

**Agriculture Union
National Executive Meeting
November 5-6, 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 provided an update on Howard Willems' health; the news was not good as we just learned that he was admitted to palliative care yesterday. Bob also mentioned that he had a meeting with Malcom Allen, the NDP Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food, and would miss part of the morning.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Hours of Session

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

November 5, 2012	9:00am to 5:00pm
November 6, 2012	9:00am to completion

5. Approval of the August 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 – National Council Tracking Report

Fabian reviewed the Tracking Report (TR) with the other Executive members. The update to the Bylaws and Regulations is now complete and an email will be sent to all Locals stating that the newer version is now posted on our web site (TR item 4). With regards to Classification Reform at CFIA, Fabian will inform Marlene O'Neil that Meraiah Krebs will be taking over and will be sitting on the committee (TR item 5). With regards to Employment Equity (EE), Meraiah was appointed to national level committees for each Department; this will ensure a consistent approach (TR item 13).

7. Financial Report

Financial Statements

The Executive reviewed the unaudited statements for the period ending October 31. The line items for Staff Salaries and Political Action are over budget. Bob will discuss with PSAC to see if we can continue sharing costs on political campaigns.

Investments

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

8. National Office

A progress report was provided by Fabian; the Executive reviewed and discussed Linda Koo's report.

9. Communication

Progress report provided by Fabian. With regards to web site maintenance, he reported that we received 5 bids; they will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and a recommendation will be presented to Council later in the week.

10. CFIA Update

The Executive discussed the XL Beef fiasco; Minister Ritz is not informed and each time he says inspectors have no authority to stop the line he is misleading Canadians and Parliament. With regards to recent cuts, the CFIA claims it did not deliberately target local executive members; that said we will continue to investigate. With regards to paid Prep Time there's nothing new to report; Gérard Étienne has done nothing despite this being his top priority. Raphaël was at the Food Safety Summit a couple of weeks ago and gave a report to the Executive; his conclusion is that we're heading towards multi-commodity inspection. Regarding Harassment Training (Part XX), an update will be provided to Council as we need to clarify a few points.

11. AAFC update

On October 26th, the Executive met with the new Deputy Minister Suzanne Vinet; the Minister does not anticipate any more cuts at this time however she did allude that there will be more fiscal restraints in the next federal budget. During the meeting the Executive voiced our concerns with the cuts to the Community Pastures Program; despite our Save The Prairies campaign the government is not backing down. Regarding WFA, out of the 695 members that were affected, so far 191 members have lost their jobs; 362 have seen their situation resolved and the rest are outstanding. Fabian gave a progress report regarding an issue on inter-departmental committees; the issue was originally brought up by Marianne Hladun at the last Council meeting in April.

12. CGC Update

Bob gave a progress report; contrary to what Ritz has been telling us, it looks like the CGC will be cut in half as they're doing away with inward weighing and inspection. The hardest hit, in order, will be: Vancouver, Thunder Bay, Prince Rupert and Montréal.

13. CSPS/ PSC update

At the CSPS, Linda Lizotte-MacPherson is the new President at the school; the last NUMC was cancelled and therefore nothing new to report on that front. There was discussion regarding the ED LAT 2's; management is asking our members to work outside their normal hours of work ; members will try to address the issue via the UMC structure; if they're not successful we will pursue the issue at the National level. Regarding WFA, the whole process is very frustrating for the members; they are starting to question the long term viability of the school as more and more services are being provided by 3rd parties. At the PSC, 21 members were affected and currently only two cases remain unresolved; Edmonton and Winnipeg have not received their letters. The PSC NOSH meeting is scheduled for December 14th and the NUMC meeting is scheduled for December 17th.

14. DND update

Fabian provided a progress report. The NUMC meeting is scheduled for December 4th, and the National WFA meeting is slated for December 6th.

15. Negotiations update

Progress report; regarding negotiations with CFIA, mediation is scheduled for January 15-17, 2013 and Public Interest Commission (PIC) hearings are scheduled for February 11-15, 2013.

With regards to TC table, PIC hearing dates are scheduled for next week.

16. Social Justice Fund

Nothing new to report.

17. Political Action

Regarding the Community Pastures Program (CPP), the Executive discussed costs and strategy; Bob stated that our strategy was to lobby the government so that it changes its decision; with regards to cost, Marianna Hladun (who is now REVP for PSAC) is open to cost sharing. With regards to the CGC, Bob stated that we're working with Malcom in the hopes of introducing an amendment to the proposed Bill; that said members will have to get on board and lobby their MP's.

18. Agriculture Union Triennial Convention

Nothing new to report; a discussion with Council will take place later this week.

19. Supplemental Pension Plan

Progress report by Fabian; the framework of the plan is now complete and we're finalizing the set up. Yves Ducharme will be the first beneficiary of the SPP.

20. Local Complaints

Nothing to report.

21. Record Of Performance (ROP) Bursary

The two applications that we received did not fulfill the requirements of the bursary. Next year two bursaries will be available.

22. CLC Scholarship request – G. Mardli

We received a request from Gus Mardli; since Brother Mardli has already received funding in the past, and in the interest of fairness, the Executive has decided to wait and see if other requests come in; if no other requests are made between now and December 5th, his request will be approved.

23. Life Membership for Howard Willems

The Executive discussed a life membership for Howard Willems.

M/S/C Miller/Krebs – That Brother Howard Willems be awarded a Life Membership of the Agriculture Union. Motion carried unanimously.

As per Bylaw 3, the motion will be put to Council for a vote.

24. Local 39333

Fabian will discuss with Mike Vanson regarding this local which has been inactive for quite some time now.

25. Elections for Alternate RVP

Fabian stated that an election process has begun to replace Sister Lorna Selinger who has left AAFC; her position as Alternate RVP is currently vacant.

26. Jack Layton Memorial

The Executive discussed the upcoming Jack Layton memorial dinner.

M/S/C Krebs/Miller – That the Union contribute \$2500 to the Jack Layton dinner. Motion carried unanimously; amount includes cost of banquet.

27. Closure of PSC/CSPS Locals

With Local 30329 in the process of shutting down, the Executive discussed transition issues that remaining members will have to face.

28. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28-29, 2013, in Ottawa.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge
Administrative Officer