



## **BCFC AGM**

**Quesnel, BC, September 17, 2016**

### **Minutes**

**Members/Guests Present:** George Edwards, Art Weins, Kevin Cormack, Corky Tucker, Dave Clarke, Anthony Jjumba, Dawn Bailey, Maury Carlson, Norm Dueck, Tom Jensen, Dave Ralph, Mary Rossman, Lavona Liggins, Martin Rossman, Garth Healey, Doug Hatfield, Sheri Schweb

**Meeting called to order at 10:10**

**Agenda:** no additions- Garth motioned to accept the agenda, seconded by Dave Clarke. Carried

**Minutes of 2015 AGM:** minutes were circulated and read by Sheri- there was a lot of discussion about the foreign companies purchasing farmland, still an issue this year, there has been a change to the ALR, discussion was moved to later in the agenda. Motion to adopt minutes-Maury Carlson, seconded by Dawn Bailey, carried.

**Election of Officers:** Lavona Liggins lead the election,

**Directors elected by acclamation:**

Norm Dueck – Pickseed – 2016-2018

Doug Hatfield – Prince George – 2016-2018

Mike Witt – Okanagan – 2016-2018

Kevin Cormack – GlenDale Agra – 2016-2018

Rick Schmidt – Kootenay – 2016-2018

Doug Higginson – Island – 2016-2018

Traugott Klein – Vanderhoof – 2016-2018

## **Officers Elected: 2016-2017**

Secretary: acclamation – Kevin Cormack

Treasurer: acclamation – Bill Awmack

Vice President: Dave Clarke nominated Doug Hatfeild, seconded by Kevin, carried.

President: Doug nominated Garth Healey, seconded by Dave, carried.

## **2016 Activity Update:**

- 1. CFGA Report:** Garth gave an update from the CFGA, they now have a new executive director, Cedric MacLeod. The forage sector has seen a downturn nationally because of the US dollar. No forage standard in Canada at this time. Forage is the largest area produced in Canada. Nobody seems to care about forage even though they all need it, working on a Canada brand. Looking at a check off levy. Sheri reported that the CFGA is now having monthly managers conference calls with all the provincial associations in an attempt to strengthen all the societies and so we can all come together with a unified voice across the nation. The CFGA asked that all the managers attend the conference in Winnipeg in November.

Doug Hatfeild motioned to send Sheri as the delegate for the BCFC to the CFGA conference, seconded by Kevin Cormack, motion carried.
- 2. Sponsorship:** New Holland has backed away from its sponsorship with the CFGA and in turn with the BCFC, renegotiations are underway but in the meantime we have been told we can again seek out sponsorship from any major equipment dealers again. Sheri will draft a list of businesses that current BCFC members use and send it out. Members and directors that have a close relationship with a business will be encouraged to ask them for support as a sponsor and will report back to Sheri who has been asked so we are not inundating these businesses.
- 3. BCFC Project:** the project manual “On Farm Demonstration Research” will be published by January. We need to look at how we are going to continue to promote it after the project is over. The weather stations that were purchased under the project also need to be assessed for continuation. Further clarification from our consultant on ownership and responsibilities of the project participants is needed.

4. Hay App: Sheri found a few sources that were willing to fund and work on a hay app with us, however it was cautioned that most apps fail. An email sent to the committee netted no response, so the hay app project will be dropped.

## **New Business:**

1. BCMA report: Lavona Liggins addressed us on the changes the BCMA will be making in working with us. Going forward they will only be a non-voting liaison for us. They will offer us support, technical support, come to meetings when invited but will not have roll in steering the BCFC, this prevents conflict of interest situations and is a better position for the BCMA. David Trotter will be our point person as he's been given the forage portfolio. The Minister has developed a strategic growth plan and forage is a part of that plan. Working with Dave over the next while the BCFC will have a chance to be a part of the forage plan process. There have been a number of staffing changes within the BCMA: Manager, Interior. Brent Barclay - Prince George  
Cariboo Regional Agrologist, Nicole Pressey - Williams Lake  
North Okanagan Regional Agrologist, Laura Code - Vernon  
South Island Regional Agrologist, Derek Masselink - Duncan  
Nutrient Management Specialist, Jeff Nimmo - Abbotsford  
Waste Management Engineer, to be announced - Abbotsford  
New Entrant Agrologist, to be announced - Abbotsford
2. Weed Act: Dave would like to see a strategy in place for enforcing the weed act. There is not much change in respect to controlling weeds. We should partner with concerned groups. Dave motioned that the BCFC write a letter to concerned groups asking for them to partner with us in enforcing the Invasive Species Weed Act and the the weed act, seconded by Doug, motion carried.
3. BCFC Equipment: thru the climate change adaptation project we were able to purchase a bale scale, a hand forage tester, a drill driven forage tester, a soil sampler and a soil moisture meter. These pieces of equipment can be rented out by members. Members will have to pay for shipping to and from their location and will have to put down a refundable deposit until the equipment is returned.
4. BC Societies Act: we need to make some changes to the by-laws, it was decided that we will have a conference call in the next few weeks to deal with the changes that need to be made. Sheri will schedule it.

5. Water Act: Dave is concerned about government over regulation of domestic wells. Dawn said there is a difference between licensing (pay for use) and registering (know where they are). There is going to be workshops held around the province, Dawn will update us where they are once they have been scheduled.
6. Meetings: agreed to have another face to face AGM/Conference next year. September works well for most members. Good turn out for this one, will rotate across the province going forward.
7. AG in the Schools: George brought up he'd like to see agriculture as a mandated class in our public schools. There is a budget planning session coming to Quesnel in Oct he'd like us to be at. Sheri will look into the link George has and see what we can do. George motioned that we ask the government to put agriculture in schools again, Doug seconded, motion passed.
8. Foreign Ownership: lots of discussion on foreign ownership, a committee was formed for addressing Foreign Ownership/Absentee Land owners: Martin Rossman, Kevin Cormack and Doug Hatfeild.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Dave motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Doug, meeting adjourned at 12:25.