

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting
August 27-28, 2013
Conference Call**

1. Call to Order

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; in attendance were Fabian Murphy and Larry Budge. Glenn Miller, Raphaël Tarasco (day 1 only) and Meraiah Morison (day 2 only) called in via conference call.

2. Opening Remarks

Bob greeted everyone to the meeting; in his opening remarks he stated that Meraiah was unable to join on day 1 due to previously scheduled appointments. As for Raphaël, he stated he had an important meeting to attend with PSAC and would therefore miss day 2.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.
M/S/C – Miller/Tarasco

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were adopted unanimously.
M/S/C – Miller/Murphy

August 27, 2013	9:00am to 5:00pm
August 28, 2013	9:00am to completion

5. Approval of the April 2013 National Executive minutes

The Executive reviewed and approved the draft minutes **M/S/C** – Miller/Murphy.

6. Business Arising Out Of the Minutes

From item #8 on PI review : Nothing new to report as CFIA has no capacity to deal with HR issues. From item #22 on PSAC Exclusion report: a meeting with our Labour Relations Officers did not take place; a new meeting will be rescheduled to discuss other criteria that we can use to challenge certain exclusions.

7. Financial Report

Financial Statements – Dues for CFIA members

The Executive reviewed the unaudited financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2013. With regards to dues revenue, Bob informed everyone that he received a

letter from PSAC which stated that it failed to input new salary information when the last CFIA collective agreement was ratified; as a result, CFIA members have received a dues holiday dating back to 2008. The PSAC database will be updated and beginning in October, members at CFIA will see their dues increase to reflect up to date salaries.

Investments

M/S/C – Miller/Tarasco - That we take \$500,000 from the CIBC operating account and invest at the best possible rate of return - carried unanimously.

Finance – Bylaws Structure Committee

It was noted that both committees will be holding a conference call on September 25th to continue discussions on Agriculture Union structure.

8. National Office

A progress report was given by Bob and Fabian. Sylvie Rochon is currently on leave without pay; on June 17th she started a 3 month term at the Gatineau Regional Office. Her position was posted but the candidates could not get leave from their current employers. After checking with National Council members in the NCR, Erick Martel came in on July 15th, to replace Sylvie; he is now up to speed on the files that Sylvie left for him and so far things are working out. Sylvie is now requesting for an extension until the end of October; the Executive will approve if Erick can get his leave from the PSC extended. Debbie Ramsay recently notified us that she plans on retiring; her last day will likely be December 24th, later this year. A competition poster will be up by late October and we hope to have the selection process done by December 1st.

9. Communication

Fabian provided progress report. The new web site is moving along; we're currently looking at 2 different templates to choose from; the Communication committee will make a choice and Fabian will inform Jim Thompson.

10. CFIA Update

Bob gave a progress report, stating the Bruce Archibald is the new CFIA President. With regards to labour relations, it's never been worse: the Agency has no capacity to do anything, people that have left are not being replaced, and the Agency can only deal with a very limited number of issues. Bob and Raphaël gave updates regarding Health and Safety complaints that are ongoing. Regarding grievances on 7 Day Shift Work in St-Hyacinthe, Raphaël stated that we're still waiting the meeting to take place.

11. AAFC update

Progress report; Nova Scotia Liberal MP Mark Eyking is the critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food; we will set up a meeting with him as soon as we can so that we can convey our objections with the Conservative agenda. In the last weeks we've just received notice that more cuts are coming at CPMA where 19 members will be receiving letters; all but 3 three will be going through the SERLO process.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report; there's a WFA meeting scheduled for September 6th to discuss more cuts; members on priority lists are being ignored and we intend to discuss re-training of members.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Meraiah and Bob provided a progress reports. Regarding our Policy grievance at the CSPS, only preliminary hearings have taken place; Bob will check with PSAC for an update. We have a WFA meeting scheduled for September 4th at CSPS and October 1st, at the PSC. Regarding NUMCC, we have a meeting scheduled for October 17th. Nothing new to report regarding WFA issues at the PSC.

14. DND update

Bob and Fabian provided progress reports. Regarding WFA, we received some good news; 6 members were appointed to indeterminate positions in St-Jean.

15. Negotiations update

TC Group: ratification votes are ongoing and the feeling is that it will pass. CFIA: not much progress to report; with regards to the PIC report, we're not surprised by issues that remain outstanding regarding severance. The input call is already out for next round of negotiations and bargaining proposals have to be in our office by November 8th.

16. Social Justice Fund

Progress report provided by Fabian. The SJF committee received direction from the National Executive to re-examine an application from the Alberta seminar; upon review, the SJF Committee agreed that the Calgary Women's' Emergency Shelter does in fact fall within the SJF mandate (anti-poverty) and so funding was approved. Currently the Committee has 2 demands in the works and both are for disaster relief: One for Lac-Mégantic (Québec trail derailment) and the other is for High River (Alberta flood relief).

17. Political Action

Progress report. On the Community Pastures Program, we continue to provide support to Margaret Atwood and the Public Pastures – Public Interest' web site; we will set meeting with new Liberal critic Mark Eyking to discuss our interests. Regarding Bill C-377: Prorogation of parliament does not mean the issue is dead and we will likely have to start over.

18. Agriculture Union 2014 Triennial Convention in Winnipeg

Sam Barlin is working on setting up host committee duties. The Executive drew up a list possible guest speakers for Convention, the following names were mentioned: Greg Selinger, the NDP Premier of Manitoba and Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture.

19. Supplemental Pension Plan

Progress report.

20. Vacancies in Union Leadership Positions

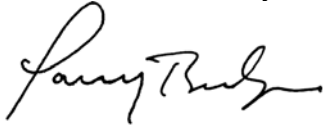
The Executive discussed up coming vacancies in our Union; all positions will be filled as per our By-Laws.

21. Next meeting

The next 2 meetings are scheduled for November 4-5, 2013, and January 30-31, 2014, both in Ottawa.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer