



Western Stock Growers' Association

MARCH 2012

A SUCCESSFUL AGM

A very successful AGM was held in Red Deer on Feb 15. We appointed a new Director to the Board – Michael Munton from Lethbridge. He will represent Zone 1. Phil Rowland was re-elected into the President's Chair, and Aaron Brower and James Hargrave have stepped into the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidency roles, respectively. Eileen McElroy, Dr Larry Delver, and David Pope were re-instated as Directors and/or Directors at Large for another three year term. (A full list of the Executive and Board are attached). Please do not hesitate to contact your Executive or Directors with issues that you have.

Several important resolutions were passed at the AGM and are listed below.

RESOLUTION 1

Whereas, there is a resurgence in cattle rustling,

Therefore be it resolved that the WSGA host a reward fund with rewards up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons stealing livestock from a WSGA member; and be it resolved that the WSGA provide \$10,000 seed money to the fund.

Moved: Roy Clark, Duane Hale. Carried

RESOLUTION 2

Whereas, Bills 19, 24, 36, and 50 are either not needed or violate property rights

Therefore, be it resolved that the WSGA lobby government to repeal said bills.

Moved: Bill Hanson, Duane Hale. Carried

RESOLUTION 3

Whereas ranchers require enhanced predator control

Therefore, be it resolved that registered trappers in Alberta be allowed to snare wolves and coyotes on Crown Lands and Alberta Forestry Reserves to the end of March each trapping season starting in 2013

Moved Blaine Marr, Darryl Carlson. Carried

RESOLUTION 4

Whereas WSGA agrees with Minister Berger on the challenges of succession in primary agriculture – particularly in the grazing sector

Therefore be it resolved that the WSGA Board meet with the Minister and other appropriate parties to prepare a report detailing the barriers to succession and potential solutions to those barriers.

Moved: Bill Newton, Norm Ward. Carried

RESOLUTION 5

Whereas WSGA recognizes that there needs to be a value on ecosystem services -

Therefore be it resolved that over the coming year the WSGA Board identify three ecosystem services whose production could be incented by a marketplace for those services, and pursue with government and other stakeholders the development of tools and policies for that marketplace.

Moved: Bill Hanson, Bill Newton. Carried

RESOLUTION 6

Whereas:

- a) certain grazing lease policies and terms inhibit succession in the grazing livestock sector
- b) grazing animals play an important role in ensuring production of ecosystem services (valued by Alberta society) from those grazing lease lands
- c) long term tenure / security of tenure are essential to proper stewardship of grazing leases
- d) grazing leases have similarities with mineral leases in terms of attracting private capital and management to develop and steward Crown resources

Therefore be it resolved that WSGA lobby the Alberta government / Sustainable Resource Development to adopt the Grazing Lease Royalty Review recommendations previously presented to SRD (DM and Minister).

Moved: Bill Newton, Eileen McElroy. Carried

PRESS RELEASE – CATTLE RUSTLING (FEB 25, 2012)

CATTLE RUSTLING – AN ISSUE IN ALBERTA

Western Stock Growers' Association has a long history of supporting and assisting their members whenever issues arise. Cattle rustling has again become a problem, perhaps because of improved cattle prices. WSGA is now hosting a reward fund which will be available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) rustling cattle from WSGA members. Further, the Association has placed significant seed money in the fund. The Executive is currently working with the RCMP and Crime Stoppers to ensure that the reward and the information follow proper process.

For more information call

Aaron Brower 403-344-2424

Phil Rowland 403-650-2287

CATTLE RUSTLING FUND

WSGA is providing seed money for the cattle rustling reward fund, and we are currently setting up a fund so that this money is kept in trust. If you wish to donate to the fund, please send to

Eileen McElroy

240249 Range Road 281

Chestermere, AB

T1X 0M5

WSGA RESPONSE TO THE BUDGET

Alberta's budget as it pertains to Agriculture looks to be good on first view. An increase in the AgriStability and AgriRecovery, steady grants for Irrigation Rehabilitation, consistent funding for Ag Societies, increased funding for crop, hail and livestock insurance (like the fire budget it will only be needed in an adverse year) and increased funding for wildlife compensation all appear to be positive news for our agriculture producers. Deputy Premier, Doug Horner, states the budget is about providing more of the basic infrastructure for rural Alberta. This would be – better rural health care, better rural broadband, better rural mental health, and an increase in the Municipal Sustainability Initiative fund. The Alberta government wants to see rural Alberta expand and prosper.

The WSGA compliment government on recognizing areas of pressure. Unfortunately, this is a band – aid approach to helping rural Alberta expand and prosper. What is needed is to have a business climate in Alberta that allows Agriculture and other business to prosper, not government propping up rural Alberta. This concept would create opportunity to profit and remove the need for government assistance. For a very good example of this we need only look to a recent announcement in Montana where the Chinese – backed hog processing facility will be built just south of the Canadian border in

Shelby to process 1.2 million hogs employing 500 people. With a competitive regulatory and wage advantage and enough hogs in Montana and southern Alberta it will be a blow our hog processing industry. This is, of course, an example of what a friendly regulatory regime can accomplish. Another example would be pasta plants and their locations also south of the border even though a ready supply of durum is available here. When the regulatory shift (CWB monopoly ending) occurred, a new pasta plant north of the 49th was announced. Not likely a coincidence.

The Alberta and Federal governments risk wiping out the Alberta Meat sector due to high regulatory cost and poor trade policy. At the same time the government is crowing about China deals, we are losing a hog plant to the US. The WSGA has asked government to address high regulatory costs and as they talk about it a new plant goes up in Shelby and we risk the same in the Beef sector. Just today, the Longview Beef Jerky Plant is closing – the direct result of regulatory burden.

Rural Alberta wants to contribute and not to need to be propped up by the government. To do this we need a positive business environment. \$7 million has been allocated for Regulatory Enhancement by Alberta Energy to implement a single regulator approach. The reason the Energy Industry has been asking for this, amongst other things, is that business is easier when regulations are less and more user friendly. All sectors suffer under heavy regulatory burden. The Oil patch took their ball and left under the royalty review. Agriculture can't, so therefore we have to fix an artificial burden which will have a positive effect on future budgets. We do not think this can be done in Edmonton alone. This is a task that needs to be built with grass roots consultation.

LAND USE ISSUES

You have received many bulletins and up dates regarding WSGA' input and position papers with regard to land use issues such as grazing lease issues, property rights issues, and ecological goods and services, and many others. Some Board members had the opportunity in Red Deer to meet with staff members of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to comment on the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. It was another opportunity to have our voice heard.

As many of you know, it has been announced that none of the land use bills will be repealed, and the GOA has gone forward with Bill 50 Power Lines – north/south lines. In addition, the GOA has announced a Land Use Advocate Office, which we have no further information on with regard to its mandate and process

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403-660-0643

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