

BCSPRSA – President’s Report

Nov 29-2021

New Harvest Media is helping us hold this virtual AGM tonight. It is a task to both facilitate and participate in a meeting of this sort. We thank Chad for his patience with us in setting this up and facilitating.

Once again, another challenging year for agriculture. Your boards of directors and committee representatives, from the local level, the Regional, and to the BCCA have worked on your behalf, throughout the year, representing ranching interests on many committees. Negotiating with many levels of government, donating many volunteer hours. I know everyone is sick of hearing “COVID”, but it continues to add layers of difficulty to getting the work done. Individual committee reports will be provided by committee representatives tonight.

Meeting in person continues to have challenges, often meeting locations are not large enough to “social distance” and, presently require that someone checks for passports at the door. Meetings were conducted by teleconference and/or Zoom, your directors are becoming adept at decisions made through group email.

Once again, we were unable to hold the Cattlemen’s Ball. The financial boost this fundraiser has been over the years, has been tremendous. Due to the Ball’s successes and some sound financial management, we will be able to weather the storm for awhile without the Ball proceeds. Hopefully COVID restrictions do not carry on too much longer. We may have to be creative on funding raising in the future. Member input is welcomed.

The Stockmen’s Honor Roll is given out each year at the annual Cattlemen’s Ball to an individual or ranching family who have gone above and beyond to support our industry. Unfortunately, there were no nominations received this year for that honor. Once we get past restrictions and the drought that, no doubt, took all extra member attention this summer, we hope to get that back on track and solicit nominations. Members are reminded that nominations can be submitted at any time of the year and must be accompanied by a bio on those nominated.

Two applicants for South Peace Stockmen’s Foundation bursary were received this year. It was awarded to Ashley Anderson of Groundbirch. Those who may know potential recipients entering post-secondary studies, please make them aware of the information and application forms on our website.

As everyone is aware, the BCCA AGM could not be held in Fort St John in 2021. To that end, the AGM was held virtually, and the essential societal business was conducted. The list of communities offering to hold the BCCA AGM has grown, but the intention is that, once we are

able to hold face to face convention type meetings again, Fort St John will hold their meeting at that time.

Beth is retiring from the secretary position. We will miss her. Thank so much for your work with us over the past 3 years. And thank you for hanging in there for this meeting, 2021 reporting, and for our new secretary's orientation.

On a happier note, we do have a new secretary joining the team. Katie-Ann McAllister will be beginning her orientation as soon as she delivers her first child and feels strong enough. Coincidentally, her due date is today, so she may not be listening in to the meeting. Katie is a local, her family raise cattle, she is interested. Welcome Katie.

Thank you to each and every one of our directors and representatives to committees, the time commitment is huge for, often, little progress.

As always, if a member has a question or concern, please contact a director, our secretary, or me. All contact information is on the website. We may not have an answer immediately but will get back to you as soon as we do.

In closing, thanks to those who advocate to their neighbours the benefits of membership, and to all members who volunteer when the directors' plates are full, to sit in on meetings, and report back to the board. Many times, government representatives do not plan around seasonal ranching activities, wildfires/drought, or give much notice, when seeking a discussion.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Madden, pres.

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