

PEI Federation of Agriculture
Annual General Meeting
January 31, 2020

9:24 David called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

Call for a moment of silence for members lost in the past year.

Agenda as is: Moved, Seconded, Motion carried

2019 Minutes: Moved, Seconded, Motion carried

In the absence of Grant Compton, David Mol noted the board vacancies that will need to be filled for 2020 and those that have been nominated. David called for further nominations. No nominations were received from the floor.

President – Ron Maynard

1st Vice – Grant Compton (Interim)

2nd Vice – Keisha Rose

Young Farmers – Ian Drake

Past President – David Mol

Member at Large – Phillip Hamming

County Reps: Prince County: Marla Slater (1st Term, 2 years left) / Andrew Lawless (2nd Term, 1 year left)

Queens County: William Visser (1st Term, 1 year left) / Matt Hughes (1st Term, 1 year left)

Kings County: Keisha Rose (2nd Term, 1 year left) / Becky Townsend (1st Term, 1 year left)

9:31 David called on Glen Murray of BDO Canada to present the Auditors report for year ended November 30, 2019.

Approve the Financial Statements: Moved, Seconded, Motion carried.

Appointing of Auditors for 2020: Moved that PEIFA continue with BDO, Seconded, Motion Carried

9:42 Called on Robert Godfrey to present the 2020 budget.

Approve the budget: Moved, Seconded, Motion carried

David Mol presented the new logo and asked Robert Godfrey to review the communications project that was undertaken by Insight Marketing which resulted in the changes.

9:55 David Mol asked Ron Maynard to come forward and introduce Devon Forshner of Morneau Shepell.

Ron called Devon forward to present the new and improved PEIFA health plan.

10:07 David Mol thanked Devon and announced that on behalf of the speakers a donation will be made to Farmers Helping Farmers

David introduced Mary Robinson, President of Canadian Federation of Agriculture and called her forward to present the CFA report.

10:37 Ron Maynard thanked Mary and expressed thanks for a number of sponsors. He drew names for some door prizes.

Draw for snow brushes and hat from TD Bank.

Draw for a jacket, hat and water gauge donated by PEI Agri-Mart.

Draw for a jacket, hat and water gauge donated by Island Lime.

Draw for a jacket and coffee mug donated by Atlantic Grains Council.

- 10:43 Ron called for a Break
- 11:04 Ron called the meeting back to order and introduced Marc Desormeaux, Scotiabank Economist, to give the economic outlook.
- 11:47 David thanked Marc.
- David presented Plaques of Appreciation to outgoing board members...
- Parker Ellis
Grant Compton
Mary Robinson
- David asked Phillip Hamming to come forward and call the 2nd time for nominations for county reps.
- David thanked various sponsors for the AGM and then drew names for some door prizes.
- Draw for a \$50 gift certificate donated by Island Petroleum.
Draw for a \$50 gift certificate donated by Island Petroleum.
Draw for \$50 Petro Can gift certificate donated by Scotiabank.
Draw for \$50 Canadian Tire gift certificate donated by Scotiabank.
Draw for gift basket donated by Maritime Electric.
- 11:55 Robert gave instructions for lunch and called on William Visser to say grace.
- Noon: David Mol read the Presidents Report.
- David Mol gave an overview of this year's winner of the Gilbert Clements award, John & Matthew Ramsay of Oyster Cove Farms, for Excellence in Environmental Farm Planning.
- David introduced the Honorable Bloyce Thompson, Minister of Agriculture and Land to come forward to address the members.
- David thanked Mr. Thompson and closed lunch.
- 1:35 Grant Compton called the afternoon session to order and called Minister Thompson forward to address the meeting on the new government initiative called 'Farmers Talk'.
- 1:42 Grant thanked Minister Thompson and introduced Frank Bulger, Social Worker, and called him forward to speak about stress management, and counselling services on PEI through the Farmers Assistance Program (FAP).
- 2:13 David thanked Frank and also thanked various sponsors for the AGM and then drew names for some door prizes.
- Draw for a hat and toque donated by PEI Grain Elevator Corp.
Draw for 10 lbs. lean ground beef donated by Atlantic Beef Products.
Draw for sweatshirt and hat from Phillips Feed Service.
Draw for fire extinguisher donated by PEI Mutual.
- 2:20 Coffee break.
- 2:53 Robert Godfrey called the meeting back to order and introduced Gwen Vessey, Coordinator Agri-Watershed Partnership to speak on the partnership and moving forward with environmental issues.
- 3:09 Grant Compton thanked Gwen and introduced Lesa MacDonald, Director, Agriculture Insurance Corporation to speak on the Agri-Recovery efforts associated with tropical storm Dorian.

3:23 David thanked Lesa

3:24 Grant Compton called the 3rd and Final time for nominations for county reps

Moved to close nominations. Declared elected...

President – Ron Maynard

1st Vice – Grant Compton (Interim)

2nd Vice – Keisha Rose

Prince County Rep: Marla Slater

Draw for golf balls and jacket donated by Morneau Shepell.

Draw for jacket and mug donated by Atlantic Grains Council.

Draw for a hat and ice scrappers donated by TD Bank.

Draw for a hat and ice scrappers donated by TD Bank.

Draw for wireless headphones donated by Cavendish Farms.

Draw for a 40" TV donated by American Income Life.

3:34 David Mol announced that the next portion of the meeting will be closed to members only.

David called on Ron Maynard, chair of the resolutions committee to bring forward the 2020 resolutions.

Resolution # 1

CONTINUATION OF POLICY

Whereas Document 1 lists all resolutions from the previous Annual General Meeting of the PEI Federation of Agriculture (2019) and

Whereas Document 1 also outlines all action taken to date toward resolution of the identified issues and shows where further action is required,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture continue its efforts to bring the issues which require further attention and activity as outlined in Document 1, to the attention of those bodies or interests concerned to ensure the issues are addressed.

Resolution	Action	Status
Resolution 2	<p>Land Bank</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to establish a land bank program in order to create opportunity for young farmers, new entrants and people wishing to expand so our farmland stays in production.</p>	<p>Listed as a key priority in pre-election Leaders Meetings</p> <p>Listed as a key priority and discussed at length with Minister Thompson in first meeting with the PEIFA in April</p> <p>Land has been a source of major discussions with the Government and specifically with Minister Thompson and his officials. Land Bank or a “program” that helps create “opportunity for young farmers, new entrants and people wishing to expand” is the goal. Land Bank is among a list of ideas that may achieve this goal.</p> <p>Further Discussions to continue as there is expressed willingness to explore a program that will achieve the goals of this ask.</p>

Resolution 3	<p>Lands Protection Act</p> <p><i>Therefore be it resolved</i> the PEIFA lobby the Provincial Government to ensure the laws related to the sale of land on PEI are upheld.</p> <p>Furthermore, ensure that the Provincial Government understands the need to ensure farmland remains in production whenever possible so the agriculture industry continues to be viable in the Province.</p>	<p>Communicated clearly in Priority Issues presentation to all four party leaders pre-election, Minister Thompson on several occasions and all 20 MLA's of all three major political parties in September</p> <p>Minister Thompson has made it clear both publicly and privately that he believes the LPA needs to be strengthened in light of a recent land sale.</p> <p>Government has committed to overhauling the LPA and the PEIFA has made it known that it will be an active participant in any consultation the Government does on this piece of legislation.</p>
Resolution 4	<p>Farm Skills Program</p> <p><i>Therefore be it resolved</i> that the PEI Federation of Agriculture work with Holland College or a similar institution to develop a course that is available to farmers and their employees that delivers the basic skills course for welding, electronics and heavy duty mechanics.</p>	<p>Initial discussions with Dalhousie Agriculture and the Agriculture Sector Council to expand the Farm Apprentice program in 2021 with aspects of this program. Remains a concept at this time with hope to develop the program.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>
Resolution 6	<p>Tile Drainage</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture approach the Provincial Government to develop funding assistance for the installation of tile drainage systems in PEI agricultural fields.</p>	<p>Creation of an Agri-Watershed Partnership that is exploring a host of BMPs to prevent run-off and protect water. This Partnership is also encouraging the Provincial Government to overhaul its Agriculture Stewardship Fund.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>
Resolution 7	<p>Climate Change Impacts</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture initiate dialogue with the public (including farmers) and with elected officials at both levels of government to explain both the efforts that farmers have made to protect the soil and water and also</p>	<p>Creation of an Agri-Watershed Partnership Working Group in March. This is a partnership between the PEIFA and the PEI Watershed Alliance.</p> <p>Government has joined as well as the PEI Potato Board with three main goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate (or mitigate) against fish kills

	<p>the new realities and challenges we all face in needing to implement “reasonable” and “appropriate” measures to protect the environment; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby both levels of government for increased funding and partner with land-owners, farmers and all-Islanders to identify and invest in additional on-farm mitigative measures that can withstand the changing weather patterns, particularly in high risk areas along Island waterways.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Reduce soil run off and keep it in the fields 3. Develop an industry standard or Code for PEI crop production that achieves the first two goals <p>This Partnership has spent months developing a plan for 2020 and plans to consult the crop production community in due course about a Code</p> <p>The Partnership is also looking at identifying priority areas, or priority fields that need attention and looking for ways to help put in place measures that help prevent run off in the event of a rain event</p> <p>Part of the outcomes will need to include a revised Agriculture Stewardship Program</p> <p>Also, part of that plan will be a set of communications about progress and what the farming community is doing around sustainability.</p>
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Moved by Ron Maynard. Seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution #2 - Marked Fuel in Farm Plated Vehicles

The Issue:

The Federal Government has forced provinces to put in place a form of carbon pricing that is to increase by \$10/tonne each year until it hits \$50/tonne in 2022. The Provincial Government, in response has placed a carbon tax on fuel, but has exempt marked fuel. However, marked fuel today is only used by agriculture in tractors and combines and is not allowed to be used in other farm plated vehicles. This includes vehicles such as tandem or straight axle trucks that travel in a field, to a field, from a field to storage or from farm to market. The current provincial Conservative Government campaigned in March 2019, on allowing all farm plated vehicles to burn marked fuel and have yet to follow through on this commitment. It is time for all farm plated vehicles to be given permission to burn marked fuel.

Whereas all PEI agriculture industry is reliant on fossil fuels and energy;

Whereas further taxation and cost to PEI farming operations will continue to negatively impact the farming community’s ability to remain globally competitive and profitable;

Whereas the current Government committed in the election of 2019 to allowing all farm plated vehicles to burn marked fuel

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA work with the Provincial Government to ensure they honour their campaign promise in their 2020 Budget to allow all farm plated vehicles to burn marked fuel.

Moved by Ron Maynard, Seconded.

Discussion: Should the resolution be changed to read ‘farm plated’ **and** ‘farm inspected’ or farm trucks with farm truck inspection as this would negate trucks that would leave the province?

Noted that this would be more palatable to the commercial trucking industry in general.

Concern that there are trucks that haul product from the field that are also used to haul product off island. This would negate those trucks from being able to use marked fuel.

The aforementioned point may need to be a cost accepted so that we can get a change.

Amended to include 'Farm Inspected'. Moved. Seconded. Carried.

Resolution #3 - Advanced Payment Program

The Issue:

The Advanced Payment Program (APP), administered by the PEIFA, includes provisions that unfairly punish farms who wish to band together to achieve economies of scale by forming joint ventures. Once considered separate farm production operations, eligible for multiple \$100,000 interest free Advances, they are now considered to be one and eligible for one interest free Advance.

Whereas the Advance Payment Program was created for several reasons including as an aid to Canadian farmers in ensuring they could access inexpensive loans;

Whereas farmers should not be punished for innovating and entering into joint ventures to ensure economies of scale

Whereas the current Federal Government is committed to ensuring agriculture remains an economic growth area for the Canadian economy;

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Federal Government to allow individual farm production operations involved in joint marketing ventures, to receive Advanced Payment through the APP program, based on the amount of production operations and not the joint marketing venture itself.

Discussion: It was noted that the APP regulations are looking beyond the 'marketing', to joint use of land, equipment and administration.

Motion to remove the word 'marketing' from the resolution. Seconded. Carried.

Resolution #4 - PEIFA Policy on Lands Protection Act

The Issue:

The Provincial Government has made it known that they will be overhauling the Lands Protection Act (LPA) in 2020. This process will involve consultation with the farming community. PEIFA wants to ensure the position the organization takes is comprehensive and truly reflective of the grassroots Membership.

Whereas farmland represents over 40 per cent of the land base of Prince Edward Island

Whereas the Lands Protection Act is a critically important piece of legislation that directly effects farm operations within the PEIFA Membership

Whereas the Lands Protection Act is being overhauled by the Provincial Government

Whereas the PEIFA must put forth a position reflective of the Membership

Therefore be it resolved that the PEIFA consult its Membership on this issue in the following ways:

1. Membership Survey sent electronically to all PEIFA Members in February

2. A series of County Meetings in March to present to PEIFA Members the results of the survey and proposed PEIFA positions in order to gather input to develop a comprehensive PEIFA position

Therefore be it further resolved that any position taken following this process will be vetted and approved by the PEIFA Board of Directors

Moved by Ron Maynard. Seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution #5 – Support for Dairy Beef

Issue:

The dairy industry in the Maritimes has historically had a market for their Holstein bull calves to the Quebec veal producers. With the veal industry continuing to consolidate and contract in size, this has left less buyers and even greater fluctuations in prices received.

Whereas the new Federal animal transportation regulations for young calves increase the age wherein calves can be moved to distant markets.

Whereas dairy farmers are changing their breeding program to include a significantly larger part of their animals bred to beef.

Whereas the Atlantic Beef Products is looking at expanding to meet opportunity in the market place, but needs to have greater assurance of cattle coming into the plant.

Whereas these young animals that are leaving the island represent a significant loss of potential economical benefit to the whole PEI economy.

Therefore, be it resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture support the investigation of a development plan to increase the chance of a larger number of these dairy/beef cross calves completing their life on PEI to the benefit of the Island.

Moved by Ron Maynard. Seconded.

Discussion: Doesn't increase the number of animals in the chain but rather the value of the animals that are in the chain. It has been noted that each animal put through the local chain adds \$4,500 to the economy and there are about 4,500 animals that are marketed each year. This amounts to \$20 million GDP contribution per year.

Motion carried.

4:03 Motion to adjourn.