

## Meeting of the Board of Directors

**250 – 32160 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W5**

---

**Strategic:** Identify key opportunities and systemic challenges and plan for actions to effectively manage risks and take advantage of future opportunities.

**Accountable:** Maintain legitimacy and integrity through understanding and discharging responsibilities and reporting performance.

**Fair:** Ensure procedural fairness in processed and decision-making

**Effective:** A clearly defined outcome with appropriate processed and measures.

**Transparent:** Ensure that processes, practices, procedures & reporting on exercise of mandate are open, accessible and fully informed.

**Inclusive:** Ensure that appropriate interests, including the public interest, are considered.

---

### **MINUTES** **of** **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** March 18, 2020

**Location:** Conference Call

BOARD IN ATTENDANCE: Gunta Vitins, Chair  
Walter Siemens, Vice-Chair  
Matt Vane, Board Member  
Jon Krahn, Board Member  
Jeff Regier, Board Member

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Katie Lowe, Executive Director  
Julianne Cox, Executive Assistant

---

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Gunta Vitins, called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Board discussed any perceived conflicts of interest with the proposed agenda items

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was MOVED by Walter Siemens and SECONDED that the agenda be adopted as presented.

#### **1.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1.1 Approval of the Minutes of February 19-20, 2020

**R20-043** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Minutes of February 19-20, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the Minutes of March 4, 2020

**R20-044** It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Minutes of January 7, 2020 with minor edits.

CARRIED

## **2.0 BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION LIST**

### **2.1 HR Update**

A brief HR update was provided to the Board.

### **2.2 Period 4, 2020 COP**

**R20-045** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors agree to hold BC Producer Pricing for Period 04, 2020. This decision is effective from Week 13 to Week 16, 2020.

CARRIED

### **2.3 BCEMB Office Plan**

The Executive Director provided an update to the Board on the office plan amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The office will be transitioning to working from home over the next few days. Staff will either have access to the network on a company laptop or have our IT company provide them with remote desktop access on their personal pcs. There will be regular conference calls amongst the management team and management will have daily conference calls with their staff. All regular office functions will continue, including the accounting department's producer payment processes. The office has a VOIP phone system so staff will be able to continue receiving calls through their computers while at home. The PLOs will be limiting their audits to assure that contact is limited to one person per day.

## **3.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### **3.1 TRQ GAC Meeting**

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is holding a second phase of consultations regarding the allocation and administration of TRQ's. The provincial Ministry of Agriculture has arranged a meeting with the Supply Managed Commodities and Global Affairs Canada on Friday, March 20. Due to the virus concerns, the meeting has been postponed.

The Board discussed the import licenses process as it currently stands; specifically, traditional quota holders selling their TRQs and the suggested balancing roles of EFC and GAC. The Board discussed proposals that would best support supply management in Canada and British Columbia.

The BCEMB is waiting on the proposed input from EFC prior to the submission date to see what their next steps are. The Board is invited to provide their views and submit comments by email to the GAC by April 3, 2020.

## **4.0 OPERATIONS**

### **4.1 Update and Appeal**

A 2015 New Producer Program winner under the "producer-vendor" category is not fulfilling the producer-vendor requirements per our Consolidated Orders.

The appeal that was scheduled for March 19, 2020 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. It was proposed by [REDACTED] that the hearing continue via video conference to reduce the delay.

There is a pre-hearing conference call scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> that will provide further information on the process going forward.

**Action:** Staff is directed to provide an update to the Board once more information is available.

**4.2** Barn Fitness Audit Updates and Program Manual

BCEMB requires a Barn Fitness Policy and Audit. Prior to approving EPU leases between producers, BCEMB requires the successful completion of a Barn Fitness Review and Audit.

The Board reviewed the edits on the Barn Fitness Policy and Audit and approved the final document with edits effective March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Action:** Staff is directed to provide the PMC with suggested scoring systems that provide an overall summary for the Barn Fitness Audit results. Once reviewed by the PMC, the scoring system will be reviewed by the Board.

**4.2a** [REDACTED] - Barn Fitness Audit

The correspondence between [REDACTED] and the BCEMB was presented for review and discussion.

The Board reviewed the proposed response letter to [REDACTED] and supported the direction with edits.

**Action:** Staff is directed to send the revised letter to [REDACTED]

**4.3** Penalty Policy

An Amending Order to the Penalty Policy within the Consolidated Orders was recommended at the last Board meeting. The second reading of the amending order was conducted.

**R20-046** It was MOVED by Jon Krahn and SECONDED

THAT the Board of Directors approve the second reading of Amending Order 013 – Specialty Audit Penalty Policy and Barn Fitness Audit as presented.

CARRIED

**4.4** Specialty Producer

BC Egg became aware of a specialty producer who was receiving a premium on Free Range Eggs but not adhering to the program requirements. As a result, a penalty plan was put in place as per the Consolidated Orders. An update was provided to the Board on the status of the penalty. The first penalty payment will be deducted from the producer on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The penalty payment plan has been communicated verbally to the producer, followed by a letter that will outline all the details.

The Board discussed the producer's current status of not in good standing and the process of reassessment which will occur once the birds have accessed the range for a minimum of 120 days, as per the Specialty Audit requirements.

**Action:** Staff is directed to provide an update on the penalty repayment at each Board meeting.

4.5 [REDACTED] Update

On February 7, 2020, BCFIRB provided BCEMB and the appellant with their decision, dismissing the appeal pursuant to section 31(1)(b).

In the BCEMB's letter dated August 30, 2019 to [REDACTED] it stated that the producer was deemed not in good standing with the Consolidated Orders.

The Board discussed whether the producer has satisfied the necessary requirements to be brought back into good standing. The Board noted that there have not been any audits or measuring done on site to confirm the requirements had been met.

**R20-047** It was MOVED by Jeff Regier and SECONDED

WHEREAS due to the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19

THAT the Board of Directors deems [REDACTED] in good standing effective March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on a conditional basis. This conditional good standing will be reassessed upon completion of the 2020 program audits for the Canadian Organic Standards, EFC SCSC and EFC ACP standards as well as verification of the barn measurements.

CARRIED.

**Action:** Staff is directed to schedule and complete an on-site inspection once it is advised to do so, as per COVID protocols.

## **5.0 GOVERNANCE**

### **5.1 Committee Election Appointments**

There are multiple committee positions up for election in 2020. The Board reviewed the nominees, their interests and potential contributions to the committees

The appointments will be ratified via e-mail correspondence

### **5.2 PFGC Update**

The BC Egg Processors Council (BCEPC) have asked that a review of the Post Farm Gate Cost (PFGC) program be conducted. BC Egg has agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of the program in collaboration with graders. To compile background information, BC Egg and Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) are cost-sharing a research project to collect information on how farm gate pick up costs are managed in provinces across Canada and the implications of other programs such buyback, pricing, etc. JRG Consulting Group (JRG) has been hired to undertake the research which includes interviews with key stakeholders across the country.

BC Egg & EFA are working with JRG on the next steps regarding the interview process for the preliminary research.

The Board reviewed the interview process and supported the direction.

**Action:** Staff is directed to provide updates to the Board once information is available.

## **6.0 PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

### **7.0 MEETINGS HELD & UPCOMING**

#### **7.1 Upcoming Meetings Discussion**

A tentative date for the next Board of Directors meeting has been set for March 31<sup>st</sup>. This date will be reevaluated the week prior based upon the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.2 Producer & Supply Chain Risks

Identify the risks to producers & supply chain and determine potential mitigation measures from which a provincial strategy can be established. The feather chairs will have a conference call on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to combine efforts and communicate to the Minister how the sector is meeting the challenges and whether assistance is needed to minimize supply gaps.

The Board discussed possible risks to the egg production industry in BC looking specifically at the concerns relating to grading, fowl removal, transportation, feed, importation of day old chicks from the United States, and availability of tradespeople and materials to complete barn construction.

**Action:** Staff is directed to connect with the Grading companies to see if any significant impacts from the COVID-19 have affected them. An update will be provided to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED by Matt Vane and SECONDED that the meeting be adjourned at 2:26 pm.



---

Board Chair



---

Certified Correct, Secretary