

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting
August 23-24, 2012
National Office**

1. Call to Order

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; also in attendance were Fabian Murphy, Glenn Miller, Raphaël Tarasco, Meraiah Krebs and Larry Budge.

2. Opening Remarks

After greeting everyone to the meeting Bob mentioned the passing of former Agriculture Union National President Andy Stewart and stated that we will posting a message on our web site. He also mentioned that Erick Martel will be in the office later today to discuss on going developments at the CSPS.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Hours of Session

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

August 23, 2012	9:00am to 5:00pm
August 24, 2012	9:00am to completion

5. Approval of the April 2012 National Executive minutes

The Executive reviewed and corrected the draft minutes; they were then unanimously approved. **M/S/C** – Krebs/Miller.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes

Two items from last April were agenda items for this meeting - see item 19 Supplemental Pension Plan and item 20 Local Complaints.

7. Financial Report

Investments

M/S/C – Krebs/Tarasco - That the investments coming to maturity before the next Executive meeting shall be reinvested at the best possible rate of return - carried unanimously.

With regards to the Political Action Funded Reserve – it was noted that we are currently over budget for this year, however we haven't approached the PSAC yet with regards to cost sharing some of the costs.

8. National Office

A progress report was provided by Fabian; he stated that the Service Officers still have work load issues; part of the reason is that Locals are not providing complete grievance files. With regards to the GL grievances that have started to come in, Fabian mentioned that they will be dealt with as per normal internal process; for now our priority will be to forward them to the 3rd level where they will be grouped if possible. With regards to the grievance date base, it's complete and the data entry into MS Access has begun.

9. Communication

Progress report provided by Fabian. With regards to the web site, members of the Executive reported problems with accessing the Calendar and Contact Us pages with their mobile devices; Fabian took note of these problems and will report back. He then gave a progress report on Resolution B2 (Convention 2011); we will be getting competing bids for web site maintenance and the information from those bids will help us determine next course of action on that resolution.

10. CFIA Update

Progress reports on the Employment Transition Policy (ETP) and on the alternation process were given. Raphaël is on an ETP sub-committee with Val Coupal and Gérard Étienne and they will be dealing with over 600 issues that were referred to them, including specific issues with the alternation process. Bob gave an update regarding continuing problems in Toronto regarding hours of work; he stated that he's been in discussions with Mr. Ramdeholl and also with Human Resources; as per article 24.11 they have to consult.

11. AAFC update

Glenn gave a progress report on NOSH. With regards to WFA, Fabian stated that all WFA committees have been meeting on a regular basis with over 70 meetings having taken place so far; as of today approximately 100 members have been looked after. In Kapuskasing, all employees have opted for transition support (option 2). Bob gave a progress report regarding the community pastures program which is getting axed by the Harper government; the Executive is working on launching a campaign to save grasslands; a conference call will take place in the up coming weeks to discuss with Council.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report; with regards to this fall's parliamentary session, he's expecting the Harper government to table another bill that will affect the CGC and our members.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Erick Martel was brought in to discuss with the Executive on going issues at the CSPS; he gave a progress report stating that members there have been shut out of the alternation process and he's exploring ways to prolong the opting in period; Bob is of the opinion that the CSPS President should simply rescind the original letters that went out. There was also an update regarding the anonymous letter that was circulated at the school; the President is aware of the situation and some good may come of it. Erick also mentioned that he's been in discussions with Sam Barlin regarding amalgamation of the PSC local in Winnipeg. Meraiah informed the Executive of a violence in the workplace issue in Edmonton.

14. DND update

Fabian provided a progress report regarding WFA committees; they've had several meetings and the Department is very good at talking but so far information on their alternation process is hard to come by. With regards to Part XX Violence in the workplace, Bob stated the Department is finally getting serious about getting this going.

15. Negotiations update

Regarding negotiations with CFIA, it looks like we're heading towards mediation; right now there's no down side to this and so we'll see where that leads us; no dates have been set yet.

With regards to TC table, dates of November 12-16, have been set aside for the Public Interest Commission (PIC) hearings.

16. Social Justice Fund

Fabian gave a progress report – he stated that since last Council the committee received one application from the Nappan local in NS.

17. Political Action

As discussed at item 11, the Harper government is letting go of the prairie grasslands and the Executive is working on an action plan to combat this.

18. Agriculture Union Triennial Convention

No bids were sent in for consideration for 2014. Will make a decision in November.

19. Supplemental Pension Plan

Bob gave an update to the Executive; with Treasury Board no longer willing to allow elected officers to take part in reciprocal agreement – which is still in place but for staff only – we’re setting up our SPP with the help of Buck Consultants; we’re currently in discussion with them to iron out specific intricacies with the plan.

20. Local Complaints

Local 00015 in Hamilton is still having internal issues regarding representation. With regards to Local 10377, Fabian will prepare a letter in response to Brother Francis Clermont.

21. Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety

The Executive discussed the upcoming CCOHS conference on October 29-30, 2012.

M/S/C – Miller/Krebs – That we send our National Co-Chairs to this conference - carried unanimously.

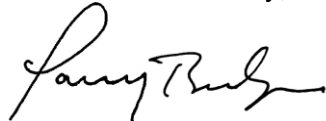
This means that Terry Friday, Meraiah and Glenn will be attending this conference.

22. Next meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for November 5-6, 2012.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer