

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**September 22-23, 2007
National Office
Ottawa, Ontario**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Opening Remarks

After calling the meeting to order Yves mentioned that the matter regarding lab transfers at AAFC is what's keeping us busy these days. He also mentioned that he plans to ask AAFC's new Cabinet Minister, Gerry Ritz, to meet with him.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Addition:

23. Local 14 - Complaint

- **M/S** –Forsythe/Willems – That the proposed agenda be adopted, including above noted addition.

Carried unanimously.

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

September 22/07:	9:00 a.m. – Noon	1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
September 23/07:	8:30 a.m. – Noon	1:30 p.m. to completion

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

Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the April 2007 National Executive minutes

(Correction to English version only)

See item 7: Funding request denied in March 2007

The last sentence should read: '*...that the nature of the request was not consistent with our By-Laws*'.

- **M/S** – Willems/Forsythe – Adoption of the April 2007 National Executive minutes, including above noted correction.

Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

From item 6 Elections for Alternate RVP's and Directors

Yves reported that Brea Lewis was elected Alt RVP for Southern Alberta. Considering ongoing problems in keeping locals active in that area, the Executive unanimously agreed that she should attend the next Council meeting with Michele Coe - **M/S/C** Willems/Sicard.

From DND Update

We received some good news since the last meeting; before being replaced as Minister of Defence, Gordon O'Connor announced that bilingual requirements for DND officers will be enforced.

From Item 18 Recognition of Life Membership – André Bonin

Due to lack of information, the Executive unanimously agreed that an Agriculture Union Life Membership will not be awarded to Brother Bonin – **M/S/C** - Sicard/Kingston.

7. Financial Report

Debbie and Larry provided a progress report on the Union's financial situation.

Investments:

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Willems – That the investments coming to maturity before the next Executive meeting in November 2007 be reinvested at the best possible rate of return.

Carried Unanimously.

- **M/S** – Willems/Sicard – That the Union shall take \$250,000 from the Union's operating account and invest it at the best possible rate of return.

Carried Unanimously.

8. National Office Staff – New Equipment

Bob and Debbie talked about AEU negotiations (with staff) and the new 3 year agreement that was signed last July.

The Executive then discussed equipment requirements for the National Office – they unanimously agreed that given current state of aging equipment that the Union shall place orders for laptops, peripherals and mailing equipment - **M/S/C** Willems/Forsythe.

9. Communications – Rand Campaign update

Rands

Debbie gave a progress report; she noted that so far we've signed over 600 rand members, which is 200 more than what we initially hoped for. However, despite the high number of signed rands since the contest began earlier this year, we're finding that there is a high turnover of seasonal members. For his part, Howard mentioned that due to the nature of their work, PFRA members are extremely difficult to track down, let alone getting them to sign cards.

10. CFIA update

PI/EG Review

Progress report by Bob; with the new contract that was signed yesterday, the CFIA will put emphasis on implementing the new collective agreement; in the meantime, as a result from recent classification decisions, members affected by the EG review will be receiving letters regarding timelines on review related payments.

Inspection Reform Committee

Nothing new to report as we've been unable to set up any type of meeting with our CFIA counterpart.

Expenditures Review

The Executive discussed CFIA's '5% low priority' exercise where it must identify, from a financial point of view, its lowest priorities. We want to know, for example, how the Agency will come to determine its lowest priorities and what will happen to members impacted by this exercise. The topic is on the NUMC agenda.

NUMC

The Executive discussed Agenda items for upcoming NUMC meeting on October 22, 2007.

11. AAFC update

Classification Review

Progress report given by Yves and Bob regarding review.

Transfer of non-regulatory labs

The Executive discussed and formulated concerns that it will share with the Internal Panel of Experts that is currently studying this matter. Bob will also talk to Howie West and Bonnie Bates on this and as mentioned in the opening remarks, a letter will be sent to Gerry Ritz, the new Minister at AAFC.

12. CGC update

One Operational Group

Yves gave a progress report and discussed the conference call that took place last week. A draft copy of the work plan is available and on October 15th, the steering committee is expected to discuss the 36 recommendations. In the interim, we've asked the PSAC to evaluate which options would be better for our members.

13. PSC / CSPS update

Progress report was provided by Bob; he stated that the School is still lagging behind on H&S but noted that it's currently trying to correct the situation. The next UMC meeting is scheduled for late October or early November.

14. DND update

In addition to the good news reported in the opening remarks, Yves was happy to announce that the Royal Military College in St-Jean will reopen its doors as a training facility; the college had been closed for nearly 13 years. Regarding H&S, Bob reported that DND's extensive and complicated structure does not meet with the terms outlined in the Canada Labour Code.

15. Education – Agriculture Union needs

The Executive discussed the importance for locals to identify needs they might have regarding education; to that end, information will be sent to all locals to explain what is available in terms of education courses.

16. National Council Training

Members of the Executive discussed upcoming Human Rights training session scheduled for November. However, with so many locals not being able to function properly, the Executive decided that we will poll Council members by email to see if the Human Rights training can be postponed so that we can provide a different type of training that will focus on helping out troubled locals.

17. Negotiations update

Bob provided a progress report. He explained how we came to an agreement with CFIA regarding ESA; the highlight is that no union rep can be designated and all designations have to be discussed with local union reps. The Executive also discussed mobilization efforts being coordinated by Cathy Murphy, PSAC Regional Coordinator for the Atlantic; Debbie will verify with our reps there to see if they can attend a mobilization committee meeting scheduled for October.

18. PSAC Campaign – Defending Quality in the Public Service

Yves informed the Executive regarding the PSAC's initiative regarding above mentioned campaign. The matter will be discussed at upcoming NBOD meeting and more information will follow.

19. Agriculture Union Convention – Québec 2008

It was noted that we need to clear up language in our Regulations regarding the election process at conventions for the National Director positions. Also, regarding communications, it was unanimously agreed that Alan Pryde should come to Convention so that he can provide updates for our web site – **M/S/C** – Forsythe/Kingston. Regarding translation requirements, Larry stated that having our translator on site would be of great help to staff and so to that end Larry will find out from Bernard if he's available.

20. EO Issues – CFIA Harassment Training

Yves and Bob provided updates. The training materials have been approved but delays in providing training for eventual facilitators means that CFIA can not deliver the actual training. Bob will discuss with Marianne Hladun regarding an option that would allow the training to get underway.

21. PSAC National Conferences

The Executive discussed delegate seating for upcoming National Women's Conference.

22. National Council Meeting

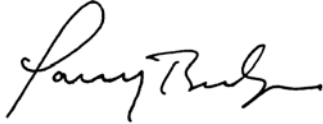
Upcoming meeting dates

November 16-17, 2007
January 28-29, 2008
April 7-8, 2008 (Québec City)

23. Local 14 - Complaint

The National Executive discussed a report and recommendations prepared by Mike Martin (of Springwinds Training) concerning the mediation process that he worked on regarding Local 14's complaint. Yves will write to the local and explain the Executive's point of view.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned. Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer