

**Agriculture Union
National Council Meeting
April 28, 2006**

**Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto, Ontario**

MINUTES

In Attendance

National Executive:

Yves Ducharme, National President; **Bob Kingston**, 1st NEVP; **Debbie Forsythe**, 2nd NEVP; **Denis Sicard**, 3rd NEVP; **Howard Willems**, 4th NEVP.

Regional Vice-Presidents:

Brenda Baergen, Northern Saskatchewan; **Sam Barlin**, Manitoba, North Western Ontario & Nunavut; **Michele Coe**, Southern Alberta; **Ron Filteau**, Southern Saskatchewan; **André Grégoire**, Eastern Quebec; **Bob Jackson**, Western British Columbia and Yukon; **John Langs**, North East Ontario; **Allan MacRae**, Western Atlantic; **Darrell-Lee McKenzie**, Eastern British Columbia; **Glenn Miller**, South Western Ontario; **Fabian Murphy**, Eastern Atlantic; **Barry Payne**, Eastern Ontario, Ottawa-Gatineau; **Raphaël Tarasco**, Western Quebec; **Mike Vanson**, Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Directors:

Curt Elash, Canadian Grain Commission; **Marianne Hladun**, Equal Opportunities; **Céline Préfontaine**, Public Service Commission of Canada & the Canada School of the Public Service; **Idelta Vieira**, Department of National Defence.

Staff:

Larry Budge, Administrative Officer; **Elaine Massie**, Service Officer; **Sylvia Prowse**, Service Officer, **Sylvie Rochon**, Service Officer.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Yves Ducharme, the National President.

2. Opening Remarks

Yves greeted everyone and mentioned that the four Standing Committees will not have a chance to meet as this meeting was scheduled for just one day. He stated that he's looking forward to the PSAC convention later this week and announced that in the afternoon, two candidates running for the PSAC presidency - Heather Brooker and Jean-François Deslauriers - will drop by and introduce themselves to the Council members.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Additions:

- 15 – Merit Principle Pilot Project
- 16 – CFIA Staffing in Québec Region
- 17 – CFIA Harassment Training update
- 18 – Co-developed Training - AAFC and CFIA

- **M/S/C** – MacRae/Filteau – THAT the agenda, including additions above, be adopted.

4. Hours of Session

Proposed hours of session:

April 28/06:

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or until completion of business

- **M/S/C** – Miller/Préfontaine – THAT the proposed hours of session be adopted.

5. Approval of the February 2006 Council Minutes

Corrections to English and French minutes:

Item 12 – the merger reference in first sentence should read: Shearwater – Halifax and not Shearwater - Winnipeg.

Corrections – French minutes only:

On page 12 - the last sentence should read «...à savoir combien cela coûtera de faire breveter le logo. »

On page 13 – the second sentence of last paragraph should read: « Les membres pourront utiliser le texte que Sylvie va préparer, ou celui ...».

On page 19 – the recommendation regarding Regulation 1(A), Section 2 (c) should read : « Deux (2) Directeur(rice)s venant du MDN, de la CFP/ÉFPC, de la CCG, de la PÉ, à tour de rôle à chaque congrès ».

- **M/S/C** – Préfontaine/Vieira - THAT the February 2006 Council minutes, including the above mentioned corrections, be adopted.

Unanimous - Recorded Vote #1

6. **Business Arising out of Minutes**

Yves provided an update regarding meeting with Mr. Guimont; during the meeting it was apparent that the new CFIA president was not fully informed on several long standing issues that we're committed to and so Yves took time to inform him.

Regarding ongoing Classification Reviews, Sylvie and Elaine gave updates and took questions from Council members.

Regarding the Info Key document, Fabian Murphy raised conflicting information regarding regional seminars; Debbie Forsythe (Finance & Communications), took note of the discrepancy and will discuss with Sylvie Rochon.

7. **Finance and Communications**

The Finance Standing Committee did not meet (see item 2 - Opening Remarks).

Regarding Communications, the Council discussed the Union's upcoming 40th anniversary.

- **M/S/C** - Miller/Préfontaine – That each Council member shall receive one sheet of commemorative stamps with our 40th anniversary logo.

Unanimous – Recorded Vote #2

These sheets will each have 40 usable stamps which Council members will use for correspondence.

Marianne Hladun and Brenda Baergen talked about a bike-a-thon fundraiser that will be taking place in Saskatoon in June. Money raised will go to NASHI, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in Ukraine. A pledge form was circulated around the table for donations.

- **M/S/C** - Forsythe/Willems – That the Component shall contribute double the amount donated by Council members.

Unanimous

NOTE: Council members donated \$500 and so the Component will contribute \$1000. Marianne and Brenda gave a big thank you! to everyone.

8. **National Office Staff**

Larry Budge and Bob Kingston provided updates. As previously stated, Sylvia Prowse will be off for six months and efforts to fill her position were delayed. A successful candidate was found but the person was unable to secure leave to come over. A second job posting took place and

the interview process was just completed last week; reference checks are all that remain and the Executive will make a decision on a candidate later this week.

9. PSAC Convention Committee reports

Members of the Executive gave updates regarding the PSAC committee that they sit on and discussed priorities with Council members.

10. Planning Session Follow Up

Yves gave a progress report regarding activities and action items that were identified at the planning session.

11. Collective Bargaining Update

Yves and Bob provided updates. Regarding CFIA, Mike McNamara will be back as PSAC negotiator; team members will be elected at the National Bargaining conference later this fall. Regarding Treasury Board, January 2007 seems to be the target date for the National Bargaining conference.

12. PSAC Candidates Caucus meeting

Jean François Deslauriers and Heather Brooker, two candidates vying for the PSAC presidency, met with Council to discuss their platform.

13. Inspection Reform Committee Update

Denis Sicard, Chairperson of the Inspection Reform Committee, gave progress reports and took questions regarding Beef, Hogs and Poultry reforms; he stated that Richard Brady is the new Poultry Inspection Reform technical team rep for Ontario. Bob Jackson stated the need to hold meetings in the near future to discuss important issues; Denis agreed but right we must wait for feedback from union reps.

14. Next meeting

Dates for the next National Council meeting were not scheduled at this time. A decision will be made once the PSAC announces its Bargaining Conference dates.

15. Merit Principle Pilot Project

Céline Préfontaine shared information with Council members regarding a Merit Principle pilot project that she recently attended.

16. CFIA Staffing Québec Region

Raphaël Tarasco reported to Council that there are new staffing issues surfacing in the Québec region. Issues regarding EG3's, EG4's and the EG1 (Developmental) were identified and discussed by Council. Our concerns will be brought to Mary Brodhead's attention in a meeting that we have with her in 2 weeks.

17. CFIA Harassment Training Update

Marianne Hladun gave a progress report. The course has been developed and is now ready to be delivered as a pilot project; after that stage, adjustments will be made then members will be informed once course becomes available.


18. Co-developed Training – AAFC and CFIA

Bob Kingston gave a progress report.

Adjournment

- **M/S/C** – Payne/Tarasco – THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer