

Alberta Conservation Association

Minutes of the June 6, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

Edmonton Hotel and Convention Centre
4520 – 76th Avenue, Edmonton, AB
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



PRESENT	Patrick Long (Chairman) – Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta Ken Ambrock (Vice Chair) – Public At Large, Northern Alberta Board Liaison Brian Bildson (Secretary) - Public At Large, Business Representative Adam Norris (Treasurer) – Public At Large, Regional Bill Abercrombie (Director) – Alberta Trappers Association Vince Aiello (Director) – Pheasants Forever Alberta Council Mark Boyce (Director) – ACA / U of A Chair in Fisheries & Wildlife Ken Bailey (Director) – Alberta Professional Outfitters Society Randy Collins (Director) – Alberta Fish and Game Association Sandra Foss (Director) – Nature Alberta Chris Fowler (Director) – Public At Large, Regional Robert Gruszecki (Director) – Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association Jeff Surtees (Director) – Trout Unlimited Canada Jaarno Van der Wielen (Director) – Public At Large, Regional Travis Ripley (Director) – Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Todd Zimmerling – President & CEO, ACA Debora Dueck – Recording Secretary, ACA
GUEST	Fred Calverley – Trout Unlimited Canada
REGRETS	Tom Bateman (Past Chair) – Public At Large, Southern Alberta Board Liaison John Pattison (Director) – Public At Large, Regional Treaty 8

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pat Long called the meeting to order June 6, 2014 at 9:10 AM.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Pat Long welcomed everyone to the meeting, round table introductions were made for the benefit of newly appointed APOS Representative and guest from TUC.

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3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MEETING TIME LIMIT

MOTION # 29/14

Moved by: Randy Collins
Seconded by: Sandra Foss

Move that the June 6, 2014 agenda be accepted with additions/deletions:

8 (a) – Remove Fisheries Program Presentation, wolverine presentation will be given.

Add: 8 (h) – APOS Representative Appointment; (i) TUC Representative Appointment; (j) Bill /
Legislation

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting is anticipated to conclude by 3:00 PM.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

- a. March 27, 2014 - Board of Director's Meeting – Electronic Motion: 23/14EV
(Attachment A – Minutes of the March 27, 2014 BOD Meeting)

MOTION # 30/14

Moved by: Sandra Foss
Seconded by: Chris Fowler

Move that the Board of Director's agree that this is an accurate reflection of the votes placed and therefore ratify Electronic Motion: 23/14EV stating: "Move that the Minutes of the March 27, 2014 Board of Directors' meeting, be accepted as presented".

MOTION CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING

- a. Review of Action Items
(Attachment B – Action Items)

Action Items were reviewed and updates were provided.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Chairman / Executive Committee

Pat Long, Chairman, provided a report to BOD on the activities of the Chairman.

- Meeting with the President & CEO to plan for upcoming BOD Retreat.

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- Met with Minister Campbell (ESRD) April 1, 2014, along with the Executive Committee and the President & CEO.
- Discussion on opportunities for the BOD as whole to provide input on the President & CEO Review, would like to see a process in place prior the next review in March of 2015.
- Signed the MOU and Program agreements, forwarded on to the Minister of ESRD for execution.
- Attended a conference in the US – Mike Jokinen presented a paper on “Saltlicks” – excellent presentation made by Mike Jokinen.

b. President & CEO
(Attachment C)

The President & CEO report was reviewed and highlights were discussed and noted:

- Bill Patterson resigned in April to pursue other opportunities.
- Seasonal positions have commenced throughout the province.
- Beginning recruitment for an Intermediate Biologist (position replacement).
- Effective July 1st ACA is changing benefit providers to Sunlife Financial.
- Participated in several meetings and events since the March 2014 BOD meeting: ESRD Meeting – Minister Campbell, Executive Committee and President & CEO; AHEIA Shotgun Training – Calgary; Lethbridge F&G Zone meeting; Sherwood Park Tradeshow – ACA Booth; Pheasant Forever Banquet – Calgary; ALI meeting; Fisheries Round Table meeting; MOU meetings; AACO conference call meeting; Minister’s Special License review and adjudication; Alberta Land Institute Conference; TUC Dinner – Edmonton; meeting with Strathcona County.
- Conservation Offsets: Continue to be involved with several groups working on developing conservation offsets in the province.
- Corporate Partners in Conservation: There has been a significant jump in the number of corporate partners/government contacting ACA regarding a wide range of projects.

ACTION ITEM: Pres & CEO to investigate and send data on Hayzama Waterfowl Monitoring to Mark Boyce.

ACTION ITEM: Pres & CEO forward Levy Increase correspondence to the BOD. BOD to review and respond back to Pres & CEO by Tuesday, June 10, 2014.

- Waterfowl Warmup Sporting Clays event is scheduled for August 21, 2014 to raise funds for a new RAP educational trailer.
- Grant Sponsorship: Syncrude has confirm \$50,000/year for five years support for the Grants in Biodiversity Program; Private family foundation interested in a one-time funding amount for the Grants in Biodiversity program.
- Upland Gamebird Enhancement Program: Raise and Release Program - 20 4H youth are participating in raising pheasants; Demonstration Farms – Two farms have been identified to collaborate with going forward; Pheasant Release Program – Visiting and establishing which sites will

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continue to be used and working on establishing more sites around Calgary and Northern Alberta (around Edmonton).

- Wolverine Project – Approximately 250,000 photos were collected at wolverine camera stations in 2013/2014. Analysis is underway, but it appears that wolverines were detected at roughly 20 of the 47 sites across the Boreal.

c. **Finance & Audit Committee**

Treasurer, Adam Norris and President & CEO presented the Financial Overview and Financials to March 31, 2014. Points noted:

- Levy revenues are \$225,258 higher than prior year actual amounts. This demonstrates that licenses sold are increasing slowly from year to year.
- Partner Contributions are lower by \$(332,755). The flooding in the Calgary area affected many companies that would otherwise have partnered with ACA and this loss of potential revenue was not recovered in the year.
- Miscellaneous revenue includes Conservation Site Guide and Magazine advertising, surface lease revenue, and ACA asset auction item proceeds. Donations were higher in the prior year because of carry forward amounts from Syncrude for the Owl River project.
- Operating expenses were \$484,888 lower than previous year levels mainly arising from changes in spending in salaries and benefits, landowner agreements, advertising, construction and building services, materials and supplies, temporary services, rentals and leases, and support payments.
- The organization is \$1,846,205 under budgeted expenditures. The majority of this variance is explained within bank charges and interest, landowner agreements, advertising, construction and building services, temporary services, rentals and leases, travel, materials and supplies, grants and support payments.
- The operating surplus of \$658,637 exists in comparison to the prior year surplus of \$414,392. When adjustments are made to recognize realized and unrealized investment gains and losses, asset disposals, and removing revenue from donated land and allocated to land purchases, the final result ends in a surplus of \$1,108,184 for the period.
- Total land acquisitions are \$1,387,759 for the Leddy, North Kamisak Lake, Lac Cardinal West Conservation Sites through Suncor funding, the Bull Trail property and Silver Sage through the Habitat Securement Fund and partnerships, a correction for the Northstar Expansion, purchase of the Flatbush 7 through Shell and the land donation of the Walter Conservation Site, Parkland County site and Larches site.
- ACA reported an accounting surplus of \$1,108,184, an amount that includes interest income, realized and unrealized results for investments or asset disposals. The realized gain on investments was \$81,910; the unrealized gain on investments was \$ 357,480. Interest revenue was \$183,138, and the gain on asset disposal was \$10,167. Once these are removed from results, the true operational surplus is \$475,489 compared to prior year operational surplus of \$265,107.

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Finance and Audit Committee conference call meeting with the auditor and management is scheduled for June 11, 1014. A meeting of the BOD will be required via conference call to approved the audited financial statements.

d. **Communications Committee**

Randy Collins Committee Chair updated the board on the Communication Highlights submitted by the Communications Manager:

- AOP (Annual Operating Plan) – finalized, printed and posted on the website.
- Discover Guide 2014/2015 – distributed!
- Conservation Magazine 2014 Spring/Summer – printed! Currently posting articles online and working on the Fall issue
- iPhone app: 33,381 – averaging 18 downloads per day (previous 30,997); Facebook: 3,901 (up from 2,891); Twitter: 2,201 followers (up from 1,764); Youtube: Posted 5 videos, currently at 83,605 views (up from 56,400); E-newsletter: 6 newsletters went out. Subscription list is at 94,097 from 66,587.

e. **The ACA Grants Program Committee**

Sandra Foss provided an update on the ACA Grants Program Committee, next meeting will be scheduled for August 2015 prior to the next granting cycle. Discussion on the upload of the presentation on the granting process, to the BOD website. A couple of modifications will be made to the presentation – removal of any names of adjudicators, etc.

f. **Operation Standards Review Committee**

Mark Boyce, Committee Chair provided a report on the Operation Standards Review Committee:

- Conducted a webinar for ACA Staff.
- Moose APP - waiting for data harvest from Fish & Wildlife to complete analysis.

g. **PAL Committee**

Will be meeting with the Governance Committee to get clarification on the role of the PAL Committee with regard to the new Terms of Reference being developed consolidating the PAL, Board Liaison and Membership Committees.

h. Governance Committee Report

No report

i. Organizational Risk Report
(Attachment F)

Organizational Risk Report was presented by Todd Zimmerling, President & CEO, no major risks were identified at this time.

j. Southern Board Liaison Report – Tom Bateman
(Attachment G)

Tom Bateman provided a report to the Board of Directors on the activities of the Southern Board Liaison for the period of March 2014 – June 2014.

Highlights from report:

- The portable shot gun training system that AHEIA provides for use in southern Alberta continues to be used extensively.
- Continue to receive calls from Southern Alberta ranchers with regard to gopher issues.
- Met with executives of the Foremost Fish and Game Club, they are interested in designing new shooting programs for the community as well as surrounding communities. These young leaders are also coordinating programs with New Dayton volunteers. These clubs provide a very positive example for their communities and for the future of hunting.
- Provided advice for some young Fish and Game leaders regarding their community fishing programs.
- Access to privately controlled property is becoming more of any issue this season. Two landowners have requested a meeting with the Southern Board Liaison and some mentors to discuss programs they might use to manage hunters on their land, the meetings will be scheduled for June.
- Lead five different groups to observe the spring migrations, especially waterfowl. It is gratifying to see people who went on these tours in previous years now leading their own tours.

k. Northern Board Liaison Report – Ken Ambrock

Ken Ambrock updated the Board of Directors on the activities of the Northern Board Liaison from March 2014 – June 2014.

Highlights from report:

- Attended the annual Snow Goose Chase in Tofield (April 26 & 27), talked to several volunteers, students, individuals and people presenting information on conservation and various wildlife displays. Continue to be very impressed with the enthusiasm and attendance the Snow Goose Chase attracts.
- Attended TUC Event in Edmonton (May 8).
- Talked to several residents in the County of St. Paul, there is a feeling that wolf and cougar numbers have increased greatly in the last year.
- Have become quite concerned about the amount of land clearing in east central Alberta. While there is no quantitative information on the amount of habitat lost to agriculture, the rate of clearing appears to have increased greatly in the last year. Think that AESRD's and ACA's efforts to conserve parcels of land in the parkland are becoming critical.

I. Business Representative Report

(Handout)

Brian Bildson submitted a report to the Board of Directors on the activities of the Business Representative from March 2014 – June 2014.

Highlights from report:

- Presented to a group of 50 international trappers, many from the lower 48, most with little wolverine experience. The group was fascinated with the concept of trappers contributing to research and thought it could set a precedent.
- Attended the wolverine project wrap up meeting in Sherwood Park in May, with ACA, ATA, and U of A in attendance to review the findings and make plans for next year's program.
- Made a couple of day trips to Wanham Grazing reserve surveying sharptail leks.
- Finalized the donation and content for the next round of ten ACA vignettes utilizing the K-library. Compass Media is donating wolverine footage for one of the vignettes.

Brian Bildson provided a presentation on the wolverine project to the BOD.

m. ESRD Representative Report

Travis Ripley, Ministers Representative provided an update from ESRD, key points as noted:

- MOU and Program Agreements have been ratified and executed, putting into place a new process that the President & CEO and Travis Ripley will be working through.
- Wildlife Regulation Renewal – will be soon starting the public consultation.
- RELM – continuous meetings (weekly) with continuous improvements.
- Hunting draws proceeding, but the largest volume typically occurs at the end of the draw.
- Working on the zoo policy and potential options.
- Fisheries regulation review to begin soon.

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- Fish stocking policy will soon be distributed via member groups.
- Licencing changes expected by the Minister, including the option for a required sport fishing licence over age 65 and non-resident Canadian licence increases.
- Working on a process to end commercial fishing in Alberta.
- Fish and Wildlife policy renewal.
- Fish Manager and Conservation Strategy will soon be released.
- Fish Stocking – 945,000 stocked into 78 lakes/ponds.
- Walleye stocking – 5.2M into Wabamum.
- Value of Nature to Canadians survey now available.

n. **ACA Demonstration Farm Feasibility Committee**

Todd Zimmerling, President & CEO updated the Board of Directors on the ACA Demonstration Farm Feasibility Committee Points noted:

- ACA Demonstration Farm Feasibility is now an operational committee.
- Doug Manzer (ACA) has been appointed chair of the committee.
- Looking at 2 farms, planning baseline inventory work for this summer.
- Working on agreements with both landowners/farmers.

7. **Old Business**

a. **MOU and Program Agreements**

MOU and Program Agreements have been executed by AESRD and ACA, all documents have been uploaded to the BOD Website and the ACA External Website. MOU and Program Agreements are effective until 2016.

b. **Predator Compensation – Update**

AFSC (Agriculture Financial Services Corporation) and the Federal Government have an agreement in place. AESRD has submitted an invoice to AFSC. *(Received written assurance that ACA will be paid for 48% of claims for this year. Process - AFSC will receive funds, ACA will invoice ESRD, ESRD will invoice AFSC, funds will flow through to ACA).*

8. **New Business**

a. **APOS Representative Appointment**

Correspondence was presented advising of the change in APOS Representative to the ACA Board of Directors, Ken Bailey is appointed replacing Gordon Burton. Ken Bailey provided the ACA Board of Directors with information on his background.

MOTION # 31/14

**Moved by: Ken Ambrock
Seconded by: Robert Gruszecki**

Move that the Board of Director's approve the appointment of Ken Bailey as the APOS Representative to the ACA Board of Directors effective June 6, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

b. TUC Representative Appointment

Jeff Surtees advised that he would be stepping down from the ACA Board of Directors and TUC is recommending the appointment of Fred Calverley as the TUC Representative to the ACA Board of Directors. Fred Calverley provided the ACA Board of Directors with information on his background.

MOTION # 32/14

**Moved by: Ken Ambrock
Seconded by: Robert Gruszecki**

Move that the Board of Director's approve the appointment of Fred Calverley as the TUC Representative to the ACA Board of Directors effective August 19, 2014.

MOTION CARRIED

**c. Ratification of Electronic Motions
(Attachment H - M)**

MOTION # 33/14

**Moved by: Brian Bildson
Seconded by: Sandra Foss**

Move that the Board of Director's agree that this is an accurate reflection of the votes placed and therefore ratify the following Electronic Motions:

Electronic Motion: 06/14EV – *Wire transfer of HSP Funds in Trust – Escape Coulee Conservation Site.*
Electronic Motion: 07/14EV – *Wire transfer of Funds to Close – Escape Coulee Conservation Site.*
Electronic Motion: 08/14EV – *Wire transfer of Funds to Close – North Kamisak Lake Conservation Site.*
Electronic Motion: 24/14EV – *HSF Funds – Junction Lake Conservation Site.*
Electronic Motion: 25/14EV – *Wire Transfer of Funds to Close – Junction Lake Conservation Site.*
Electronic Motion: 26/14EV – *HSF Funds – Silver Sage Expansion (Tigley) Conservation Site*

MOTION CARRIED

d. Bill/Legislature

Bob Gruszecki provided information on "Bill/Legislature" from a meeting yesterday, in regard to merging the POL and PAL.

9. In-Camera

Not required.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

2014 Meeting Calendar (*Attachment N*)

The next scheduled BOD Meeting – August 19-20, 2014, Edmonton, AB

- August 19, 2014 (Tuesday) – Committee Meetings – as required
- August 19, 2014 (Tuesday) – Annual General Meeting – 5:30 PM
- August 20, 2014 (Wednesday) – Regular BOD – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- August 21, 2014 (Thursday) – Waterfowl Warmup Sporting Clays Team Challenge

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION # 34/14

Moved by: Sandra Foss
Seconded by: Ken Ambrock

Move that the BOD Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The Board of Director's meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.



(Chairman)



(Secretary)