

British Columbia Bison Association
2023 Annual General Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday November 7th, 2023 6:30pm PT

IN ATTENDANCE:

Conrad Schiebel – President
Steven Boyd – Vice President
Isobel Vere – Treasurer/director
Sandra Marascio – Secretary
Bernard Vere
Sharif Fahmy - CBA Rep
Chris Kayat
Danica Vere
Dave Baxter
Francois Grimbeek
Bill Bouffoux – via telephone
Les Kruger – CBA President
Julie Marie Hughes – BC Government Rep
Laura Code – BC Government Rep
Natalie Belisle – Fed Government Rep
Bryan Lee – Fed Government Rep

ABSENTEES:

Cyndy Donally

After a quorum was established, the meeting was called to order by the President at 6:34pm.

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA and ADOPT AGM MINUTES OF October 28th, 2022 :

It was moved by Conrad, seconded by Chris that the Agenda for today's meeting be approved. In addition, the Minutes of the Oct 28, 2022 AGM meeting were approved as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (See attached President's Report)

Conrad touched on a few of the issues this past year including the weather, drought and fires. He mentioned Board member Kim Grimwade resigned in her first term following the death of her partner Vic Beissel in July. They had just begun to set up their bison ranch which is now on hold.

He talked about how he's working with the BC Cattleman's Association on wolf predation of livestock. Mentioned that Black Willow Bison had lost 4 animals this year to wolves which triggered this action. The BC Livestock Protection Program is funded by the province and administered by the BCCA. Currently bison losses are not covered by the program and he is working to have bison included. He also brought to everyone's attention the Emergency Hay Supply Program feed location service. Anyone who is interested in more info can contact Greg at hay@cattlemen.bc.ca or call him at 250-241-5640.

Conrad moved to adopt the report and Chris seconds.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Isobel gave her Financial Report as per circulated together with the Bank Statement.

INCOME:

26 Membership Funds from CBA – 2023	\$2,600.00
2 Memberships from CBA 2022 (recv'd late)	200.00
Interest on Investment Savings account	130.45
Dividend on Shares	.46
Prov. Grant re AGM October '22	1,500.00
Bal of funds tsf'd from AGM a/c to Gen a/c	350.78
Sale of 4 logo caps + 3 Bison Disease Bklt	<u>130.00</u>
	\$4,911.69

EXPENSES:

2022 AGM Seed Funds	\$3,000.00
Loan to 2022 AGM expenses	3,405.85
To CBA for Literature	114.00
Society Act Dept for document copies	40.00
Society Act Annual Filing Fee 2022	40.00
ImageBuildTeam web domains 2023/24	94.47
Service Charges on Chequing account	<u>65.00</u>
	\$6,759.32

2023 (Oct 1/22-Oct 31/23) NET LOSS AFTER EXPENSES **\$1,847.63 ****

Account Closing Balances – October 31, 2023

Chequing Account	\$5,210.88
Investment Savings Account	9,121.67
Shares	<u>10.64</u>
	\$14,343.19

Account Opening Balances – October 1, 2022

Chequing Account	\$7,189.42
Investment Savings Account	8,991.22
Shares	<u>10.18</u>
	\$16,190.82
	\$1,847.63 **

NOTES:

- Statement covers 13 month period Oct 1/22 to Oct 31/23
- Memberships – 26 paid - 26 plus 1 Life member – Pat Matthews

It was moved by Isobel and seconded by Chris to accept the Treasurer's Report.

CARRIED

It was also motioned by Isobel to reimburse Danica to cover her expenses for acquiring the silent auction item for the upcoming CBA Conference from Etched. Bernie seconds.

CARRIED

LES KROEGER GIVES THE CBA REPORT:

Les began by mentioning that predation compensation for bison occurs in other provinces and encouraged BCBA to work with the BC Cattlemen's Association and all groups on this.

He mentioned the Bison Biosecurity Document which will assist producers with portable panels, chutes and gates.

Also he spoke about moving the National Convention to Alberta however they are getting mixed reviews on this. Also the possibility of making it a summer event and even moving it to Kamloops or Kelowna is worth discussing.

Carl Fis has been working on different policies including the mention of increasing membership fees however this was opposed by the Board who are concerned about declining membership.

Les gave a quick update on the convention and that there will be approx. 40 head available at the show and sale which Jack Auction is putting on November 21st, 2023.

Shariff added that there is a new person at the CBA office and that their focus will be on maintaining the herd registry. Also there will be some changes with marketing programs. Quick discussion on supply chain issues.

Danica asked about the funding available to support an initiative similar to Ontario where all member ranch owners got a membership sign to put on their front gates.

GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS:

Julie Marie Hughes began with a quick correction on inventory numbers. Numbers look higher due to a large farm in Northern region having moved in with a large number of animals. Licenced producers still the same. Julie offered again to send out info to ranches and to reach out if needed to help get numbers up.

Quick report on a feral animals. 12-30 head – at least 1 has an ear tag. No one is claiming ownership.

Conrad gives a quick run down on the 2 feral herds currently running through the province. One near Nicola Valley and one near Butler Ridge. Also asks the group to share any ideas to get these animals under control. Danica suggests find their pattern and corral them.

Conrad suggested if Julie is able to find out tag numbers then it may be easy to identify who owns the animals. Danica suggest drone technology. Julie will look into this. Conrad also offers the groups help to Laura and Julie any time they need it.

Danica suggests a contact list be made of who to call and what steps to take in these situations also in case of wild fires etc. A case reference file number when you have to call about an issue a few times would be handy. Julie and Laura offer to prepare one and distribute to the group.

Laura mentions that she has a list of contact and support info re: the funding programs drought and wild fire for producers that have been affected. She will pass on to Conrad to distribute.

Natalie Belisle introduced herself and gave the group her contact details natalie.belisle@agr.gc.ca, 236-330-3443 if anyone has questions about Agri-Food and Agriculture programs. Conrad asked her for a link to info and programs and she agreed to send it out for dispersal.

REVIEW OF BOARD POSITIONS/ELECTION:

Conrad reviewed the current Board of Directors that were elected at the 2022 AGM and confirmed that everyone is still willing to stay on in their current roles:

Conrad Schiebel	President
Steven Boyd	Vice President
Isobel Vere	Treasurer
Sandra Marascio	Secretary
Bernie Vere	Past President
Sharif Fahmy	Member/CBA Rep
Cyndy Donally	Member at large
Chris Kayat	Member at large
Danica Vere	Member at large
Francois Grimbeek	Member at large

Call for nominations:

Members at Large:

Conrad nominated Dave Baxter as a member at large. Chris seconds and Dave accepts.

Conrad approved the nominations of all current standing board members with the inclusion of Dave Baxter. Chris seconds the approval. **CARRIED**

Conrad also confirmed the CBA Reps. Shariff will stay on. He called for anyone interested in filling the second position. Danica Vere indicated is interested and that she would take the position effective immediately.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Conrad thanked the members for their attendance. The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.