

## Water Sub-Committee Report November 2021

The Water Sub-Committee last met with government in February regarding the Livestock Watering Regulation.

At that time the government proposed a three-tiered system:

Under 20 cows would be exempt; 20 -200 cows would require a 'simplified' license including notification of First Nations; over 200 cows would require a full-blown license including consultation with First Nations.

Even though we were advised by two different assistant deputy ministers that this was the best proposal we would get and that if we turned it down we could well end up with nothing, the committee was unanimous in recommending to the BCCA board that this proposal was unacceptable; that the BCCA should not participate in the roll-out; and that the BCCA should advise government to expect widespread non-compliance. The board accepted this recommendation and notified government.

At the end of the day the government decided not to proceed with this proposal without BCCA endorsement but advised to would be 12 months before they had time to work on a new proposal.

In September the BCCA met with government to request an extension to the groundwater licensing deadline of March 1, 2022 until the Livestock Watering Regulation was finished. The government again refused this request so those who are watering livestock on range (either private or Crown) from a groundwater source are left in never neverland. The Groundwater Regulation requires them to license but the Livestock Watering Regulation when it is completed may grant them an exemption.

When we next meet with government regarding the Livestock Watering Regulation we will once again request a province-wide regulation to continue watering stock on range as we always have, with provision for simple voluntary licensing for those who feel they need the additional security of a license.

Respectfully presented,

Mike McConnell