

Board Highlights: January 30-31, 2018

Financial Statements

The Board of Directors approved the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ontario Pork for the last fiscal year, which were reviewed by the members of the Audit Committee prior to the Board meeting.

Canadian Pork Council Update

Doug Ahrens and Oliver Haan, new Ontario Pork's representatives to the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), briefed the Board on the recent CPC Board meeting held on January 8-9, 2018 in Banff. At that meeting, the CPC Board of Directors discussed the 2018 budget, the organization's strategic plan for 2018-2023, committee appointments, Pig Trace, and trade missions.

Ontario Pork Industry Advocacy Committee Update

Mike Mitchell, the Committee Chair commented on the enthusiasm and exceptional commitment of all committee members. The committee, comprised of industry stakeholders, is making headway in finalizing recommendations on a pro-active strategy that would help the public better understand the role of modern livestock agriculture. It is planned to submit the finalized report for Board's review at the next meeting.

Swine Research Facility Design Update

Remo Pallottini, Facilities Manager, Office of Research, University of Guelph, joined the meeting to speak with the Board on the status of the proposed swine research facility design. Next steps will involve confirming herd size, open versus closed herd implications, location, project budget, and design RFP process. Neither a size nor final budget has been yet determined for a proposed swine research facility. The design committee expects an RFP to be sent out this spring; it will provide all stakeholders with the information for making a final decision.

Barn Fires

Taking into consideration recent barn fires, the Board of Directors decided to strike an ad-hoc committee that would address potential triggers, preventive measures, and assistance for affected producers.

Ontario Pork's Submission on Antimicrobial Resistance

The federal government's plans on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) were finalized in 2017. A number of key milestones in the plan are set to be rolled out over the course of this year. The initial phase of Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consultations on AMR policy development concluded January 15, 2018. Ontario Pork worked with industry partners to identify and submit concerns and recommendations about OMAFRA's proposed course of action. In its written submission, Ontario Pork advocated for rules that would allow producers timely access to veterinary prescription drugs.

Government Relations Update

Staff briefed the Board of Directors on the government relations activities which focused on building and maintaining relationships with government and policy-makers, achieving its policy advocacy goals, building the capacity of Ontario Pork to improve and maintain the organization's advocacy efforts.