

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting**

**January 17-18, 2011
National Office**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Opening Remarks

Bob greeted everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy New Year; he noted that Howard will be joining in via conference call and Skype later today.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously, **M/S/C** – Murphy/Sicard.

4. Hours of Session

The following hours of session were adopted unanimously, **M/S/C** – Forsythe/Sicard.

January 17	9:00am to 5:00pm
January 18	9:00am to completion

5. Approval of October 31 / November 1, 2010 National Executive minutes

The Executive reviewed the draft minutes and made a few corrections; the minutes were then unanimously approved, **M/S/C** – Sicard/Murphy.

6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes – National Council Tracking Report

No new business.

7. Financial Report

The Executive reviewed the Financial Statements (unaudited) for period ending December 31, 2010, as well as the investments (nothing to renew).

8. National Office

Regarding Sylvia Prowse, Bob confirmed with the Executive that after many years of dedicated service Sylvia will be retiring on February 4th; to mark the occasion, Bob, Debbie and the staff will be taking her out for supper. Regarding Linda Koo, her term position is scheduled to end in March, and the Executive agreed to extend her term until the end of this year as this should allow her to complete the PI/EG review.

9. Communication

Regarding the RVP/Directors Handbook, Debbie informed the Executive that she did not receive a lot of input from Council members; that said Elaine, Sylvie and herself are almost finished working on it; she noted that a draft copy will be sent out before next Council meeting. Regarding the Key Info Kit, only two sections remain outstanding and a draft copy will be ready before next Council meeting. Regarding the web site, some of the changes that were requested remain outstanding and Debbie will be discussing with Alan Pryde.

10. CFIA Update

Regarding the PI/EG review, Bob stated that senior managers have finished their historical review of the file which has given them a better understanding of what's at stake for our members; that said Bob mentioned that the Union and the Agency are trying to see what can be done to expedite matters. Regarding Irregular Hours of Work, Bob announced that a Joint National consultation Committee will be struck in order to discuss this issue; Bob is waiting on a formal letter from Ginette Workman that will start the process. Regarding Joint Harassment Training, the Agency has agreed to go ahead with the Train the Trainers session first and by March 31, five sessions will have taken place. Regarding the National Recruitment program, the Agency has informed us that it has received over 1700 applications. Regarding the Specified Risk Material (SRM) Audits, we've been informed by Cam Prince that this will soon all fall under provincial jurisdictions; according to him this was always going to be the case however some areas were not yet ready to take over, which is why some of our members were conducting the audits.

11. AAFC update

Bob mentioned that on January 11, Catherine MacQuarrie left AAFC to go over to the Privy Council; replacing her is Tim Petitpas who is now acting ADM. Regarding the EG Review, in 28 cases the levels have gone up and now we're trying to find out if the Department can simply appoint members to the level in question; in 42 other cases the job content grievance was allowed or partially allowed and letters are being sent out to inform the member in question; in other 14 cases there was no change. Regarding GL Review, mapping issues are currently being examined and during this time we've agreed to put grievances in abeyance. Regarding AESB, Fabian will be drafting a letter requesting a meeting in March.

12. CGC Update

Regarding One Operational Group (OOG), Bob stated that members of the steering committee are trying to set up a meeting to come up with recommendations that would address implementation issues. Regarding the winter rail program, Bob stated that we're monitoring the situation; if there's a decrease in inward inspection he wants members to us.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

Debbie gave a progress report regarding ongoing issues at the CSPS and at the PSC. Just before Christmas the CSPS announced that it was cutting 25 EX positions; Debbie mentioned that she'll be meeting with the School in February to discuss the new org chart and to see how these cuts will impact our members.

14. DND update

Bob and Debbie provided progress reports; there's talk over at DND that cuts could be coming. Regarding the HR sub-committee, participating members of the committee will be meeting in March to discuss if current format is worth keeping and or if improvements can be made.

15. Negotiations update

Fabian and Bob provided updates; the TC national bargaining conference is taking place later this week and we have 8 delegates attending; Fabian will contact all delegates via conference call later today to work out a strategy to get at least one them elected to the bargaining team. With regards to CFIA bargaining, Bob mentioned that he's received a draft of CFIA's program of demands; once we provide feedback to the PSAC an input call for demands will be sent out to our locals.

16. Social Justice Fund

Debbie gave a progress report; the SJF committee approved 8 projects in 2010 for a total of \$55,000 in funding. Regarding a report for Convention; as per SJF mandate the Executive must provide a report to Convention and as this will be first one, Debbie and the Executive discussed what should be included in the report.

17. Human Rights Conference

The conference was well received by delegates that attended the conference and comments were very positive. Howard spoke with Marianne and she too thought it went well and hopes that it will motivate delegates to get involved in Human Rights issues. With regards to a report to Council, Howard will confirm with Marianne if one will be provided in April.

18. Local Updates

Progress report; so far not all RVP's have provided reports. Larry will send out reminder for next Council meeting.

19. Food Safety Summit

Bob and Denis will be attending the Food Summit on March 9-10, 2011; they will promote the Food Safety First web site.

20. Next Meeting

The next Executive meeting is scheduled for April 16-17, 2011, in Vancouver.

21. Discipline reports

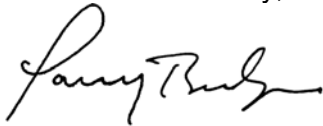
The Executive reviewed recommendations that were submitted by an investigating committee regarding 2 complaints.

22. Convention

Progress report.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer