be maintained annually as ALP directors change. (Margaret)

**Action:** ALP directors will bring items for CSF discussion to Norine and Phil, who will then circulate to all CSF board members.

**On Farm Food Safety** – Kathy reported that progress was being made by the new co-ordinator, Barb Caswell, covering maternity leave for Lorraine. A lot of work is going on and monthly conference calls are being arranged.

**Action:** Send a recommendation to CSF that: as per CFIA's position that scrapie is not a human health concern, it should be removed from the OFFS program. Norine & Phil.

**Master Shepherd Course** – CSF has submitted a funding application to create this resource but the provincial organisations will be responsible for delivery.

## **10. Industry Programs**

a. **Verified Lamb Production** – Kathy presented a spreadsheet identifying a number of current and future industry programs managed under this umbrella program, eg traceability, OFFS, biosecurity, health etc. Producers would decide in which sections they would participate and become verified, ideally using one audit for a number of sectors.

Action: Kathy will develop this concept further and report back to the next meeting.

b. **On Farm Food Safety delivery in Alberta** – preliminary discussions have taken place with Eilleen Leslie, the co-ordinator for Verified Beef, this will be further investigated.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.50pm

**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendees as Friday 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The meeting re-convened at 8.05.

## **11. Review of Alberta Lamb Producers business plan**

**See separate document for Business Plan update**

**Strategy 1 Action:** to create a comprehensive education plan for the sheep industry in Alberta, recognizing that materials already exist and new ones are in preparation by CSF and other provinces. "SurveyMonkey" will be used to create a survey to assist with this plan; it will be sent out on N'ewesline, in the Feb newsletter, deadline Jan 18<sup>th</sup> and to zone advisory groups. Other materials providing producer input include symposium feedback form; 2007 ALP producer survey, 2008 zone meeting survey.

**Action:** All directors are requested to send at least 3 possible survey questions to Phil by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

NB Directors may use their discretionary zone funds for any producer benefit eg 4-H; zone meeting lunches; seminars/events; zone advisory groups,

### **Board development & Business Plan review**

The board and ED will allocate a 2 day meeting, one day each for board development and business plan revision, funding is available in the Phase 3 board development section.

This type of work is necessary from time to time and must be separate from general board discussions. As it is difficult for members to be away from home for more than 2 consecutive days, it was decided that a separate event will take place June 11-12. It is vital that all board members attend and as Ronald will be lambing at that time, a location close to Barrhead is desirable.

**Action:** advise Jannette of PSCI of this date and location request (Margaret)

## **Alberta Lamb Producers board meetings 2010**

**April** in conjunction with Red Meat Reception if ALP participates.

**Friday/Saturday August 27–28**

**Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>**, adjacent to CSF AGM

NB zone meetings in 2 & 7 should be held prior to November 2

### **12. Regulations Amendment**

**a. Transition grant** of \$28,000 has been agreed with Agriculture & Rural Development, for expenses incurred in 2009/10 and 2010/11 years, relating to transition to refundable check off.

#### **b. Marketing Council presentation at J.G. O'Donoghue Building**

**Action:** We will suggest September 2<sup>nd</sup>; if this is acceptable, the board meeting will be moved to 3&4 Sept, so all directors can attend the presentation. If this date will not work, Norine and Margaret will attend on a convenient date. (Margaret)

**c. Board Governance Sessions:** Norine and Kathy will determine if they are available to attend the Board Governance Excellence Workshops on February 24, 25 and 26th offered through Marketing Council

### **13. Cost of Production for large producers**

Ronald presented an excellent spreadsheet allowing calculation of production costs for variable feed and other inputs. It was based on a confined operation with all animals on feed 365days/yr. It showed the huge impact on such an operation when feed costs rise by even a small amount.

**Action:** include this type of material in the education plan to allow calculations for different types, sizes and management style of operations. (Flock management team)

**14. Illegal Lamb Trade** – Chris Giffen provided a report on his investigation into illegal kill and sale of meat in the lamb industry, focussing on food safety regulations and not tag enforcement.. (strategy 5 funded project). His conclusion is that the problem currently exists on a fairly small scale, but is poised to explode: he considers the time is perfect to provide educational materials to those involved and to the industry in general.

The full report will be available on [www.ablamb.ca](http://www.ablamb.ca) A great deal of discussion took place and Chris provided ALP with a huge amount of information on this topic and related matters.

**Action:** Newsletter info on definition of “household” for farm-killed meat. Include a few particularly interesting pieces of info.

**Action:** Chris will present a communications plan for phase 2 by April.

**15. OFFS delivery in Alberta** – Eileen Leslie attended to describe her work with Verified Beef and to describe the synergy that would occur if she also delivered the lamb OFFS program.

**Action;** board to decide by conference call if contracting Eileen is the preferred method of delivery in Alberta.

Rob Leslie is a marketing manager for Intervet Canada Corp., he invited the sheep industry to contact him with requests for sheep pharmaceutical products, particularly their products not currently available in Canada. He will investigate the possibility of Footvax being available in Canada. CFIA has already been in contact with Intervet on the request of CSF.

## **16. Other business**

**a. Diversified Livestock Advisory Committee to ALMA** – Irene will attend the meeting on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> with the following topics for comment: education; communications and an update on the DLF funds transferred into ALMA but allocated for the diversified industries.

**b. Producer tips** - Producers will be invited to submit tips each month and a winner determined. These will be “vetted” and entered on the website.

**Action:** Staff to work out an implementation plan & date.

**c. Producer use of logo** – Irene will ascertain if the request was for Alberta Lamb Producers or AL logo

**d.** Alberta Lamb Producers will not proceed with investigation of **casino participation** at this time.

**e. Alberta Animal Health and Welfare Strategic Framework** will be considered by the Flock Health committee and recommendations for participation brought forward at the next meeting.

**f. Alberta Feed Coalition** will be advised that we congratulate them on their initiative and funding but we are unable to provide any cash at this time.

### Deferred to next meeting

Zone meetings review and resolutions

Overseas labour

Irene proposed adjournment at 5.05pm