

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**September 23-25, 2008
National Office, Ottawa ON**

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 welcomed his new Executive and looks forward to working with everyone.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were proposed:

September 23/08:	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
September 24/08:	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
September 25/08:	9:00 a.m. – Noon 1:30 p.m. to completion

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

5. Approval of the April 2008 National Executive minutes

Correction at 10: please remove the letters “It” from Omer Boudreau’s name.

- **M/S** – Forsythe/Willems – Adoption of the April 2008 National Executive minutes.
UNANIMOUS.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

From Item 6 – Elections

Mike Vanson will replace Brea Lewis on the CFIA bargaining team.

From Item 6 - Transfer of non-regulatory labs

The Treasury Board report is finally out and one laboratory will be co-managed (see item 11).

From item 10 – CFIA NUMC

A date for a NUMC meeting has not yet been confirmed.

From item 12 – Bill C-39

Joe Comuzzi never took time to meet with us and it's now reported that he will not be running for re-election in Thunder Bay.

7. Financial Report

Investments

- **M/S – Forsythe/Sicard – 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 reported that Sylvia has discussed her retirement plans with him and stated that she hopes to leave before next summer. In light of this the Executive worked on a job poster and prepared questions for the interviews that will be conducted on October 15 and 17. It was decided that Bob, Debbie and Sylvia will sit the hiring board.

9. Communication

Debbie gave a progress report; she discussed Alan Pryde's focus group report which contains recommendations for improvements to our web site.

10. CFIA Update

In an effort to secure a NUMC meeting the Executive looked at available dates that Bob will check with CFIA; once a date is set he will confirm with the others. Bob then gave an update on the listeriosis/ food safety issue; his phone has been ringing off the hook and he has conducted countless radio and television interviews. Our web site now has a link to www.foodsafetyfirst.ca, which is a joint web site that was launched soon after the federal election was called; everyone is invited to join the campaign. The fallout from the outbreak has put the Inspection Reform Committee back at the forefront and Denis and Howard will help the CFIA co-develop a CVS survey.

11. AAFC update

Non-regulatory labs

As mentioned earlier, Treasury Board's report on the transfer of non-regulatory labs is now out and a research lab in Winnipeg will be affected. The parties involved are looking at a joint management structure; the Executive discussed with AAFC possible governance issues.

Office of Conflict Resolutions

At the HR update on September 17th we learned that the OCR was no longer an independent organization; because of this Steve Tierney stated that AAFC was willing to pay for an outside mediator. An update will be posted on our web site.

OSH

It was reported that the employer was having a hard time finding worksite reps to sit on committees and is asking the Policy committee for assistance.

EAP

The EAP contract is up and review will take place before a new one is awarded.

12. CGC Update

Bill C-39

The Bill died once the federal election was called. Bob stated that the www.grainaction.ca web site will continue to appear on our web site as it's still a relevant lobbying tool.

One Operational Group

Two weeks ago Bob was at a Steering Committee meeting and gave a progress report. He stated that we provided feedback on the 4 options that are being considered. The next step will be to draft the work descriptions and to classify the positions; Bob hopes to get help from the PSAC.

Suspended Member

Denis will follow up with Jim Stewart and HRDC on a case where one of our CGC members in Québec was suspended.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Debbie gave a progress report on the CSPS. She and Meraiah attended a NUMC meeting on September 15th; management said all the right things and now we will have to see if they will follow up. Regarding the PSC, a NUMC meeting is scheduled for October 31. The Executive discussed PSC Local 10325 which has been inactive for several years now; it was decided that Bob and Denis would follow up with Meraiah and possibly Raphaël.

14. DND update

Bob stated that he was no longer the chair of the H&S Policy committee. Regarding language training, he stated that it was still an issue; many officers want the training but will only get it if they absolutely need it. The facilities issue remains to be a huge one; something was in the works but for some unexplained reason things have stalled. Bob stated that Idelta has a new position with DND.

15. Negotiations update

Nothing new to report as there were no meetings over the summer.

16. November 2008 National Council Meeting

The Executive discussed the up coming Council meeting and decided that the two days of scheduled training will take place on November 1 (Orientation Session and a Human Rights training), and on November 2 (Health & Safety). The Executive also assigned Council members to the following Standing Committees:

Finance and Communication

Debbie Forsythe – Chair

Bob Jackson, Brenda Baergen, Barry Payne, Rick Cormier and Larry Budge

By-Laws and Education

Denis Sicard – Chair

John Langs, Idelta Vieira, Milton Dyck, Jane McDonald and Jean Cloutier

General

Howard Willems – Chair

Darrell-Lee McKenzie, Marianne Hladun, Mike Vanson and Teri Friday

Collective Bargaining and Health & Safety

Fabian Murphy - Chair

Raphaël Tarasco, Sam Barlin, Glenn Miller, Michele Coe and Meraiah Krebs

Employer Updates at Council meetings

- **M/S** – Murphy/Willems – THAT RVP's and Directors provide written reports of employer updates to the National Office at least two weeks before each Council meeting AND THAT these reports be translated and redistributed to Council members before the meeting.

UNANIMOUS.

It was understood that this new procedure would be explained at the November National Council orientation session.

17. Agriculture Union Convention – Follow up

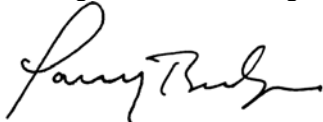
The Executive compiled a list of outstanding resolutions from Convention that will be dealt with at the Council meeting in November. They also discussed the Social Justice Fund (SJF); as per the convention resolution adopted last August, the Executive must establish guidelines for the SJF. It was decided that Debbie, Howard, Denis and Larry would meet before the next Executive meeting and draft a set of guidelines and report back at the next meeting.

18. Next Meeting

The following meeting dates were set:

October 30 & 31, 2008	Ottawa
January 27 & 28, 2008	Ottawa
April 20 & 21, 2009	Vancouver

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



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer