

Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: Fw: Clerical Support Services - SRFP#AWP1617

FYI

Arif Lalani, ADM
Business Development Division

From: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2016 5:32 AM
To: Faye Street
Cc: Smith, Rebecca AGRI:EX; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Clerical Support Services - SRFP#AWP1617

Faye Street, Kootenay Livestock Association

This email is to inform you that the Kootenay Livestock Association is the successful proponent with regard to its submission to provide the Clerical Support Services required by the Business Risk Management Branch; as specified under SRFP#AWP1617. Written confirmation this successful outcome will be forwarded to you. I will be contacting you the week of January 4, 2016 to begin developing a contract in the form of a General Service Agreement for the provision of clerical support services to assist with the delivery of the Forage Loss Compensation component of the Agriculture Wildlife Program. If you would like to receive feedback on your proposal as submitted, please contact me by phone at 250 861-7200.

Thank you for your proposal

Regards

Byron Jonson
General Manager, Production Insurance and Agriculture Wildlife Program
Business Risk Management Branch
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with Kootenay Livestock Association

Ref: 182374

Date: June 12, 2015

Issue: Agricultural Wildlife Program (AWP) delivery in the Kootenay region for the 2015 crop year.

Background:

- On March 15, 2015, the Ministry transitioned to AWP clerical support services being provided by internal staff; prior to this, clerical support was contracted out to the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA). The change is part of BRMB's transition to a new client support model that would provide better business risk management support to clients and be more cost effective.
- On April 21, 2015 all existing clients were mailed registration renewal letters informing them of the change in the clerical support for program delivery in the Kootenays and the simplified renewal process.
 - The change letter contained new contact information, which included a Cranbrook, based mailing address and fax number, and a 1-888 phone number.
 - KLA input on the letter was sought and provided prior to finalizing the draft.
 - In response to the AWP Task Team recommendations, the 2015 renewal process no longer required existing clients to complete detailed registration forms.
 - The number of participants from the Kootenays has increased marginally. There are eight new clients this year. Four clients left the program: one retired; one fenced their fields; one sold their ranch (the new owners enrolled in the program); one out-of-province producer with a small acreage in Fernie elected not to enroll.
 - The KLA provided the Ministry the names of some clients whom the KLA understood to have not received a 2015 registration package. Ministry staff reviewed the information, and the individuals that had in fact not yet registered were called and supported with their renewal. The KLA was informed of the results.
 - Other than one report of a producer dialing the number incorrectly, program operations staff have not heard of negative producer experiences resulting from the change in the contact number from the KLA to a 1-888 phone number that is always covered by ministry administrative staff during business hours.
 - All 2015 client calls received by Ministry clerical support staff have been positive.
- On April 23, 2015 Leanne Colombo officially began work as the local AWP Representative accountable for delivery of field operations in the Kootenays.
- April 28, 2015, Francis Njenga, the AWP Manager, and Leanne Colombo met with the four contract inspectors to begin the 2015 crop inspection season. Field inspection work is progressing as expected.
- In order to ensure that producer concerns are being identified and addressed, Francis Njenga has maintained communication with Faye Street of the KLA; most recent was the week of May 25.
- In an April 29, 2015 face-to-face meeting with Francis Njenga and Leanne Colombo,
s.22
- April 29 - Francis and Leanne met with KLA president Harlan Bradford, and then with KLA board member Jordy Thibeault to discuss the AWP program and any concerns that they had. Both exchanges were positive and ended with affirmations by Jordy and Harlan to work with them if issues should arise.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

- Leanne Colombo, who is new to the role, has had very positive responses from the program participants and contracted inspectors, regarding her role as the regions administrator of AWP. This is due to her extensive knowledge of forages, the ranching sector, the producers, and the producer organizations in the Kootenays.
- In addition to the K.I.A., there are four other producer organizations that represent the ranching and forage sectors in the Kootenays, all with members that are impacted by wildlife. Leanne has been actively interacting with representatives and members of these organizations as well. They are:
 - Invermere Farmers Institute
 - Creston Valley Beef Growers
 - Waldo Stockbreeders Livestock Association Kootenay Livestock Association
 - BC Cattlemen's Association
- Leanne, based on her knowledge of the producers in the Creston Valley producers, identified that participation was very low. She proactively sought input from producers as to the reason and solutions. Because of this work, she has communicated to the inspectors that service the area, the client service changes that need to occur. Because of Leanne's efforts, the engagement of the producers in the Creston Valley is now moving in a positive way. There are five returning clients from the Creston area who dropped out over the past three years because they were unhappy with the service they had received in the past.
- Where Leanne has identified that the use of fencing could mitigate damage from wildlife, she has initiated discussing this approach with producers and the ability of the program to cost-share such projects. Based on normal plant emergence, loss assessment inspections are usually underway by the first week of May. However, as in other regions of the province crops were advanced by up to two weeks.

At the spring kick off meeting inspectors concurred, that based on their experience, the start date would have no implications for final assessments of the amount of damage incurred from wildlife.
- Recently an Inspector suffered a broken leg. There will be no impact on the program, as three inspectors are sufficient to manage the inspections that may be required for the 63 clients.
- Currently field inspections are being made as required and no issues have arisen. Staff and the inspectors are being vigilant to ensure that producers are communicating the timing of their first cut, so inspections can be scheduled.
- To ensure that inspectors are applying the methodology in a consistent way, Leanne has:
 - Conducted group training for the inspectors, and attends some field inspections with individual adjusters.
 - Engaged the contracted inspectors in implementing several of the s.13 s.13
- Faye Street and Randy Reay continue to reiterated concerns to the Ministry about delivery of the AWP.
 - Staffing budget issues resulted in some delays in officially onboarding the person in place in Cranbrook. As a result, Mrs. Street and Mr. Reay have expressed concerns to the Ministry that evaluation of forage losses and timely client enrolment may be negatively impacted.
 - As referenced above, inspectors have concurred that this will not have an impact on the final assessment of the amount of damage, despite the early start to the season.
 - As well, enrollment was not negatively impacted this year through the transition – four clients did not renew this year for the reasons cited above and there were eight new clients that joined the program in 2015.

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Letnick, Norm AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 5:07 PM
To: s.3
Cc: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: s.3

Thanks for the additional information.

Norm Letnick, MLA
Minister of Agriculture

On Apr 29, 2015, at 4:56 PM, s.3 wrote:

More information for our meeting.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

s.3

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Delowsky, Tracey AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Hall, Kim AGRI:EX; Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX
Subject: BN for MNL mtg with Min Bennett ^{s.13}
Attachments: 182093 BN - Agriculture Wildlife Program v5.docx

Derek, attached in the updated BN with the suggested changes.

Gary

**Ministry of Agriculture
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING
with MLA Bill Bennett on April 30, 2015**

Ref: 182093

Date: April 28, 2015

Issue: The Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA) has reiterated concerns to the Ministry about delivery of the Agriculture Wildlife Program (AWP).

Background:

- The KLA is the last industry lead group that was involved in the delivery of the AWP in that region. Other groups that were involved with program delivery were discontinued by 2011.
 - In 2013 the Ministry informed the KLA that the Ministry would no longer be requiring the KLA's provision of AWP clerical support services, as it was moving to a new client support model that would provide better Business Risk Management support and be more cost effective.
 - The KLA raised expressed displeasure with this decision and in the end were awarded a contract for the provision of clerical support for the producers in that region for 2014/15 fiscal year on the understanding that this would be the last contract awarded for any services related to the administration of the AWP.
 - During the summer of 2014 the KLA also raised concerns about several program issues. As a result a Task Team of BCCA members including the KLA was struck to address the issues. Numerous recommendations were made by this Task Team.
 - At the same time the President of the KLA, Mr. Randy Reay, filed a complaint of professional misconduct against two licensed agrologists that were directly involved with the delivery of the program. Despite being completely exonerated of any professional misconduct, both employees felt that their ability to continue in their roles had been critically compromised by the action, and requested that they be redeployed. These requests were granted. As a result: 2014 compensation payments were delayed due to this significant change to resource levels; additionally, a replacement for the person who was accountable for delivery of field operations in the Kootenays, had to be recruited.
s.22
-
- Staffing budget issues resulted in some delays in officially onboarding the person in place in Cranbrook. As a result the KLA has expressed concerns to the Ministry that evaluation of forage losses and timely client enrolment may be negatively impacted.

First Nations Considerations: N/A

Discussion:

- The KLA has requested information/explanations within four different areas:
 1. Why have there been delays in getting new personnel and contracts in place?
 2. What is the status of the recommendations made by the Task Group?
 3. The Ministry states it is moving to a more cost effective delivery model. Can this be demonstrated?
 4. The KLA has requested that the Ministry move back to the previous delivery model or at least establish an advisory committee that will work with the Ministry to improve the program and its delivery.

Page 005 to/à Page 009

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Members of the Agriculture Wildlife Program Task Team

BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA)	
Judy Madden	Zone 1 – Peace
Wayne Ray	Zone 2 – Central
Janik Heer	Zone 3 – Skeena
Cuyler Huffman	Zone 4 – Cariboo
Leroy Peters (interim)	Zone 5 – Thompson
Ian Smith	Zone 6 – Okanagan
Doug Fossen (alternate)	
Peter Trescher	Zone 7 – Kootenays
Elaine Stovin (alternate)	BCCA Kamloops
BC Forage Council	
Doug Hatfield	President
Fran Teitge	Manager
Kootenay Livestock Association	
Faye Street-(Co-chair)	Manager
Mike Malmberg	Member
BC Ministry of Agriculture	
Francis Njenga-(Co-chair)	

Page 011 to/à Page 015

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.3

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: s.3
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Hon. Norm Letnick
Cc: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: Fw: Wildlife depredation program

One last perspective to add.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

s.3

Page 017

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.3

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Delowsky, Tracey AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Hall, Kim AGRI:EX; Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Revised Updated BN for MNL mtg with Min Bennett s.13
Attachments: 182093 BN - Agriculture Wildlife Program v7.docx

From: Delowsky, Tracey AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Hall, Kim AGRI:EX; Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Updated BN for MNL mtg with Min Bennett s.13

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Cc: Delowsky, Tracey AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Hall, Kim AGRI:EX; Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX
Subject: Re: BN for MNL mtg with Min Bennett s.13

Gary - I was expecting this update by now.

What's the status?

Derek Sturko
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2015, at 4:25 PM, Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX <Derek.Sturko@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

s.13

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

Cc: Delowsky, Tracey AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Hall, Kim AGRI:EX; Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX

Subject: BN for MNL mtg with Min Bennett ^{s.13}

Derek, attached in the updated BN with the suggested changes.

Gary

Page 020 to/à Page 024

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.3

The Request That Government Develop Delivery Options That Could Involve Local Producer Associations in Some Aspects of Program Delivery

A number of issues surrounding the AWP program seem to stem from lack of effective communication between the users of the program (clients) and the Business Risk Management Branch where program development, program management and program delivery is focused. Clients sometime feel the program is out of touch with the reality of their ungulate damage problems and they may feel powerless in bringing these issues forward in an effective way that could bring about positive change.

Lack of program transparency and scant information about program changes, program proposals, or how the program works appears to heighten frustration and dissatisfaction with program initiatives. Issues of distrust develop in this environment.

The involvement of local producer organizations in some aspect of the AWP program or its delivery in the local area may be useful in alleviating some of these problems. Involvement of local producer organizations in the AWP program may be able to contribute the following:

- Provide an effective liaison between program administrators and clients. Involving local producer groups in the program may be an effective way to address communication problems faced by clients who need to interact with receptive government program managers and administrators. Local producer groups who are involved in the program may also be able to point government administrators to clients who are experiencing problems or identify shortfalls in program details that are causing issues. Local organizations can help bridge information gaps and short circuit misunderstandings when either producer clients or program administrators are not aware of issues, concerns or program details. This liaison function can be very important in keeping the program going forward, promoting trust, increasing efficiency and helping the program evolve to meet changing circumstances and needs.
- Local producer organizations are in tune with local or regional production systems and practices as well as the characteristics and history of wildlife depredation in the area. Local organizations know the people, the farms, the land and the history. These are important assets for an administration that is managing from miles and time zones away, with shortages of staff who may have an incomplete or sketchy history of the program and perhaps lack empathy for the issues being faced by program clients.

- Being on site and in the local community, local organizations often have someone reachable and able to provide help outside normal government workdays and hours. Local organizations can provide a familiar, understanding and empathetic presence for local clients needing information, help or advice.
- When structured appropriately, local organizations could reduce government staff workloads and increase efficiencies. They may foster support for the program and confidence from producer clients, local governments and other agencies operating in the area.
- The involvement of local producer organizations can provide checks and balances in the system; helping to keep the program focused on producer needs and the broad goals of the program. This is a critical benefit of involving client organizations in some aspect of the program delivery. Wise judgment of fair treatment and watchfulness of program operations can help ensure appropriate program balance and focus. Producer organizations that have some involvement and knowledge of the inside workings of the program may be better able to witness program effectiveness and fair play. This can help in achieving program goals.

Obviously there can be downsides to having local producer involvement in some aspects of the Ag. / Wildlife program. Careful structuring, oversight and evaluation are important in avoiding negative effects. That being achieved, local producer association involvement can achieve benefits that are empowering and well worth the effort.

KLA is not suggesting ad hoc or unstructured involvement in the AWP.

KLA is not advocating local producer association involvement that will detract from the provincial nature of the program or those responsibilities. KLA advocates for local program involvement that will in fact augment those responsibilities by helping to identify measures the program may be missing or not understanding that could be critical for certain localities.

KLA recognizes the importance of local association program involvement within a structure where all program services and opportunities are available for all areas of the Province. KLA also recognizes that there may be some elements of the AWP program that are essential in some areas but less important in others, however those elements must be available to all regardless of location.

There is recognition and agreement that the AWP program needs to be managed, administrated and operated by the Provincial government, having program responsibility and oversight for all areas of the Province. This needs to continue and can happen in concert with the involvement of local producer groups being involved in some carefully constructed elements of program delivery.

From: Njenga, Francis AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Agriculture Wildlife Task Team - Recommendations

Hello Derek, as promised, here is the email and the response to the task team's recommendations that Grant sent to the team.

Regards

Francis Njenga P.Ag.
Manager, Agriculture Wildlife Program
Business Risk Management Branch
Ministry of Agriculture
Telephone: (250) 371-3822
Fax: (250) 828-4154
Francis.Njenga@gov.bc.ca

From: Hall, Kim AGRI:EX **On Behalf Of** Parnell, Grant AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:41 AM
To: s.22
s.22
s.22
s.22
s.22 Njenga, Francis AGRI:EX; s.22
Cc: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: Agriculture Wildlife Task Team - Recommendations

Dear Task Team:

Thank for your time and participation on the Agriculture Wildlife Program's (AWP) Task Team and my apologies for not responding back to you more quickly. The Task Team was formed to address several specific issues/concerns and also discussed the delivery of the program across the province. Several new approaches were examined to improve the program and were formed into 15 different recommendations.

The Ministry has reviewed these recommendations and is in the process of implementing many of them. Some of them are being further reviewed. See the attached document for details.

One of the key recommendations of the Task Team was that "the AWP Task Team should continue to be an advisory board as well as a forum to discuss major changes to the Agriculture Wildlife Program (AWP)". The Ministry accepts this recommendation in principle and is currently examining the best structure of such a group within the context of other requests by the BC Cattlemen's Association and other groups to have input in broader wildlife management issues which are the responsibility of not only the Ministry of Agriculture but other Natural Resource Sector ministries as well.

Once again thank you for your ideas and valuable contribution in improving the Agriculture Wildlife Program. I look forward to continuing to work with the sector on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Parnell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Grant Parnell
Assistant Deputy Minister
250.356.1122

AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE PROGRAM (AWP) ADVISORY TASK TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	
1. Forage replacement values should be derived from the current years' regional price of hay instead of insurable values. Often, the amount paid in compensation is not enough to pay for replacement hay.	<p>Reply: More work is needed on this topic to review the methodology and to possibly include regional adjustments to hay prices in cases where feed shortages in a region due to drought result in significant increases in hay prices. Proposals to change the methodology for establishing compensation values must meet Federal expectations of ensuring that the losses are not being over-compensated and that determination of compensation values is at an arm's length from participants, and market neutral. This requires independent third party data which, to date, has not supported an increase in the per tonne value.</p> <p>Reply: Accepted and implemented for 2014 compensation payments and this methodology will continue to be used for 2015.</p> <p>The Ministry will continue to improve methodologies for damage/loss determination to ensure efficiency, accuracy, and to take advantage of emerging technologies.</p>
2. Stop putting the wildlife damage loss/value into loss categories again, i.e., stop the use of the second table on the current inspection form, and using that information to calculate wildlife damage. Calculation of the assessed losses should use the sum of the losses for each species component of the yield potential.	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p> <p>The Ministry accepts this recommendation in principle and is currently examining the best structure of such a group within the context of other requests by the BCCA and other groups to have input in broader wildlife management issues which are the responsibility of not only the Ministry of Agriculture but other Natural Resource Sector ministries as well.</p> <p>Reply: Accepted in part; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p> <p>The Ministry cannot make guarantees that future budgets will be increased.</p>
3. The AWP Task Team should be continued as an advisory board as well as a forum to discuss major changes to the Agricultural Wildlife Program. The Task Team should get together 2-3 times a year to review/check the Program.	
4. The Task Team acknowledges that some of the proposed changes may lead to a budget shortfall which could lead to temporary pro-rating of benefits with the understanding the government will review its budget.	
5. Use of cages to quantify losses (as proposed by the program staff) should not be made mandatory; if they are, the government should bear the cost.	<p>Reply: Accepted in part.</p> <p>The mandatory use of cages will not be implemented at this time and will work with the Advisory Committee and/or Task Team to arrive at a workable solution to objectively evaluate forage losses.</p> <p>Reply: More work needed by the Ministry to research possible implementation and cost implications. Verified methodology does not currently exist.</p>
6. The Agriculture Wildlife Program should provide compensation for reduced stand longevity due to wildlife grazing and damage.	

<p>7. The Business Risk Management Branch should ensure that any reporting on the cost of wildlife damage takes the change in methodology since 2012 into consideration.</p>	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p>
<p>8. In 2015/16, the Ministry staff have proposed to make the following changes to the Agriculture Wildlife Program in order to reduce administration costs in the delivery of the program. This may also reduce transactional costs for producers due to a reduction in paper work.</p> <p>A. For those producers who have been in the program in the last 3 consecutive years, and there has been no major changes in the composition of their fields or predation levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fields will be inspected/audited every 3 years; • Compensation payments will be based on a 3 year average payment, average production, and declaration of production; • If something changes for example, new fields are established or old ones renewed, or if there is change in predation levels, or upon request of the producer, there will be an inspection. <p>B. For producers who are new to the program, or have not been in the program for 3 consecutive years, inspections will continue until there is a three-year record of production and wildlife losses.</p>	

<p>On the above proposed program changes the Task Team makes the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure clear communication to producers about any changes to the program b) Make the changes slowly, and use individual producer loss and payment data rather than regional data c) Allowing the producer the option of deciding if they will need inspection d) Where data is not available continue current practice until there is enough data e) Amalgamating fields or combining Production Insurance and Agriculture Wildlife Program inspections may also help reduce inspection costs f) Ensure all inspectors are well trained in Agriculture Wildlife Program inspection procedures. 	<p>Reply: More work is needed by the Ministry to research possible implementation and cost implications. Verified methodology does not currently exist.</p> <p>Changes will be guided by input from a program advisory committee that is being established – see item #3.</p>
<p>9. On wildlife damage prevention and mitigation projects the Task Team recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expanding project selection/ranking criteria for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Payback time ii. Ease of management iii. Production potential iv. Crop damage in the area b. Using local committees to select/rank projects. 	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Allow producers to propose other prevention and or mitigation projects. In areas where fencing hayfields is not feasible or economical assist producers build stack yard fences. 	<p>Reply: Not Accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry has limited funds that need to be used provincially to effect the most change to chronic areas of loss. • The Ministry needs to ensure consistent application of program criteria.
	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p>

<p>d. In instances where it is both feasible and economical to fence, but a producer refuses to do so, Ministry staff should work with producer to make it more feasible to build the fence without undue costs. The Task Team is uncomfortable with cutting off producers from the compensation program without process for doing so.</p>	<p>Reply: Conditionally accepted, pending Ministry review and consultation with a program advisory committee – see item #3.</p>
<p>10. The Ministry should collect only the information that is relevant and vital to the delivery of the program. The Ministry should also explain to the producer why the information is being collected.</p>	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p>
<p>11. In order to ensure an open, transparent relationship the Task Team makes the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There should be more rapport and contact between the adjustors and the producers. Make the process transparent. In early spring, have meetings between Business Risk Management Branch staff, all inspectors, and the Task Team to openly discuss any program changes in the upcoming year. Any substantial change and the reasons for the change in the Agriculture Wildlife Program should be communicated to producers. Develop and maintain open and honest communication with the producers and inspectors. Copies of inspector field inspection reports should be sent to producers. Update maps of producer fields and ensure the producer and the inspector both have the same map. Clarify information in the AWP brochure particularly eligibility for damages occurring after the crop should have been harvested. 	<p>Reply: Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In place of the current Task Team, which was struck for a specific purpose, an advisory committee approach will be established – see item #3. Copies of inspector field inspection reports will be offered to producers and copies will be made available upon request.

12. The Task Team acknowledge and recognize the Agriculture Wildlife Program works within fiscal and operational deadlines. However, the Ministry should communicate program expectations and deadlines to the producers, but also allow reasonable discretion and flexibility.	<u>Reply:</u> Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.
13. Change the minimum yield potential to ¼ ton if the field is to be grazed and maintain the current ½ ton requirement if the field is to be harvested mechanically.	<u>Reply:</u> More work is needed by the Ministry to research possible implementation and cost implications.
14. Information on weeds/undesirable species composition should be included in the explanation/notes on why a particular yield potential was selected.	<u>Reply:</u> Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16. Note: The information will be dealt with at both locations.
15. The use of Producer-declared yield plus wildlife loss to cross check the established yield potential should be discussed with the producer.	<u>Reply:</u> Accepted; to be implemented for 2015/16.

AWP Task Team Members

BC Cattlemen's Association	
Judy Madden	Zone 1 – Peace s.22
Wayne Ray	Zone 2 – Central
Janik Heer	Zone 3 – Skeena
Cuyler Huffman	Zone 4 – Cariboo
Leroy Peters (interim)	Zone 5 – Thompson
Ian Smith	Zone 6 – Okanagan
Doug Fossen	
Peter Trescher	Zone 7 – Kootenays
Kevin Boon	BCCA Kamloops
Elaine Stovin	BCCA Kamloops
BC For	
Doug Hatfield	President
Fran Teitge	Manager
Kootenay Liv	
Faye Street (Co-chair)	Kootenay Livestock Association
Mike Malmberg	Kootenay Livestock Association
BC Ministr	
Francis Njenga (Co-chair)	BC Ministry of Agriculture

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street s.22 on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Letnick.MLA, Norm LASS:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX; Bill Bennett- Personnel
Subject: Important re todays meeting
Attachments: Wed. Mtg..docx

Good Morning: Please find attached the information we are requesting you read before our meeting this morning at 10 a.m. M.S.T.

We all want to thank-you very much Derek for helping with the agenda for this meeting. It is pleasantly obvious that from our meeting with you and Chief of Staff Karen Bill you fully understood our frustration and our problems trying to deal with BRMB.

I had a very heated and disappointing conversation with Byron Johnson this past Monday, which again shows just how "they don't get it" these guys are to deal with.
He told me point blank that his staff had checked with this office and been told that there were no complaints, that was another half truth, the full truth is that just a couple weeks ago his staff called this office and were told "no there have not been any complaints this week, but there were many, many complaints prior to this, right from April first on for many weeks".

Byron then insulted Faye by saying and Faye quotes "I don't believe for one minute that any of our inspectors are unhappy or wrote a report, I have gone over all the names in my mind and I absolutely don't believe that".

Really, that is why we have NOT been able to work with these guys, they DON'T LISTEN, they refuse to admit when they are wrong, they do NOT want to work co-operatively for the good of the program, and they seem to think that if they are challenged they can simply get rid of that challenge by whatever method they can conger up.

We as an association are still 100% convinced that the sole reason for taking the administration of this program away from K.L.A. is that they did not want to be challenged on their mistakes that were costing our industry thousands of dollars, and we have proven that beyond a shadow, and now they are still resisting fixing mistakes.

Mike Malmberg had a very stressfull conversation with Francis just last week re the weed issue that we discussed with you, and at the end of a long and frustrating conversation the best he got out of Francis was "well I don't think we can do anything about that this year, that decision is above my pay grade".

So here we go again, another blatant mistake that will cost our industry more money, why???

Thanks Derek, we look forward to this morning's meeting,
KLA group.

Meeting between the Kootenay Livestock Association and Ministry of Agriculture

Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (MST)

Steeple Room, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

205 Industrial Road G, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G5

Video call IP:142.36.3.251

Purpose: There was a June 24th meeting of Deputy Minister, Derek Sturko with representatives of the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA) at which several Agricultural Wildlife program (AWP) issues were identified. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how to begin working together on solutions to the AWP issues that were identified.

The following is the AWP issues identified at the June 24th meeting::

- a) Relationship and communication between KLA and Ministry staff;
- b) Prioritize prevention and mitigation of damage of forages by wildlife. Compensation for risks that cannot be addressed through Prevention and Mitigation;
- c) Compensation levels are too low and do not reflect forage replacement cost;
- d) Develop an Assertive Kootenays Fencing Strategy. - concrete proposals for maximizing mitigation of damage;
- e) Eliminate the potential for multiple loss estimate adjustments for weeds and unproductive areas of a field (Mike Malmberg's inspection form methodology concern); and, .
- f) Need to develop creative ideas to address the impact of wildlife on Agriculture.

10:00-10:30

- Introductions
- Opening remarks by Derek Sturko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
- Review of the Agenda

10:30-11:00

- Confirmation of Issues of Concern.

11:00 – 4:15

- Discussion of approach to developing solutions
 - Introduction and Review of Draft "Action Plan" Document
 - KLA Input on individual purposed action plans and time lines

Facilitator Notes

11:00-12:00	a) Relationship and communication between KLA and Ministry staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review/develop of the draft communication plan• Identify actions moving forward
12:00-1:00	b) Prioritize prevention and mitigation of damage of forages by wildlife. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify KLA's recommendation• Action Plan to use of Provincial advisory committee of government and industry to address policy approach
1:00-2:00PM	Lunch Break (<i>lunch not provided</i>)
2:00-2:30	c) Compensation levels are too low and do not reflect forage replacement cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action plan for compensating for above average prices due to changes in regional forage supply.
2:30-3:00	d) Develop an Assertive Kootenays Fencing Strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action plan for working with the KLA and the other livestock associations in the Kootenays, establish concrete fencing project proposals for maximizing mitigation of damage in the Kootenays.
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-3:30	e) Eliminate the potential for multiple loss estimate adjustments for weeds and unproductive areas of a field. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating principal is AWP Forage loss observations to be a reasonable representation of the actual loss due to damage from wildlife.• Update on work done so far
3:30-4:15	f) Developing creative ideas and solutions to address the impact of wildlife damage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on work done so far
4:15-4:45	g) Wrap up and future actions

Shust, Susan D AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22 >
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 3:10 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Letnick.MLA, Norm LASS:EX
Subject: 182669-Today's meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Derek: O.K. I know you're sick of hearing from us for this day,,,,,so I will type rather than call!! (Bad Humour)
President Bradford asked us to reconvene our meeting back at the KLA office (we all had homemade cookies while discussing our meeting yummm):

O.K. the crew has asked that I contact you and make these points:

-BRMB's reasoning for taking the Administration away from KLA are Bogus at best. Your Ministry will and always has had away more contact with any and all local industry folks through the KLA office than they ever have had since the full time Ag. Office closed here in Cranbrook. Darrel Smith who is supposed to be your rep. here does not even have a mailing list of Ag. Folks in the area, KLA does, and this office is in contact with our industry on a regular basis.

-The economic reasons are less than bogus, we know what a half time FTE is worth, then add in the CPP, UIC, Holiday Pay, Supervision, Medical/Dental, etc.etc.

Office, Vehicle, Computer, Phone, office supplies etc.????

-Inspectors doing secretarial work at \$65.00 per hour re our gals doing it at \$20.00 per hour.

-The social contact, and capacity Building they refer to is 100 times more effective through a ranchers association than it can ever be through one part time person. Our office sends out regular newsletters and we would be happy to forward any and all information regarding programs your Ministry is trying to promote to our members. We already forward all info from the BCCA and The Canadian Cattlemen's Associations.

Besides that Derek just think for a minute re the comparison between a fella walking in the ranchers yard saying "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you", or a fellow rancher walking into the same yard and saying "hey neighbour I got some great information that I want to share with you, who do you thinks that fella is gonna talk to???"
(Sorry more bad humor)

Seriously Derek these Rancher associations are vital in connecting with all the area ranchers and working on responses to RDEK issues, Weed control issues, New Legislation, etc.

Please ponder these points and feel free to give me a call if you want to discuss them, 250-421-3256.

Thank-you very sincerely for your help, it is so refreshing to work with you and make the progress that was made today on the very same issues we have been fighting like hell for over the past 2 plus years. Seriously we desperately need more people like you in government. Thanks again and we await your call.

KLA Crew.

Wed. Morning.

After Reviewing the agenda and the proposals:

-we ask why the administration of this program was taken from KLA??

For 12 years we provided a 100% satisfactory program for \$45,000.00 per year for the first 10 years and then for under \$50,000.00 for the last 2 years. (Note, we did not ask for the extra \$5,000.00 it was offered by Chris Vos)

The service KLA provided included 3 people fully trained and educated on all aspects of the AWP program, a fully functional office that was open 5 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and included any and all overtime necessary to properly service our clients during weather pressure days and long weekends. This service was provided at No additional costs. KLA's fee included, all wages, phones, fax, zerox, scanning, office space, all SECRETARIAL services for the inspectors, full time phone communication with all inspectors which saved thousands of dollars in travel costs and inspection costs, as well as a huge amount of assistance to any and all land owners suffering losses from wild ungulate damage. We need a straight and honest answer to this question.

This really stupid and in our opinion vindictive mistake has cost us the tax payers thousands and thousands of wasted dollars and significantly reduced the quality and efficiency of this program. This absolutely should not go unrecognized and UN challenged.

s.12,s.16

We ask that the Deputy Minister Sturko show us some good faith by reversing this vindictive action and return the administration of the program back to KLA. That will allow us all to work closely with BRMB to implement the changes proposed today. Without being directly involved on a day to day basis there is NO way we can effectively work the changes.

When we are confident that change has happened and that BRMB can and will run the program as efficiently and effectively as KLA has then we will have no problem discussing movement of the administration of the program.

We must insist that BRMB take careful consideration of why this program was developed and who takes the "kick in the guts" when it is not properly administered, and last but certainly not least, the efficient expenditure of our provinces tax dollars MUST be carefully considered.

Page 041 to/à Page 048

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Shust, Susan D AGRI:EX

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:50 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX
Subject: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V4
Attachments: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V4.docx

Derek

Here is the next draft for your consideration.

Ken

Page 050 to/à Page 054

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Shust, Susan D AGRI:EX

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V1 0
Attachments: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V1 0.docx

Byron and Ken, I've drafted up a – s.13

at our 1:00 pm meeting with Derek

Gary

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22 > on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX
Subject: FW: prevention fencing

Hello Derek and Bill: Just to keep you informed.
Cheers,
Faye

From: Faye Street [s.22 |
Sent: July-22-15 9:14 AM
To: Francis Njenga (francis.njenga@gov.bc.ca) <francis.njenga@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: prevention fencing

Good Morning Francis:

Regarding our call yesterday, at your request here is the system we used when we VERY efficiently protected many, many private properties from wild ungulate damage.

We set up two committees, the advisory cmte. And the management cmte.

The advisory cmte. Was carefully selected to include one rancher from each of our geographic areas so that we had first hand experience from that cmt. Member as to all the details of the application, the integrity of the applicant, his management practices, the wild ungulate pressures, etc. etc. Our local Min. of Agric. Rep sat on the advisory cmte. We accepted and processed applications on a first come, first processed basis.

We did a complete evaluation as to the need, efficiency, cost, neighbours, wildlife corridors, etc. of that application and then approved or rejected.

The application was then passed to the Management Cmte. Which was a much smaller cmte. And Greg Teggart, Min. of Agric. Sat on that cmte.

The provincial government had representation on both cmtes. To monitor all applications, and I kept both reps. Fully informed of all details of the project.

All approved projects were completed and inspected before any payments were made.

The local involvement is critical to making sure all applications were completed in the most efficient and effective way taking all aspects into careful consideration.

Some applications had some special questions and when that was the case we arranged for some cmte. Members to do an on ground visit to the site and review the questions.

We found many time that the extra set of eyes t often came up with better and more efficient ideas etc.

Our association is still willing and able to repeat the same efficient program to help protect more of our valuable agricultural lands, that will stop the bleeding of our hard earned tax dollars.

Cheers,
Faye

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:50 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX
Subject: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V4
Attachments: AWP Kootenay delivery - points for consideration V4.docx

Derek

Here is the next draft for your consideration.

Ken

Shust, Susan D AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:52 PM
To: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: KLA

Thanks Ken. This is much more consistent with what I was looking forward. Thanks to you all for your work on this.

Some initial questions....

s.13

Thanks,

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:45 PM

To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: KLA

My fault!

Draft coming.

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 4:33 PM
To: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: KLA

I was expecting the next draft today..... I believe that was the commitment.....

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: KLA-Responses to DM questions re s.13
Attachments: KLA-Responses to DM questions re

Answers to your questions. For our discussion.

Ken

Page 061 to/à Page 062

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 9:57 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Letter to KLA
Attachments: KLA letter.docx

Derek

This is the proposed body of the letter back to KLA outlining our advances over the past 2 weeks. I didn't put this in eApproval yet.

Gary will be providing an updated version of the "Action Plan" reflecting the input from KLA. This should be an attachment to the letter.

I'll gladly support completion of this task if you endorse the content and timing of the message.

Ken

Ken Nickel, Director
Sector Development Branch, AGRI

604 556-3103

Suggested BRMB approach to resolution of AWP issues raised by KLA (draft)

A. Relationship and communication between KLA and Ministry staff.

Goal: Repair the working relationship and trust between the KLA and the Ministry staff by working collaboratively toward addressing the impact of wildlife on agriculture in the Kootenays.

Action Plan: Develop, jointly with the KLA, a communication plan and a working relationship plan.

- Meet with representatives of the KLA to present a proposed approach and seeking their input and an engagement. Proposed communications approach:
 - BRMB staff, in person or via teleconference, attends KLA Board meetings to provide program updates and address issues of concern.
 - BRMB staff meeting and working with the KLA's wildlife committee, which is chaired by Faye Street, to address AWP related issues and concerns.
 - Ministry staff participation on the East Kootenay Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee.
 - KLA to have representative at the Provincial AWP advisory committee.
 - Regularly review with the KLA the communication/working plan

Desired Outcomes:

- Renewed and engaged working relationship between the KLA and the Ministry staff
- KLA board is confident that Ministry of Agriculture is responsive to their wildlife concerns
- Better AWP and project delivery in the Kootenay and the province.
- Increased access of agricultural producers to BRMB's suite of risk management tools

B. Prioritize Prevention and Mitigation of damage of forages by wildlife.

Goal: The Province will prioritize prevention and mitigation of agricultural losses due to damage by wildlife. Compensation for risks that cannot be addressed through Prevention and Mitigation

- AGRI agrees with this goal and is an issue to best dealt with by a provincial advisory committee of government and industry.
- Need to clarify whether the KLA was focused solely on Agriculture or the recommendation was targeted at broader wildlife management issues which are the responsibility of not only the Ministry of Agriculture but other Natural Resource Sector ministries as well.

Action Plan: Establish a Provincial Agricultural Wildlife Advisory Committee.

- To be established within the context of requests by the BCCA and other groups, to have input in broader wildlife management issues which are the responsibility of not only the Ministry of Agriculture but other Natural Resource Sector ministries as well.

Desired Outcomes:

- Healthy agriculture sectors coexisting with healthy wildlife populations
- Strategic, effective and timely activities to reduce wildlife's impact on agriculture throughout the Province of British Columbia.
- NRS decisions and activities take into account the impact of wildlife management on agriculture. This is consistent with the recommendations found in the Auditor General's audit report "Managing the cumulative effects of natural resource development in B.C." (transmitted May, 2015 to the Legislative Assembly)
- NRS policy that acknowledges the need for judicious use of mitigation and compensation when the impacts to agriculture resulting from wildlife management decisions cannot be prevented
- Strategic management of wildlife that takes into account social and geographic realities.
- Reduced agricultural losses while reducing dependency on compensation.
- Renewed and engaged working relationship between the KLA and the Ministry staff.
- KLA board and Agricultural Sector is confident that Provincial government is responsive to their wildlife concerns.
- Better AWP and project delivery in the Kootenays and throughout the province.

C. Compensation levels are too low - not reflective of forage replacement values

Goal: The compensation value should strive to reflect, but not exceed, the regional expected, actual or replacement value of hay. BRMB to develop a methodology, which is supported by forage producers, and Provincial and Federal governments, for determining forage replacement values that take into account long-term average prices as well as above average prices due to changes in regional forage supply.

Action Plan: The Ministry will lead an initiative to establish methodology for regional AWP forage compensation values. Key steps of this initiative would be:

- Identifying and meeting with key stakeholder/client groups to obtain input on the most appropriate methods for establishing AWP compensation levels. This is to include input from representatives from the KLA, BCCA, BC Forage Council
 - To foster discussion, a cursory methodology options paper will be utilized
 - Consultation to be completed August 14, 2015. *Note: second cut haying and pasture management due to drought may delay consultation.*
- Summarize stakeholder input and recommendations. (Completion August 18, 2015)
- Draft a "Methodology Proposal" document which discusses methodology preferences that have been informed by the Stakeholder input. (Completion September 8, 2015)
- Present "Methodology Proposal" document to the members of the past AWP task team
 - Task Team to select their preferred methodology. (Completion October 5, 2015)
- Draft a decision document for Exe. (Completion October 13, 2015)
 - To include recommended approach and suggested approaches, program implications (budget, public policy, business risk,) and recommendation.
- Obtain executive implement direction; and if needed, seek approval from the federal government for the proposed change in methodology

Desired Outcomes:

- AWP compensation is responsive to regional changes in forage supply while also qualifying for Federal cost sharing.
- Methodology for determining forage replacement values is supported by forage producers, and Provincial and Federal governments
- Price methodology adheres to GF2 risk management programing principals.
- Renewed and engaged working relationship between the KLA and the Ministry staff.
- KLA board and agricultural sector is confident that Ministry of Agriculture is responsive to their wildlife concerns. Better AWP and project delivery in the Kootenays and throughout the province.

D. Develop an Assertive Kootenays Fencing Strategy for Maximizing Mitigation of Damage.

Goal: Working with the KLA and the other livestock associations in the Kootenays, establish concrete fencing project proposals for maximizing mitigation of damage in the Kootenays.

Action Plan:

- Working with representatives of the KLA and the other stakeholders review the prevention and mitigation project approval criteria.
- Consultation to be completed August 14, 2015. Note second cut haying and drought related activity may delay consultation.
- Draft revised and expanded project qualification and approval/selection criteria. (Completion August 18, 2015)
- Circulate and finalize revised and expanded project qualification and approval/selection criteria with stake holders; (may include input from past task team members). (August 31, 2015)
- Presentation of the revised qualifications and approval/selection criteria to Ministry Executive. (August 31, 2015)
- Develop pilot-concept projects with a focus to the Kootenays; to include input from livestock association in the Kootenays. Timing is highly dependent on producer acceptance and input of NRS ministries.
- On the ground implementation of projects as early as fall of 2015; highly dependent on producer acceptance
- Evaluate outcomes of Pilot and expand to other areas of the province; fall 2016

Desired Outcomes:

- Increased mitigation of forage and livestock loss and damage due to wildlife
- Renewed and engaged working relationship between the KLA and the Ministry staff.
- KLA board and agricultural sector is confident that Ministry of Agriculture is responsive to their wildlife concerns.
- Better AWP and project delivery in the Kootenays and throughout the province.

E. Eliminate the potential for multiple loss estimate adjustments for weeds and unproductive areas of a field. (Mike Malmberg's inspection form methodology concern).

Goal: AWP Forage loss observations are a reasonable representation of the actual loss due to damage from wildlife.

Action Plan:

- Meet with representatives of the KLA to seeking their input on the revisions required to the inspection methodology to eliminate the potential for multiple loss estimate adjustments for weeds and unproductive areas of a field
- Finalize revisions of field inspection form, and written procedures. (July 30, 2015)
- Communication to staff and inspector on how to account for weeds when estimating wildlife damage. (July 30, 2015)
- Yearly pre-and post-season training and meetings with inspectors and Ministry staff.

Desired Outcomes:

- Greater certainty that forage loss observations are a reasonable representation of the actual loss due to damage from wildlife.
- Renewed and engaged working relationship between the KLA and the Ministry staff.
- KLA board and agricultural sector is confident that Ministry of Agriculture is responsive to their wildlife concerns.
- Better AWP and project delivery in the Kootenays and throughout the province.

F. Need to develop creative ideas to address the impact of wildlife on Agriculture.

- The KLA has identified that compensation could be linked to a requirement to invest in mitigation through fencing.
 - BRMB staff to consult with KLA to better understand the KLA vision for this approach.
- Ministry Staff have proposed:
 - A) The use of a production guarantee and base compensation on the amount of the total crop harvested, net of losses due to insurable perils. This would be administratively simple and inexpensive, and the basis for the compensation would be easily understood and repeatable (bale weights). We are currently collecting both of these data points at a very low cost.
 - Initial conversations with the AWP Task Team and some individual producers have occurred. Reactions to a very high level description have been both positive and tentative.
 - Next steps would be to develop a Program Pilot document for stakeholder input.
 - This method could be bundled with an option to carry a minimum level of Production Insurance so that catastrophic coverage for weather related peril can be achieved. For the 2015 crop year producers enrolled in PI severe losses that may result from drought, would be covered.
 - B) The use of significantly less expensive 3D fencing for mitigation. 3D fencing is a recent concept that plays off of an ungulates inability to accurately evaluate the space available to jump a series of objects placed in close proximity to each other.

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2015 4:10 PM
To: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Letter to KLA

Draft 2 (highlighted text re KLA proposal subject to Ken's discussion with Faye).



KLA letter ds.docx

Comments?

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 9:57 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Letter to KLA

Derek

This is the proposed body of the letter back to KLA outlining our advances over the past 2 weeks. I didn't put this in eApproval yet.

Gary will be providing an updated version of the "Action Plan" reflecting the input from KLA. This should be an attachment to the letter.

I'll gladly support completion of this task if you endorse the content and timing of the message.

Ken

Ken Nickel, Director
Sector Development Branch, AGRI

604 556-3103

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: KLA letter ds

Thanks Gary.

Once we sort out what proposal the KLA is currently drafting, we can adjust then letter to reflect that finding and your comments. Most likely, we could pose it as something to investigate for the Kootenays. However, I do believe we have to move the whole province to prevention wherever we can.

Thanks

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: KLA letter ds

Derek, see my comment in the document re the idea s.13 . No problem with the concept – my question is whether we want to discuss this provincially and what KLA involvement you were envisioning on it's implementation.

No other issues.

Gary

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Kootenay Livestock <s.22 >
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Faye Street
Subject: Proposal For Wildlife Damage Prevention And Mitigation
Attachments: Scan 001.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22 [mailto:s.22]
Sent: None
To: s.22
Subject: From Kootenay Livestock

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Phaser MFP. For more information on Xerox products and solutions, please visit <http://www.xerox.com>.

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22 > on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: Rough Draft
Attachments: Proposal For Wildlife Damage Prevention And Mitigation

Hello Derek and Ken:

Please find attached a draft for our Prevention and Mitigation Program for the Kootenay Region for this fall.

I have not yet received the letter from you so am hoping we understood clearly your request and expectations.

Our proposal is to get some fencing started as early as possible this fall. We are unclear as to if the administration part of this project, will it be covered by the Grant that you mentioned or will it have to come out of the share of fencing monies that Francis will be allotting us?

Francis called after we had finished this proposal and said he thought he could give us \$80,000.00 for this falls projects. If that is the case we will immediately go to work and get some projects on the go so they can be completed before next spring's wildlife attack.

After you review this Draft if you have any questions please feel free to call me 250-421-3256 or email.

Thank-you both again for your very valuable time and your hard work on our behalf.

Cheers,

Faye Street,

Wildlife Chair, K.L.A.



KOOTENAY LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

BOX 173 • GRANBROOK, B.C. V1C 4H7 • TEL/FAX: (250) 426-4315



August 6, 2015

PROPOSAL FOR WILDLIFE DAMAGE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Kootenay Livestock Association is proposing a coordinated and joint plan for this Fencing and mitigation program.

We have learned a lot through the 7 year pilot program that we ran very successfully, and it is very important to us that we put as much of this funding on the ground as possible to protect our valuable crop lands with the intent to save tax payers dollars.

Key Criteria of the proposal: K.L.A. is the delivery agent to allow for maximum efficiency.

- One Project Manager that will inform people in this region of the program, its criteria, assist them with their applications, review each application for full content including maps, photo's, and budget.
- Organize approval meetings twice per month. Take all approved applications to a designated staff member at the MOE to review and discuss issues on, negative impact on wildlife migration, blockage to key habitat, and or access to wildlife corridors. We the agriculture industry understand the importance of wildlife migration. If necessary review approved applications with a designated staff member from MFLNRO.
- Take care of all other administration duties including contracts, project completion, inspections etc.

-Technical Approval Committee- Consisting of 5 or 6 industry people that will carefully review each application, recommend changes if required, and approve or reject each application. We will also have ranchers from different areas of our region for back up information on any applications if needed. (We have tried and proven evaluation sheets for this task)

Application Criteria-

- Must be sustaining a minimum of \$ 1,000.00 loss to wild life damage.
- Application complete with Maps, photos and a budget submitted before deadline date.
- Must be a Bona fide rancher or farmer. (B.C. Assessment Authority)
- Must construct the fence to program Specs as per our pilot program or if an innovative design is proposed be vetted and recommended by individuals with relevant expertise. In order to receive payment the requirements in the contract must be met.
- Where similar levels of impacts/benefits are found and when program monies are limited priority will be given to operations that have been receiving compensation payments.
- All fencing materials will be supplied at no cost to the Rancher.
- Double cattle guards or Wildlife Prevention Gates are mandatory at all main entrances to the fenced property. Half the cost of the cattle guards should be covered by the government funding. If the cattle guard is not installed then the Prevention gate must be kept closed, and or fencing both sides of the entrance lane to prevent wildlife from gaining access to the fenced property.

Factors to consider when reviewing applications:

- Monies paid out for damage per year, level and frequency of loss, implications of wildlife damage to operational success and expected benefits.
- Fluctuations in the cost of replacement feed, based on a fair replacement market value. Emphasis will be placed upon volume lost and its significance to the operation.

- Crop reestablishment risks are **much higher** and productive stand life is shortened when exposed to wildlife damage.
- Winter feeding costs are much higher when wildlife has access to feeding and calving grounds.
- When wildlife has access to cultivated, fertilized, and irrigated crops that is a very expensive loss to the producer. Many of these losses e.g. extended time to harvest, reduced "aftermath" forage, reduced stand vigour and forage quality are not calculated in the current compensation program or ever recovered.
- Once the fence is up the problems stop thereby returning management control, return on input investments and higher value cropping options.

Other Benefits of fencing Include:

- Noxious and other weed control. Wild life spread weeds, and due to the overgrazing they create seed beds for the weeds.
- Fence repair, thousands of dollars every year is spent fixing and replacing fences that have been damaged by wildlife. The mandatory 8 foot woven wire fences are much more durable, with stand the damage much better and when designed well deflect wildlife much better than conventional fences.
- Management of cattle with a Prevention fence is 110% more efficient and effective and saves the ranchers thousands of dollars and many hours of frustration and hard work. (i.e.: not having to regather your entire herd off of crown land and bring them home to graze valuable aftermath before the wildlife eat it all and then sorting and returning the dry cows to the range, calving and winter feeding where it is most economical rather than where the wildlife are less likely to eat the feed and injure the cattle, etc.)
- Parasite infestation of domestic herds. Wildlife carry many parasites and when eating and drinking from the same facilities they pass on their parasites to the rancher's livestock. Ranchers spend thousands annually to keep their cattle herds, horses and other livestock parasite free, another expense caused by wildlife that is never recovered.
- The cost of constructing these fences **to keep out the Queens critters NOT to keep in the domestic livestock is huge.** The landowner has to put in many hours

of hard labour, provide the fencing equipment (tractors, pounders, and trucks), fuel, tools etc.

This becomes very difficult for many as most ranchers now have to hold down an off farm job to keep their operation going. In many cases both husband and wife hold down full time off farm jobs. The time needed to construct the fences is often very hard to find and is the reason a lot of landowners find it very difficult to take advantage of the program, and so the tax dollars continue to bleed.

We need to research ways to help solve this difficulty. (Any ideas?? Interest free loans from somewhere??)

BUDGET – Approximately 8 Meetings from Now to Mid-November

Project Manager- \$250.00 per day

Financial Manager-\$30.00 per Hour

Fence Inspector-\$40.00 per Hour plus mileage

Technical Approval Cmte-\$150.00 per day plus mileage

Mileage @ .50 per Km.-

Office Supplies, telephone and zerox \$200.00 per month

Office Rent \$100.00 per month

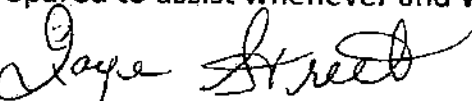
This budget will be more specific when we know the amount of government funding we have to work with.

This proposal will work for our Region due to our past successful experience.

For any new areas we would suggest they use our Pilot Program plan which I forwarded to you previously using both a Project Advisory and Management Cmte's. At least until a number of projects are completed and all is running efficiently.

We are prepared to assist whenever and wherever we can.

Sincerely,



Faye Street Chair for KLA Wildlife Committee

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 5:42 PM
To: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: Rough Draft

Ken – thoughts on this potential reply?

Thanks Faye.

s.13

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Faye Street [[mailto:s.22](#)]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: Rough Draft

Hello Derek and Ken:

Please find attached a draft for our Prevention and Mitigation Program for the Kootenay Region for this fall. I have not yet received the letter from you so am hoping we understood clearly your request and expectations. Our proposal is to get some fencing started as early as possible this fall. We are unclear as to if the administration part of this project, will it be covered by the Grant that you mentioned or will it have to come out of the share of fencing monies that Francis will be allotting us?

Francis called after we had finished this proposal and said he thought he could give us \$80,000.00 for this falls projects. If that is the case we will immediately go to work and get some projects on the go so they can be completed before next spring's wildlife attack.

After you review this Draft if you have any questions please feel free to call me 250-421-3256 or email.

Thank-you both again for your very valuable time and your hard work on our behalf.

Cheers,

Faye Street,

Wildlife Chair, K.L.A.

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22> > on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: oh yuk,

Thanks Derek, will let him know to expect the call.
Cheers,
Faye

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX [<mailto:Derek.Sturko@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: August-07-15 10:25 AM
To: 'Faye Street' <s.22>
Cc: 's.22' <s.22>
Subject: RE: oh yuk,

Faye:

Gary Falk will give Randy a call to discuss.

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 5:45 PM
To: 'Faye Street'
Cc: 's.22'
Subject: RE: oh yuk,

Thanks Faye. For the moment, just acknowledging receipt of your note. Will be back to you ASAP.

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Faye Street [<mailto:s.22>]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 2:14 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: s.22
Subject: oh yuk,

Hello Derek:

I really hate to have to bother you with this ongoing mess again, but Randy Reay asked me to call Francis yesterday morning and ask him what decision he has made regarding the 3 files that were altered by Chris Vos and Darrell

Smith. If you recall it was the last request I made of Francis at the end of our Video Conference meeting several weeks ago, . I also asked that he review an additional file that was paid out for 6 years at approx. \$2,000.00 per year (I can get you exact figures if you want, from 2008 to 2014) and in 2013 the same year in question for the altered files that client was paid nothing. I and many other ranchers know that the Elk did not go away as the fields in question lay along a well-traveled highway, and those fields did sustain significant damage in 2013. The inspector was new, had very little training and it grieves me to know that these folks were very unfairly treated. That is why I asked Francis to look at the facts and reconsider the decision. He refuses.

Francis called me back this morning and said he sees no reason to revisit any of these files.

In light of that decision Mr. Reay has asked that I please contact you and ask for your assistance.

My frustration Derek is that BRMB staff said from the start "We never tamper or alter a file without first speaking to the on ground inspector", that did not happen, nor has it happened to this day. My suggestion to Francis was "Please Francis, for god sakes sit down with Mike and Randy and talk this thing out, decide what went wrong so it does not happen again and put this thing to bed, a lot of very precious time and money has already been wasted on such nonsense that could and should be sorted out long ago", his answer to my request was that he sees no need to do that. I find that very frustrating Derek and quite frankly rather unprofessional. This mess is going to continue to fester if we don't put some salve on the sore and get it healed. I don't think it is at all unfair to ask for a sit down meeting to discuss, understand, compromise and finalize, why can this not be done Derek?

One very important thing I want to point out to you Derek is that I and others fear that the staff in BRMB do not understand the Forage Loss Calculation that was originally designed when this program was developed, there is a document written on that exact subject and I wonder how many of the BRMB staff have read it?? We fear that they are stuffing the calculating into the Crop Insurance bag instead of the original Calculation of loss agreement used when Todd Bonderoff was in charge of BRMB.

Greg Tegart has a copy of that and he is well versed. A short chat with him may help you with this dam mess that I am sure you are as sick of as I am.

Again important to note that the sooner we put more funding toward Prevention and Mitigation the better. It is worth noting that many of our producers that have fenced in the past Derek have significantly increase their production some as much as 40 to 50% increase, in crops harvested. That is extremely significant to the wellbeing of our industry Derek and the future of food production in this province. It also saves thousands and thousands of tax dollars that are badly needed in many other areas of our Provincial Budget.

Again I want to thank-you so much for your help with this ongoing mess and I hope you can come up with a fair solution as you have in the past.

I await your reply,

Cheers,

Faye Street

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Cc: 'Faye Street'
Subject: RE: Call to Randy Reay

Thanks Gary.

Faye – FYI.

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 1:21 PM
To: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: Call to Randy Reay

I called Mr. Reay. s.22
advised that he would be available on Monday night. So I will call him then.

– I was

Gary

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 1:25 PM
To: 'Faye Street'
Cc: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX
Subject: Follow up letter

Faye:

The follow up letter, based on our last discussion, will be emailed to you this afternoon.

For full transparency, I have copied the members of the AWP task team.

Thanks,

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800



File: 0280-30
Ref: 182789

August 7, 2015

Faye Street
Wildlife Committee Chairperson
Kootenay Livestock Association
Email: fstreet@kootenaylivestock.ca

Dear Ms. Street:

Re: Discussions Concerning Agriculture Wildlife Program

Thanks again to you and the directors of the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA) for meeting with us on June 24, July 15 and July 28, 2015 to explore improvements to the delivery of the ministry's Agriculture Wildlife Program (AWP) in your area. I recognize and acknowledge the significant investment of time and energy by everyone involved in those meetings and concerning this program over the past many months.

I particularly appreciate the KLA's support for the AWP Action Plan presented by ministry staff. Attached is a revised version of the Action Plan, adjusted to reflect our discussions, which should serve to improve the AWP program over time and enhance communication between the association and the ministry.

I want to reconfirm that staff in Business Risk Management Branch are committed to implementing the Action Plan. As General Manager of the Production Insurance & Agriculture Wildlife Program, Byron Jonson is accountable for ensuring the Branch meets its deadlines and delivers all related commitments. As Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Ken Nickel will oversee this activity. We appreciate your commitment to continue working with us on implementing the Action Plan.

Planned Actions – Kootenay Region

I would like to summarize the key actions I outlined during the July 28 call regarding KLA involvement in delivering the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the region. In particular:

.../2

- The ministry is prepared to provide some funding to the KLA to organize and manage wildlife damage prevention and mitigation projects on private land.
The funding that would support prevention activities would be the portion of the provincial total allocated to the Kootenay region. A longer term objective for the ministry is to shift additional program funding from compensation to mitigation/prevention (consistent with the program's original intentions). As such, the ministry is interested in investigating whether, in the future, there should be an obligation that some portion of any future compensation paid to a rancher for whom fencing or some other form of prevention is reasonable must be used for that purpose. The ultimate goal would be to eliminate the need for future compensation payments where circumstances allow. It seems the Kootenay region may be most appropriate to investigate this notion. The ministry looks forward to receiving the KLA's proposal and expected outcomes in this regard; and
- The Ministry will run a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, using an open public procurement process, to investigate third party delivery for some elements of the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the Kootenay region. These program delivery elements that will be included in the RFP will be registering clients, receiving client requests to inspect damaged fields, and assigning inspection needs to field inspectors. The ministry intends to complete the RFP process fully by December 31, 2015 such that a service delivery arrangement could be in place and operational by April 1, 2016.

As discussed, an essential objective of this activity is to improve the working relationship between ministry staff and the KLA. It is imperative that the KLA look upon this opportunity with the same perspective as the ministry. To that end, I expect you will work positively and proactively with program staff to achieve the program's goals, raise any concerns that emerge directly with staff, seek mutually agreeable solutions, and contribute to a positive public representation of the ministry, its staff and the AWP program.

Thank you again for engaging in such a constructive manner. I am optimistic we can build on this new start and develop a positive environment and effective program.

Sincerely,



Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister

Attachment

pc: Ken Nickel, A/ Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division

Gary Falk, Director
Business Risk Management Branch

Byron Jonson, General Manager, Production Insurance
Business Risk Management Branch

Members of the Agriculture Wildlife Program Task Team

Judy Madden – s.22

Wayne Ray – s.22

Janik Heer – s.22

Cuyley Huffman – s.22

Leroy Peters – s.22

Doug Fossen – s.22

Peter Trescher – s.22

Elaine Stovin – s.22

Doug Hatfield – s.22

Fran Teitge – s.22

Mike Malmberg – s.22

Harlan Bradford – s.22

Ms. Faye Street, TITLE
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Dear Ms. Street:

Re: Discussions Concerning Agriculture Wildlife Program

Thanks again to you and the directors of the Kootenay Livestock Association for meeting with us on June 24, July 15 and July 28, 2015 to explore improvements to the delivery of the ministry's Agriculture Wildlife Program in your area. I recognize and acknowledge the significant investment of time and energy by everyone involved in those meetings and concerning this program over the past many months.

I particularly appreciate the KLA's support for the AWP Action Plan presented by ministry staff. Attached is a revised version of the Action Plan, adjusted to reflect our discussions, which should serve to improve the AWP program over time and enhance communication between the association and the ministry.

I want to reconfirm that staff in Business Risk Management Branch are committed to implementing the Action Plan. As General Manager of the Production Insurance & Agriculture Wildlife Program, Byron Jonson is accountable for ensuring the Branch meets its deadlines and delivers all related commitments. As Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Ken Nickel will oversee this activity. We appreciate your commitment to continue working with us on implementing the Action Plan.

Planned Actions – Kootenay Region

I'd like to summarize the key actions I outlined during the July 28 call regarding KLA involvement in delivering the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the region. In particular:

- The ministry is prepared to provide some funding to the KLA to organize and manage wildlife damage prevention and mitigation projects on private land. The funding that would support prevention activities would be the portion of the provincial total allocated to the Kootenay region. As a longer term objective is to shift additional program funding from compensation to mitigation/prevention (consistent with the program's original intentions),
s.13 of any future compensation paid to a rancher for whom fencing or some other form of prevention is reasonable must be used for that purpose. s.13

s.13

Ms. Faye Street, TITLE
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Dear Ms. Street:

Re: Discussions Concerning Agriculture Wildlife Program

Thanks again to you and the directors of the Kootenay Livestock Association for meeting with us on June 24, July 15 and July 28, 2015 to explore improvements to the delivery of the ministry's Agriculture Wildlife Program in your area. I recognize and acknowledge the significant investment of time and energy by everyone involved in those meetings and concerning this program over the past many months.

I particularly appreciate the KLA's support for the AWP Action Plan presented by ministry staff. Attached is a revised version of the Action Plan, adjusted to reflect our discussions, which should serve to improve the AWP program over time and enhance communication between the association and the ministry.

I want to reconfirm that staff in Business Risk Management Branch are committed to implementing the Action Plan. As General Manager of the Production Insurance & Agriculture Wildlife Program, Byron Jonson is accountable for ensuring the Branch meets its deadlines and delivers all related commitments. As Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Ken Nickel will oversee this activity. We appreciate your commitment to continue working with us on implementing the Action Plan.

Planned Actions – Kootenay Region

I'd like to summarize the key actions I outlined during the July 28 call regarding KLA involvement in delivering the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the region. In particular:

- The ministry is prepared to provide some funding to the KLA to organize and manage wildlife damage prevention and mitigation projects on private land. The funding that would support prevention activities would be the portion of the provincial total allocated to the Kootenay region. As a longer term objective is to shift additional program funding from compensation to mitigation/prevention (consistent with the program's original intentions), s.13 of any future compensation paid to a rancher for whom fencing or some other form of prevention is reasonable must be used for that purpose. s.13

s.13

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

Ms. Faye Street
Kootenay Livestock Association
Etc.

s.13

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22> on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:12 AM
To: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; Njenga, Francis AGRI:EX
Cc: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX;
s.13 Tegart, Greg AGRI:EX;
s.13
Subject: Action Plan Document

Good Morning Byron and Francis:

As requested by you both on yesterday's call, I have carefully reviewed the Draft Action Plan Document sent out by Assistant Deputy Minister Derek Sturko.

I have one request for change, and that is on page 5, under Action Plan: bullet 4, please add K.L.A. staff to that yearly pre and post season training and meetings. I feel it is most important that everyone involved in delivering an efficient and effective program be fully trained and informed as to all aspects of the program. That way nothing falls through the cracks and the team works like a well-oiled machine, the way it should.

Also note that when KLA was fully in charge of the program we did that, every spring we had a full team meeting to discuss all issues well in advance of the program starting, and it worked very well.

As you requested I will be available this afternoon for discussion on the page 4, Kootenay Fencing Strategy. As discussed the proposed deadline for that completion in the document is Aug. 14th which is Friday, so I agree that needs to be the focus of today's discussion. Having said that I hope if we can all agree that the wheel does not need to be re-invented. As I have pointed out many times we have a tried, tested and true system in place that included 7 years of hard work and co-operation that has proven to protect a lot of productive lands and saved the tax payers a lot of precious dollars.

Also note that although I get the fact that you are obligated to share whatever funding is available throughout the province please remember that the Kootenay's not only has the worst wildlife devastation in the province, we have suffered it the longest. Most importantly, we have clearly shown our willingness to help ourselves, at great expense to ourselves, while other parts of the province did not even have any applications in for the funding that was available. I seriously believe we need to make an effort to help those that are ready and willing to help themselves and in doing so save the precious tax dollars that keep bleeding the treasury when there is a tried and proven solution to heal the wound. I have to tell you that I am still very angry that the funding for fencing that was available from 2 years past that we fought very hard for went to help solve the problem of the Avian Influenza clean up at the coast. I fully understand that when an emergency happens how government looks for any un-used funding to help and I appreciate that. However had the prevention fencing criteria not been so narrowly focused that funding could have been in the ground saving 3 years of crops, helping our producers be more financially viable, and saving tax dollars. Please lets focus on getting this job done as we promised Derek we would do, and let's not waste time on re-invents.

K.L.A. has made a commitment to do all we can to help solve this problem, and we stand by that commitment, so" pitter patter let's get at'er and let's get er done!!"

I await your call at 4 P.M. Mountain Standard Time today,
Thank-you,
Sincerely,
Faye Street,
Chair of the Kootenay Livestock Association, Wildlife Committee

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX; Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX
Subject: Fwd: Letter from BCCA re: Ag Wildlife Program
Attachments: Ltr Min Letnick_AWP Concerns & Recommendations_August 31 2015.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Derek Sturko
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: 'BC Cattlemen's Association' <s.22 >
Date: August 31, 2015 at 3:29:52 PM PDT
To: <AGR.minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: 'BC Cattlemen's Association' <bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca>, <s.22 >, <derek.sturko@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter from BCCA re: Ag Wildlife Program
Reply-To: <bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca>

Dear Honourable Minister Letnick:

Attached please find a letter from BC Cattlemen's Association President Larry Fossum regarding recent discussions between your ministry and Kootenay Livestock Association about the Agriculture Wildlife Program.

Regards,
Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association
(Sent on behalf of Larry Fossum)

Elaine Stovin | BC Cattlemen's Association | Ph: 250-573-3611

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2015.0.6086 / Virus Database: 4409/10551 - Release Date: 08/31/15



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

Hon. Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture
Box 9120 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9B4

August 31, 2015

*Our File #: 2015 -047
SENT BY EMAIL AGR.minister@gov.bc.ca
(original to follow by mail)*

Dear Minister Letnick:

Re: Discussions with KLA Concerning Agriculture Wildlife Program

Recently members of the Agriculture Wildlife Program (AWP) Task Team were sent the correspondence and Draft Action Plan that has been developed for the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA). The correspondence and plan however raise some very serious concerns on multiple levels for BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) and producers throughout the rest of the province. Outlined below are BCCA's concerns and recommendations regarding the Task Team, Pilot Projects, and Regional Delivery.

Task Team Recommendations

In late 2014 and early 2015 the AWP Task Team spent considerable time developing 15 recommendations to be considered by government for the **entire province** on a **provincial** program. BCCA representatives on the Task Team were concerned that there was over representation from the Kootenay region on the committee. In the interest of trying to understand why and in the hope of utilizing what may have been learned in the Pilot program that had been allotted to the Kootenays, the makeup of the team was accepted. Members on the Task Team felt that the outcome was very positive and that Business Risk Management Branch (BRMB) staff did a very good job of organizing and facilitating the process.

In reviewing the documents provided on August 7, 2015, we felt that the Draft Action Plan document did in fact address several of the recommendations developed by the Task Team, either directly or indirectly. We are concerned however that the approach being taken gives an unfair advantage to one region over the rest of the province.

Recommendation:

- Task Team recommendations be implemented for all regions of the province on an equal basis
- Recommendations were developed provincially and need to be enacted provincially not just to those who are the most vocal
- Any opportunities offered regionally need to be accommodated in all regions

.../2

Pilot Projects

The ministry's letter sent to the Kootenay Livestock Association Wildlife Committee on August 7th has raised additional concerns for our members; particularly the indication that there is a regional allocation of funds within the AWP. A regional breakdown of funds has never been communicated previously. If this is the case we need to know what those allotments are and the process for other regions to be able to take advantage of them.

It must be noted that regional delivery goes against the recommendations of the Task Team because the program should be equally available to all producers throughout the province. Additionally, the Task Team was asked to find efficiencies and it was felt that regional delivery would redirect funding away from claims and toward regional administration which was already being provided by the Province.

As one region in the province has been able to run its own program for the past several years on what we assume was a pilot program, it would be useful to understand how it differed from what was being delivered throughout the rest of the province and whether it was successful or not. We would also like to know:

- Were there efficiencies gained through this process?
- Were the costs to process a claim in Kootenays higher or lower than the rest of the province?
- Were the average claims higher or lower for claims processed in the Kootenays versus the province?
- What portion of the funding for the program was utilized in each area of the province?
- How much funding was invested in mitigation in every region?
- The letter to the Kootenays reflected that the original intent of the program is to shift from compensation to mitigation.
 - Was this a consideration in the original pilot?
 - If not, why not? And if so, has it been achieved?

Your choice to select Kootenay region for another pilot project raises the question about the process used to determine the location of pilots. Other areas of the province have been hit equally hard by wildlife damage. As well these areas are receiving additional pressure from ministry biologists to transplant or relocate habituated elk, which could make the areas more desirable for pilot projects.

Recommendations:

- That the province adheres to the Task Team recommendations as presented.
- That regions are treated equally and fairly.
- That claims are assessed based on need and damage.
- That any change from compensation to mitigation be clearly communicated to producers throughout the province.
- That other regions of the province should be entitled to an amount equal to what the Kootenay region has received for mitigation programming.
- That all regions be treated equally and given the same attention and opportunities.

- That the program remains provincial with provincial delivery to ensure that there is no unfair advantage given to any region in the province.
- That if a pilot program is to be implemented on the basis of the "most appropriate region" then a proper transparent assessment be conducted to determine what area that would be.

Regional Program Delivery

Regarding the second bullet in the letter we would like to understand the rationale for a region doing these administrative services for the program. As a service that is available throughout the province these will already be in place with the BRMB. In what way will this service in a region or in several regions be of benefit to the producers that are looking for relief through the program?

The Task Team was asked to support continuation of regional delivery in the Kootenay region. After consulting with their zone members, Task Team members from all seven regions did not support this request. It was felt that provincial delivery was fair and more cost efficient. Added administration only reduces the amount of funding for compensation and ultimately benefits the organization delivering the program. If third party delivery is the desired avenue, then it needs to be province-wide, non-repetitive, and have basis to show that it adds value for the producer.

It is stated that the intended objective is to "improve the working relationship between ministry staff and KLA". Is this a good use of the funding and does it fall within the parameters of accepted uses for the program funding? Is there a similar objective to help improve the relationships with the producers in the predator ravaged regions?

Recommendations:

- That the program remains delivered provincially by BRMB.
- That if evidence of cost benefit to producers supports third party regional delivery, then all regions should be eligible to deliver the program.

Attention to Priority Issues

Finally, and most significant to our members, is the priority that appears to be being given to resolve a dispute with one region. Significant time has already been spent to develop recommendations to improve the program. BCCA feels that there are other wildlife issues that have a much more significant impact on livestock production in the province that are being ignored.

From what we understand a considerable amount of your time has been spent meeting with this group (three meetings are indicated in your letter). At the same time we have not seen the development of the Wildlife Advisory Committee that you announced at the BCCA Annual General meeting that would have the capacity to make recommendations on issues such as this.

Even more distressing is the fact that we still have no relief for the outstanding losses our ranchers are experiencing through predation. While we know this does not fall entirely within the mandate of the Agriculture Ministry it is having a huge effect on agriculture in BC.

We feel that your goal of having agriculture contribute 17 billion dollars to the economy by 2017 is attainable if attentions are focused on the higher priority issues. The high cost of wild predator losses to the beef cattle industry are undeniably a barrier to reaching this provincial goal.

Predators are an issue that we have repeatedly brought to the attention of government and it is disappointing that resources have not resolving this issue while considerable resources has gone into responding to the issue of a small but vocal region.

Please help us to understand how the priorities are set and when we can expect the Ministry to champion the needs of all livestock producers in BC by addressing the huge losses we are sustaining due to predators.

Recommendations:

- That the Ministry of Agriculture immediately establishes the Provincial Wildlife Advisory Committee and that the make-up of committee to be of representatives of provincial based groups and organizations, not regional.
- That the Ministry take a lead in addressing the long standing issue of predation on livestock in BC.

BCCA strives to present viable long-term solutions to government that benefit the entire industry. We are very disappointed and concerned with the message that these recent events are sending to the producers throughout the province. While we feel that the cattle industry is poised to expand and grow there is little chance of that becoming a reality if government is unwilling to prioritize and tackle the relevant issues that face our industry.

We hope that this message is taken seriously as it is important to the beef industry.

Respectfully,



Lary Fossum, President
BC Cattlemen's Association

cc Deputy Minister Derek Sturko

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: KLA Funding

Derek – I connected with Gary regarding the Notice of Intent posted for KLA to receive
s.13

Arif Lalani
Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:31 AM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Cc: Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Correspondence for DM Derek Sturko

Arif, here is the commitment letter that Derek sent to Faye Street who is the manager of the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA). This relates to the Notice of Intent I sent you yesterday.

Gary

From: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX **On Behalf Of** Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 2:33 PM
To: 'Faye Street'
Cc: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; s.22
s.22 ;

Subject: Correspondence for DM Derek Sturko

The attached correspondence is sent on behalf of Derek Sturko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture.



Faye Street
correspondence....



attachment for
Faye Street Let...

Susan

Susan Fair
Sr. Executive Assistant
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Agriculture
250-356-1800

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:44 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: RE: KLA Funding

FYI – email was not ready to be sent. Was working on it but system problems were being addressed by Michael Davies and this email somehow got sent in the process. Sigh.

Arif Lalani
Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: KLA Funding

Derek – I connected with Gary regarding the Notice of Intent posted for KLA to receive

s.13

Arif Lalani
Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture

From: Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:31 AM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Cc: Cameron, Sandra AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Correspondence for DM Derek Sturko

Arif, here is the commitment letter that Derek sent to Faye Street who is the manager of the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA). This relates to the Notice of Intent I sent you yesterday.

Gary

From: Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX **On Behalf Of** Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2015 2:33 PM

To: 'Faye Street'

Cc: Nickel, Ken AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; s.22
s.22

Subject: Correspondence for DM Derek Sturko

The attached correspondence is sent on behalf of Derek Sturko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture.

<< File: Faye Street correspondence.pdf >> << File: attachment for Faye Street Letter.pdf >>

Susan

Susan Fair
Sr. Executive Assistant
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Agriculture
250-356-1800

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22> on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX
Subject: update

Good Morning Byron:

The \$110,000.00 arrived here yesterday, by afternoon the trucks were loaded and fencing materials delivered to all applicants and the posts are going in the ground as we speak, Kootenay's are given er, will be tax dollars saved next spring as the elk will be on the out lookin in!!!

Still haven't heard from Francis on the other 2 altered files and the s.22

Still haven't heard from Leanne or you regarding the load of sucker rod posts??

Thanks Byron, I will be on my cell if you have any news.

Cheers,

Faye

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Faye Street <s.22 > on behalf of Faye Street
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 8:48 AM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Cc: Bennett.MLA, Bill LASS:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; s.22
Subject: Kootenay Fencing to save Tax Dollars
Attachments: Final-Derek ltr.docx; martinpic2.jpg; martinpic4.jpg; MartinPic.jpg; martinpic3.jpg

Good Morning Derek:

Please find attached a letter to you from the Kootenay Livestock Association with pictures.

Thanks again for all your help and we await your reply.

Cheers,

Faye Street

KOOTENAY LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
BOX 173 - CRANBROOK, B.C. V1C 4H7 - TEL/FAX: (250) 426-4315



October 19, 2015

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
Box 9120 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B4

Dear Derek:

Please find attached Photos of the Prevention Fencing Projects which are under construction here in the Kootenays.

Our sincere thanks Derek, for this funding. By the time the funds were deposited in the KLA account our Review committee was able to prepare and approve several applications.

The funding arrived in our bank account Oct. 7, and we had trucks loaded and were delivering fencing material the next day. Our ranchers are making every effort to get as much of this fencing complete before winter.

Derek, we are willing and able take back the Administration of the Agriculture Wildlife Program for the Kootenay Region. We await the arrival of the R.F.P. and will complete and return it to meet the Dec. 31, 2015 deadline.

Derek, we are hoping that you can assist us in getting as much of the 2016 / 2017 Prevention/Mitigation Funding awarded directly to Kootenay Livestock Association.

We have a proven track record of getting the job done efficiently and effectively. This fencing program prevents the loss of forage and it saves the government from paying compensation for forage losses.

We have producers which are currently receiving compensation who are willing to work with our Association to build fences.

Kootenay Livestock Association has 14 years' experience in administering both the Cash Compensation, the Prevention/Mitigation, and the A.W.P. Programs. We will continue to put the same effort behind any and all 2016/2017 programs. This is a more efficient expenditure of our provinces tax dollars than working through B.R.M.B. We will continue to report on all projects, progress and expenditures.

Forage losses to wildlife in the Kootenays is preventable by fencing. K.L.A. is a strong association that is capable of getting this done. Once these projects are complete the government will be saving hundreds of thousands of tax dollars both in Ag Wildlife Program payments, as well as inspectors contracts and administration costs.

Our industry here in the Kootenay's appreciates the help that you have given us and the fact that you understand the frustration we encountered with the B.R.M.B. staff during the past several years.

We look forward to your continued support for this program.

Harlan Bradford

President Kootenay Livestock Association

Faye Street and Harvey Bombardier

Co-Chairs, K.L.A. Wildlife Comte.

Cc: Bill Bennett – M.L.A

Minister Norm Letnick

Premier Christy Clark

KOOTENAY LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

BOX 173 • CRANBROOK, B.C. V1C 4H7 • TEL/FAX: (250) 426-4315



October 19, 2015

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
Box 9120 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9B4

Dear Derek:

Please find attached Photos of the Prevention Fencing Projects which are under construction here in the Kootenays.

Our sincere thanks Derek, for this funding. By the time the funds were deposited in the KLA account our Review committee was able to prepare and approve several applications.

The funding arrived in our bank account Oct. 7, and we had trucks loaded and were delivering fencing material the next day. Our ranchers are making every effort to get as much of this fencing complete before winter.

Derek, we are willing and able take back the Administration of the Agriculture Wildlife Program for the Kootenay Region. We await the arrival of the R.F.P. and will complete and return it to meet the Dec. 31, 2015 deadline.

Derek, we are hoping that you can assist us in getting as much of the 2016 / 2017 Prevention/Mitigation Funding awarded directly to Kootenay Livestock Association.

We have a proven track record of getting the job done efficiently and effectively. This fencing program prevents the loss of forage and it saves the government from paying compensation for forage losses.

We have producers which are currently receiving compensation who are willing to work with our Association to build fences.

Kootenay Livestock Association has 14 years' experience in administering both the Cash Compensation, the Prevention/Mitigation, and the A.W.P. Programs. We will continue to put the same effort behind any and all 2016/2017 programs. This is a more efficient expenditure of our provinces tax dollars than working through B.R.M.B. We will continue to report on all projects, progress and expenditures.

Forage losses to wildlife in the Kootenays is preventable by fencing. K.L.A. is a strong association that is capable of getting this done. Once these projects are complete the government will be saving hundreds of thousands of tax dollars both in Ag Wildlife Program payments, as well as inspectors contracts and administration costs.

Our industry here in the Kootenay's appreciates the help that you have given us and the fact that you understand the frustration we encountered with the B.R.M.B. staff during the past several years.

We look forward to your continued support for this program.



Harlan Bradford

President Kootenay Livestock Association



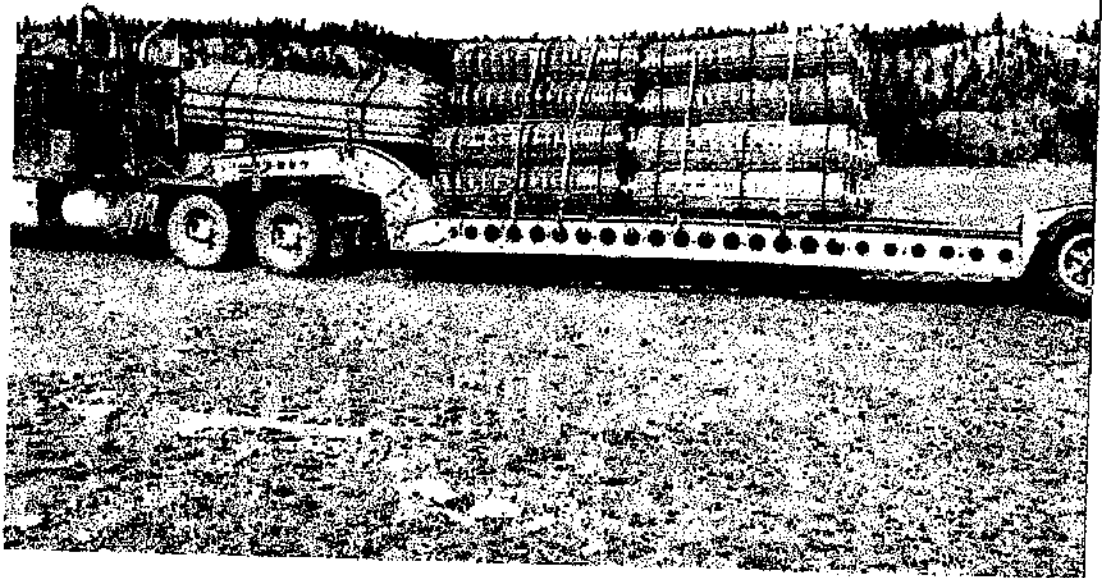
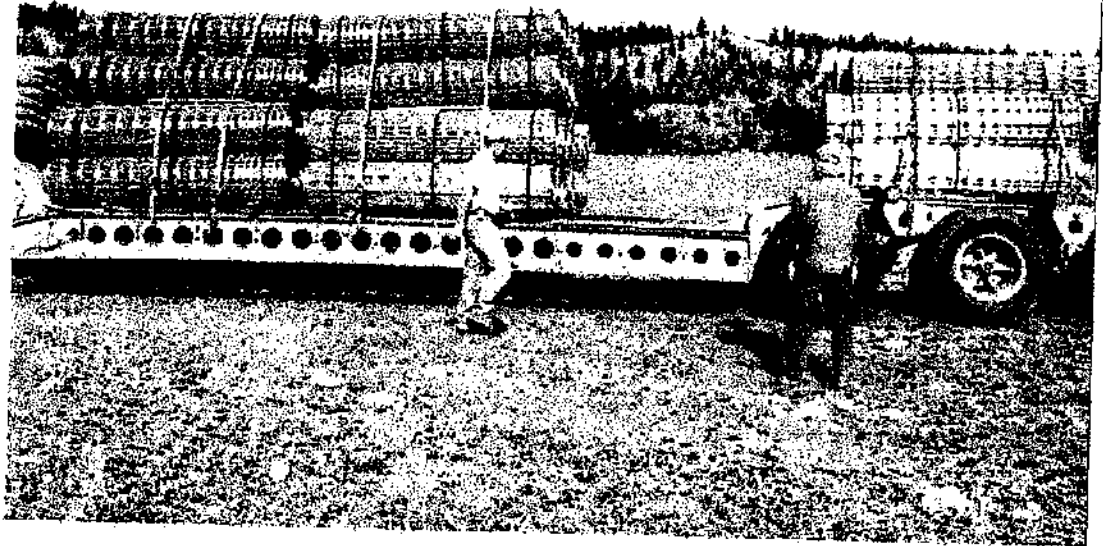
Faye Street and Harvey Bombardier

Co-Chairs, K.L.A. Wildlife Comte.

Cc: Bill Bennett – M.L.A

Minister Norm Letnick

Premier Christy Clark





October 21, 2015

File: 0280-30
Ref: 182932

Lary Fossum
President
BC Cattlemen's Association
4 - 10145 Dallas Dr
Kamloops BC V2C 6T4

Dear Mr. Fossum:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2015 and for sharing the BC Cattlemen's Association's (BCCA) recommendations with respect to the British Columbia Agriculture Wildlife Program. I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. I appreciate that BCCA is seeking ways to address the impacts of wildlife on agriculture, and is willing to work toward finding possible solutions to the issues. This willingness was demonstrated through your valued participation on the Agriculture Wildlife Program's (AWP) Task Team where a number of recommendations were made. The vast majority of those recommendations have been implemented across the province.

In your letter you highlighted that a key commitment by the Ministry to the Task Team was the establishment of a Provincial Wildlife Advisory Committee. The Ministry agrees with this recommendation and is currently exploring the appropriate scope for such a committee within the context of requests by other stakeholders and the BCCA to have input on the wider wildlife management issues. Having an integrated and coordinated approach to wildlife management is of particular interest to the Ministry of Agriculture and other Natural Resource Sector ministries.

I understand that Arif Lalani, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment have arranged to meet with yourself and Kevin Boon to begin work on defining the scope for a Provincial Wildlife Advisory Committee. This meeting has been tentatively set for November 2, 2015 in Richmond. The dialogue will need to be focused on how to improve the interface between the relevant ministries, stakeholders and the ranching sector, to achieve the objective of better managing the effects of wildlife populations on agricultural producers.

.../2

I look forward to the results of the work that has begun with BCCA and the applicable ministries, exploring improved ways for the cattle industry to have input on the management of wildlife.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture

pc: Tom Ethier, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Arif Lalani, Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture

Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service
Ministry of Environment

Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen's Association

Draft KLA letter

Dear Faye

First, I want to again thank you and the Kootenay Livestock Association directors for meeting with us on July 15th to explore improvements to the delivery of the Ministry's Agriculture Wildlife Program in your area. I recognize the significant investment of time and energy by all in that meeting and on this issue. I greatly appreciated the participation of the KLA board members in refining and supporting the Action Plan presented by Ministry staff. Please review the attached revised action plan with your suggestions incorporated. If you feel further revisions are required please specify them. This Action Plan will undoubtedly improve our Program over time and enhance communication between the Association and the Ministry.

As an outcome, our Business Risk Management program staff are committed to implementing the Action Plan. Byron Jonson, General Mgr, Production Insurance & Agriculture Wildlife Program, will provide oversight and ensure we hit our deadlines and deliver on our commitments. We appreciate your commitment to continue working with us on implementing this Action Plan.

Second, I'd like to summarize the key messages from our follow-up call on July 28th. The purpose of that call was to respond to your requests for greater involvement in delivering the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the region.

On that call, I informed you the Ministry was prepared to provide funding to the KLA for wildlife damage prevention and mitigation projects on private land. The funding provided would be the portion of the provincial total allocated to the Kootenay region. To move this funding to the KLA it was understood you needed to develop a proposal with clear outcomes in line with the program objectives. While the exact funding level was not yet known, we all acknowledged that a proposal and agreement were needed soon for works to be done on the ground in 2015. The KLA committed to submitting a proposal soon and the Ministry committed to providing funding information. We both agreed that a longer term objective was to shift additional program funding from compensation to mitigation/prevention.

Also on the call, I let you know the Ministry would be packaging some elements of the regional delivery of the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the Kootenays and offering those for third party delivery using an open public procurement process. These regional delivery elements included registering clients, receiving client requests to inspect damaged fields, and assigning inspection needs to field inspectors. The deadlines were December 31, 2015 for having a delivery arrangement in place, and April 1, 2016 for the start of third party delivery services. Again, the third party delivery group will be determined through an open and competitive process, consistent with our corporate procurement policies.

Finally, I repeated my desire for a better working relationship between Ministry staff and the KLA. We are committed to implementing the changes in how the Agriculture Wildlife Program in the Kootenay region is delivered. If the KLA is more involved in the program I expect you will raise your concerns

directly with my staff and seek mutually agreeable solutions and that you will contribute to a positive public representation of the Ministry and its staff.

Thanks again for engaging in a such a constructive manner. I am optimistic that we can build on this new start and develop a positive environment and effective program.

| Derek SturkoKen



October 29, 2015

File: 0280-30

Ref: 183152

Harlan Bradford
President
Kootenay Livestock Association
Box 173
Cranbrook BC V1C 4H7

Dear Mr. Bradford:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2015 regarding funding for Prevention Fencing Projects. I am pleased that we were able to expedite the Shared Cost Arrangement to deliver mitigation initiatives in the Kootenay Region through the Kootenay Livestock Association. This was due to the efforts of the Business Risk Management staff and your organization working closely together to make it happen as quickly as possible. Once the agreement was in place, I also appreciate your efforts to help ranchers in the Kootenay Region build fences to mitigate the impacts of wildlife on their forage fields.

As you are aware, a Wildlife/Livestock Conflict Reduction Review has been initiated involving several ministries within the Natural Resource Sector as well as ranchers and other stakeholders. The goal of the review is to improve the current provincial policies and programs related to livestock and forage losses due to wildlife. Your organization will be reached as an important stakeholder. We will await the final report and recommendations from this review and then determine any budget decisions for 2016/17.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister

cc: See Page 2 attached

cc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture

Honourable Bill Bennett, MLA
Kootenay East

Harvey Bombardier, Co-Chair
Kootenay Livestock Association Wildlife Committee

Faye Street, Co-Chair
Kootenay Livestock Association Wildlife Committee

Page 113

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX

From: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX; Mack, James AGRI:EX
Cc: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX; Morales, Stefan AGRI:EX; Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Contracting of Clerical Support Services for the Agricultural Wildlife Program delivery in the Kootenay Region

Arif/James:

This is okay to share with the Article 29 committee.

Derek Sturko
Deputy Minister
BC Ministry of Agriculture
(250) 356-1800

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 11:58 AM
To: Mack, James AGRI:EX
Cc: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Contracting of Clerical Support Services for the Agricultural Wildlife Program delivery in the Kootenay Region

James - I understand Article 29 has asked about the recent RFP for Clerical Support Services for the Agricultural Wildlife Program (AWP) delivery in the Kootenay Region. As you know, attracting new staff in remote or rural areas of the province has been challenging for the Ministry. As a result, in the past, the Ministry went to the private sector to play a significant role in the initial development and satisfactory delivery of AWP in the Kootenay region. The result has been a very successful relationship and support to the livestock ranchers within the Kootenay Region. In order to ensure the continued success in the delivery of the client service, Business Risk Management made the decision, which I supported, to continue the involvement of the private sector in the delivery of the AWP.

Arif Lalani
Assistant Deputy Minister
Business Development Division
Ministry of Agriculture

Fair, Susan P AGRI:EX

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Sturko, Derek AGRI:EX
Subject: Fw: Clerical Support Services - SRFP#AWP1617

FYI

Arif Lalani, ADM
Business Development Division

From: Jonson, Byron AGRI:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2016 5:32 AM
To: Faye Street
Cc: Smith, Rebecca AGRI:EX; Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX; Falk, Gary AGRI:EX
Subject: Clerical Support Services - SRFP#AWP1617

Faye Street, Kootenay Livestock Association

This email is to inform you that the Kootenay Livestock Association is the successful proponent with regard to its submission to provide the Clerical Support Services required by the Business Risk Management Branch; as specified under SRFP#AWP1617. Written confirmation this successful outcome will be forwarded to you. I will be contacting you the week of January 4, 2016 to begin developing a contract in the form of a General Service Agreement for the provision of clerical support services to assist with the delivery of the Forage Loss Compensation component of the Agriculture Wildlife Program. If you would like to receive feedback on your proposal as submitted, please contact me by phone at 250 861-7200.

Thank you for your proposal

Regards

Byron Jonson
General Manager, Production Insurance and Agriculture Wildlife Program
Business Risk Management Branch
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture