

DRAFT MINUTES of YAA’s ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - November 6, 2020
Best Western Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse, Yukon

Members Present: Ann-Marie Stockley, Gerry Stockley, Kathy Pritchard, Mike Henderson, Matt Douglas, Len Walchuk, Lorelee Johnstone, Cain Vangel, Darrin Sinclair, Steve Mackenzie-Grieve, Mario Ley, Sonny Gray, Brad Barton, Hank Sippel, Maria Leung

Members on Zoom: Jackie McBride Dickson, Cathy Stannard, Alan Stannard, Pat Bort, Anne Savoie, Michel Duteau, Vibeke Coates, Don Coates, Gail Milmine, Bert Cross, Megan Waterman, Brian Lendrum

Guests: Hon Ranj Pillai (Minister Responsible for Agriculture), Brad Cathers, (Lake Laberge MLA), Fraser Pierce

Staff: Jennifer Hall

1.	<p>Call to Order Sonny Gray called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of November 2020 AGM Agenda MOTION: Darrin made a motion to approve the November 2020 AGM agenda, seconded by Hank. Carried.</p>
3.	<p>Approval of November 2019 AGM Minutes MOTION: Cain made a motion to approve the November 2019 AGM minutes seconded by Lorelee. Carried.</p>
4.	<p>Financials</p> <p>a) Review of financial statements Darrin and Jennifer reviewed financial statements. Darrin noted that due to complications relating to work schedules and the COVID pandemic, YAA changed to a new bookkeeper (MP Computing) in the weeks prior to the AGM and we are fortunate the reports were available. No questions were raised by members. MOTION: Mike Henderson made a motion to adopt YAA’s 2019-2020 financial reports as presented seconded by Ann-Marie. Carried</p> <p>b) Darrin explained that the members had the option to request that a financial review of the financial reports be waived. MOTION: Lorelee made a motion to submit a request to Corporate Services to waive a financial review of the reports, seconded by Cain. Carried.</p>
5.	<p>Special Resolution Sonny reviewed the details of the special resolution (see the full resolution on page 7 of the AGM materials) that was sent out to members via email in mid-October. The change to Bylaw 17.3.b. sets out a specific number of people are required to meet quorum at an AGM, rather than a percentage of members. The new wording allows for an increase in membership without a significant number of attendees at the AGM.</p> <p>Abbreviated MOTION: That the membership hereby resolves as follows: To amend the bylaws of the Society by removing the following: “A quorum is where the number of registered members is 16 or more, at least 20% of the registered members” and replacing it as follows: “Quorum is, where the number of registered members is 16 or more, 20 members”. Carried</p>
6.	<p>President’s Report Sonny Gray directed members to page 8 of the AGM Materials which included a letter outlining the successes and challenges of the past year including completed work on the fairgrounds, implementation of the sheep/goat control order, the completion of the Yukon Agriculture Policy, and attempts to resolve the elk-ag conflicts. He also mentioned that after five years with Jennifer Hall, YAA’s executive director, has submitted her resignation and will be moving on from YAA in the new year. He thanked Jennifer for her service to the organization.</p>
7.	<p>Committee Activity Reports & ED Report</p> <p>a) Committee Members and Representatives - Sonny presented an overview of committee members and representatives which was framed to reflect the activity areas of the strategic plan. He thanked all of the volunteers who have contributed to the organization.</p> <p>b) Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment – Darrin reviewed the status of the equipment rental program – page 11. 2. Storage bins – Second payments have been received from all those making annual payments. Annual payments will conclude in 2024.

	<p>3. Land – Steve reviewed progress to date of the development of the Fairgrounds, and directed members to view the photos of the new bleachers and the community use building on pages 13 and 14. Also noted that highway signs will be installed as soon as the ground has thawed. Steve reported that the YAA board is working on a policy about the use of the fairgrounds. He said that YAA should be proud of these impressive accomplishments.</p> <p>c) Policies and programs – Jennifer reviewed this section, as seen on page 15, which included information about meetings with Government of Yukon, drafting of letters, and work by the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. Honorable Ranj Pillai spontaneously answered a few questions and moved to the front to speak to the group about the status of the Wetland Policy and the work his team did to establish the elk conflict’s Permit of Last Resort.</p> <p>d) Communication - Jennifer reviewed several pages from YAA’s new website including where to find board and governance materials, online resources, and sites related to government relations and key committees. And additional information about the Facebook page, e-news, and media contacts.</p> <p>e) Membership Incentives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yukon Young Farmers – Mike Henderson reported about the spring and summer events that had to be postponed at the onset of the COVID pandemic. But highlighted the two successful Meet Your Maker events, page 21-22. 2. Klondike Farmers Forum – Megan Waterman reported that it has been a busy year in the Klondike, pg 23, including a new study to plan the development of an abattoir, funded by CDF and City of Dawson. 3. Letters of Support are drafted to support members who are applying for project funding. 4. Canadian Federation of Agriculture – YAA was a member for 2020, see page 24. <p>f) Governance (bylaws, policies, resolutions) - Cain Vangel talked about the importance of the governance committee as a watch-dog for transparent decision making. Additional information in the meeting materials include references to: the board policy manual, the expiration of YAA’s current three-year Transfer Payment Agreement, and strategic planning.</p>
8.	<p>New Business</p> <p>a) Strategic Planning – Sonny reported that YAA’s current Strategic Plan is now four years old. Sonny suggested a few ways in which YAA members can be involved in the development of the next strategic plan. No specific preferences were voiced. Jackie McBride Dickson offered to be involved in the process.</p>
9.	<p>Election/Acclamation of Officers and Directors</p> <p>a) Acclamation of Officers – Sonny Gray and Darrin Sinclair were acclaimed as president and secretary-treasurer respectively.</p> <p>b) Election of Directors - Len Walchuk reviewed the procedures of the election. Members seeking election introduced themselves with a brief bio. Ballots were distributed by Jennifer. In person ballots were submitted to Jennifer Hal and were added to the ballot box that already included 20 mail-in ballots.. Ballots were counted in a separate room by Jennifer Hall and Len Walchuk.</p>
10.	<p>Presentation by CFA</p> <p>Mary Robinson, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, sent along a taped message that included greetings from CFA and a review of what CFA has been up to throughout 2020, particularly their responses to the impacts of the COVID pandemic on Canada’s food industry.</p>
11.	<p>Election Results Announced</p> <p>Len Walchuk announced the election results. Steve and Cathy received enough votes to be elected. Jeff Clark did not receive enough votes to be elected. Loralee and Mario were tied for third place. Len stated that YAA does not have a bylaw or policy that directs how to handle tie-breakers. The YAA Board will have to consult with Corporate Services for advice on how to proceed with the final decision.</p>
12.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm</p>