

**Yukon Agricultural Association - Annual General Meeting
May 11, 2018 Mt McIntyre Recreation Centre**

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Gail Riederer, André Fortin, Cain Vangel, Sonny Gray, Léona Dargis, Ralph Mease, Vibeke Coates, Mike Henderson, Alan Stannard, Brad Barton, Mario Ley, Kevin Bowers, Kathy Pritchard, Collin Remillard, Jasmine Roush, Matt Ball, Bernard Luken, Adrienne Fink, Wayne Grove, Dev Hurlburt, Anne Savoie, Bill Drury, Barbara Drury, Winston McMahon, Kristine Ferris

Guests Present: Hon. Ranj Pillai - EMR Minister, Brad Cathers – MLA, Manon Moreau –EMR ADM, Tara Bosma, Mitch Holder

Staff Present: Jennifer Hall

1. **Call to order**
Vice President Cain Vangel called the meeting to order at 7.20pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
MOTION: Sonny Gray made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Leona Dargis. Carried.
3. **Remarks by The Honourable Ranj Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources**
Minister Pillai introduced himself and spoke how he had enjoyed his meetings to date with YAA. He talked about YAA's contributions to the Pounds' Act, the drafting of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, as well as the Local Food Strategy and the revisions of the Yukon Agriculture Policy. He talked about the challenges and achievements of managing agriculture-wildlife conflicts. Describing the current growth of Yukon's agriculture sector, he acknowledged that a majority of producers are small in size and that the sector has a diverse set of needs. He concluded that an increase in family farming businesses could help to stabilize Yukon's economy in the future.
4. **Minutes of AGM of May 5, 2017**
MOTION: Mike Henderson made a motion to adopt the AGM minutes of May 5, 2017 as presented in the AGM meeting materials, seconded by Sonny Gray. Carried.
5. **Financial Reports**
 - a) **Approval of the 2017-18 financial statements**
Collin Remillard, YAA board member, read aloud the notes forwarded by YAA's bookkeeper, Meg Smith-Potter of Precision Books, and presented YAA's 2017-18 unaudited financial reports.
MOTION: Mike Henderson made a motion to approve the 2018-19 financial statements as presented seconded by Sonny Gray. Carried.
 - b) **Appointment of professional accountant for the review of the 2017-18 books**
The YAA board of directors has opted to initiate a financial review this year, prior to the change in the fiscal year. The members were asked to approve the appointment of the professional accountant for the review of the 2017-18 financial reports.
MOTION: Sonny Gray made a motion to approve the appointment of BDO Canada LLP as the accounting firm that will review YAA's 2017-18 financial statements, seconded by Mike Henderson. Carried.
6. **Special Resolutions**

On April 17, 2018, the following two special resolutions were circulated to the membership by email, and were also posted on YAA's website as well as a publically accessible notice board outside of the YAA office.

 - a) **That the amendments to YAA's bylaws, as circulated on April 17, 2018, be approved.**
The bylaw amendments focus on lengthening the term of office for directors from one year to two years and also staggering the elections so that only half the board is up for election each year. Additional amendments seek to improve the consistency of the references to Secretary and Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer. The bylaw stating that the yearend must follow the Government of Yukon's yearend will be removed. Corporate Affairs, as well as the YAA board of directors, have approved the proposed amendments.
MOTION: Sonny Gray made a motion to approve the bylaw amendments as circulated to YAA members on April 17th, 2018, seconded by Dev Hurlburt. Carried.
 - b) **That YAA change its fiscal yearend from March 31 to August 31.**
A special resolution, with specific dates, is required to change the fiscal yearend. Government of Yukon have approved the change of yearend. YAA is waiting for final approval from the Canadian Revenue Agency. If everything falls into place, the current 2018 fiscal year that started on April 1st will close on August 31st and another set of financial statements will be presented at an AGM in November 2018.
MOTION: Alan Stannard made a motion to approve the change in the fiscal yearend from March 31 to August 31, seconded by Andre Fortin. Carried

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7. **Vice President's Report**

Cain Vangel spoke about the recent signing of a new Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) between Yukon Agricultural Association and Government of Yukon. He reviewed the deliverables for which YAA is responsible. Details of the TPA are included on page 7 of the AGM package of materials that was distributed at the meeting. Cain thanked the government for their ongoing support and also said that he was pleased about the progress YAA was making in fulfilling its mandate and serving its members.

8. **Executive Director's Report**

As a way to introduce this year's progress, Jennifer Hall talked about the framework of YAA's five-year strategic plan. The five areas of activity that guide the work and progress of the organization are: infrastructure, influencing policy and programs, communications and branding, membership retention and recruitment, and governance. See her note to members on page 8 of the annual report.

9. **Committee and Activity Reports**

Jennifer continued facilitating a review of YAA's annual activity by reviewing the current YAA committee members, see page 10. She introduced various YAA directors and members who have contributed in the activity areas as outlined in the strategic plan:

a) GOAL 1 – INFRASTRUCTURE (page 11 and 12)

Sonny Gray and Andre Fortin reported on progress of initiatives related to YAA's land on Mayo Road, the storage bin program and equipment. Andre talked about the need for a new name for the land.

MOTION: To refer to YAA's land as the Agricultural Community Centre. Carried.

Sonny answered questions related to the process of the decommissioning of the storage bins; how the price was determined; and the rationale for allowing current bin holders to have the option to purchase the bins over other members. Sonny referred members to page 12 of the materials.

b) GOAL 2 – INFLUENCING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (page 13)

Jennifer talked about YAA's commitment to the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and work on the CAP funding program and the process to revise the Yukon Agriculture Policy. She read aloud messages from Dr Mary VanderKop and Darrin Sinclair that both referred to wild and domestic sheep interactions.

c) GOAL 3 – COMMUNICATIONS AND BRANDING (see page 13)

Jennifer reviewed work to date related to YAA's online and in person communications with the public and key partners. She noted an upcoming GoOFY event. Gail Riederer talked about 4H activities and its work with YAA. Collin Remillard talked about the new Hog Producers Association.

d) GOAL 4 – MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION (page 13 & 14)

Jennifer talked about the Meet Your Maker event; the Healthy Sheep workshop; and the new initiative to provide communications and administrative support to Dawson Farmers. Yukon Young Farmers president, Mike Henderson, reviewed YYF efforts to provide educational and networking events and sponsorship framework, which YYF has completed in order to raise funds for events and initiatives.

e) GOAL 5 – GOVERNANCE (page 15)

Vibeke Coates talked about her work on the governance committee which included the updating of the YAA bylaws and a majority of the Board Policy Manual.

10. **Election/Acclamation of Officers and Directors (page 15)**

Alan Stannard, past president and member of the nominations committee, reviewed the process by which the slate of the 2018-19 board of directors was determined. Bylaws state that YAA's board is comprised of nine board members. This year, nine people eligible to apply were nominated; therefore there is not a need for an election. The incoming Board of Directors for 2018-19 are:

President: Sonny Gray

Vice President: Cain Vangel

Treasurer: Teddy Fagbamila

Directors: Andre Fortin

Dev Hurlburt

Mario Ley

Steve Mackenzie-Grieve

Collin Remillard

Gail Riederer

MOTION: Cain Vangel made a motion to accept the slate for the 2018-19 board of directors, seconded by Michael Henderson. Carried.

11. **Meeting Adjourned**

MOTION: Sonny Gray made a motion to adjourn at 8.20pm, seconded by Leona Dargis. Carried.