

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**April 20, 2009
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**

1. Call to Order

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; in attendance were Debbie Forsythe, Denis Sicard, Howard Willems, Fabian Murphy and Larry Budge.

2. Opening Remarks

Bob commented on the parliamentary inquiry on food safety and the stories that appeared in that day's editions of the Globe & Mail, the Toronto Star and the Ottawa Citizen on April 18. Carole Swan and Michael McCain are scheduled to appear in front of parliamentary subcommittee later today.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- **M/S** – Willems/Sicard – That the proposed agenda be adopted.
UNANIMOUS.

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

April 20 /09: 9:00 a.m. to completion.

- **M/S** – Sicard/Murphy – That the hours of session be adopted as proposed.
UNANIMOUS.

5. Approval of the January 2009 National Executive minutes

- **M/S** – Murphy/Willems – Adoption of the January 2009 National Executive minutes. **UNANIMOUS.**

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

Office Renovation update: Work began on April 17 and the project is scheduled to last between three to five weeks – Elaine and Nancy will have temporary office space in the building and the rest of the staff have agreed to work from home. Updates will be posted on our web site.

Agriculture Union Convention follow: Bob wants each standing committee to provide progress reports by November on the resolutions that were passed at the August 08 convention.

7. Financial Report

Audited Financial Statements

The Executive reviewed the statements that were prepared by Ted R. Lupinski, CA. The bottom line for the 2008 year end shows a loss of \$246,297; the loss is explained in large part by the fact that the August 08 convention was over budget by \$199,037. Other reasons for the loss include National Council decisions to: Extend meetings for training, to have Alternates attend November 08 meetings and to use funds for Political Action (Bill C-39 / Food Safety).

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Sicard – That the Executive approve the 2008 year end audited financial statements.
UNANIMOUS.

Investments

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Murphy – That the investments coming to maturity before the next Executive meeting shall be reinvested at the best possible rate of return.
UNANIMOUS.

8. National Office

Bob provided progress report; he mentioned that Lynda Koo joined the team and is currently working hard at getting up to speed. Bob and Debbie met with the Service Officers to discuss workload issues and duties were then reorganized; the matter will be re-evaluated in the fall.

9. Communication

Debbie gave a progress report; she met with Alan Pryde to discuss our web site; she asked him to develop a new layout which we want ready to be revealed at the Council meetings in November. The Executive also discussed two issues regarding membership information. The first issue was regarding up to date membership address lists; as per PSLRB decision, we're supposed to have access to this but right now it's a problem and it's making Christine's job difficult to communicate with our members. To deal with this issue we plan on discussing at next NUMC with CFIA and also with the PSAC (as Treasury Board is supposed to provide us with that info). The other issue was regarding outdated info on Local Executive Officers that are responsible for H&S; the National Office will contact all locals to get this information.

10. CFIA Update

Progress report by Bob; he mentioned that CFIA senior managers have been more cooperative lately and that we're seeing more consultation on their part; it seems that

they have communication challenges with their lower level managers. Bob also mentioned that the Operations Directors want to meet the rest of the Executive and a meeting will be set aside to do that. The dates of May 12 to May 15 have been set aside for: the HR update meeting, NUMC, NOSH and Meat Inspection Reform committee meeting.

Admin Group Campaign

The Executive worked on a campaign letter; the letter will be circulated to members and they'll be able to send it to Carole Swan to voice their anger regarding the unpaid \$4000. As for issues we have with the classification system, a letter to Members of Parliament and sample grievance wording were drafted; this will be made available to members as well.

11. AAFC update

Bob gave a progress report on recent restructuring and many changes at the ADM level; it looks like the door is now open for more NUMC meetings. At a recent HR update meeting, a request was made to provide new ADM Catherine MacQuarrie with an update on the EG Review and the GL Process; this meeting has not been scheduled yet. The Executive discussed changes at PFRA which could have negative impact on our membership; it was reported that opposition MP's are against changes.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report; Bill C-13 is pretty much dead and the appetite for the Conservatives to resurrect it in another form is very low. Nothing new regarding proposed drop in weigh and inspection requirements to the US. Regarding One Operational Group, the Steering Committee has ordered that the proposed positions be classified so that members can make informed decisions; the PSAC classification staff will be working with the CGC on this task.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Debbie provided progress report. She stated that both employers are having collaboration issues; they say one thing in meetings and do the opposite later. This approach has resulted in an increase in classification grievances being filed and we need to address this. On May 5 we have a NUMC meeting scheduled with the School and on May 20 there will be an HR update meeting with PSC.

14. DND update

Bob informed the Executive that part of school for management training will be closed; no layoffs were announced as result of school closure.

15. Negotiations update

All new contracts with Treasury Board were signed; however the new CFIA contract is still unsigned. Also, regarding Bill C-10, Bob reported that the PSAC is looking at challenging the proposed legislation.

16. Social Justice Fund (SJF)

Debbie provided a progress report. In a conference call last February 3, committee members approved three applications; a total of \$33,000 in funding was committed. Details of the projects are on our web site. The logo contest is now closed and the Committee will be making a choice later this week during Council meeting.

17. PSAC Convention

The PSAC Standing Committees met last February; on Sunday April 26 at 10am, the Executive will provide a progress report to Agriculture Union delegates on our resolutions that were forwarded to the PSAC convention.

18. Media Training for Council members on April 21/09

The Executive discussed upcoming training on April 21/09.

19. National Officer Handbook

Denis provided progress report. On April 18 and 19, subcommittee members Milton Dyck, Raphael Tararsco, Teri Friday, Bob Jackson, Sylvie Rochon and himself prepared a draft handbook for National Officers. The Executive read the draft and provided feedback to Denis.

20. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15 and 16 in Ottawa.

Having dealt with all agenda items, a motion to recess was entertained. The meeting adjourned at the end of PSAC convention business on May 1/09. Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer