

Chairman’s Message:

The past year has presented many challenges to the grazing industry as it seems we are always on the defence, defending our reputation as grassland stewards but most of all our way of life. The AGLA was created to meet these challenges head on and that is exactly what your board has been busy with in 2016. It is not only our directive to meet these challenges but to create a powerful message to society, an offence so powerful that it cannot be tampered with or misinterpreted. The fact that the steward, the leaseholder has an irreplaceable responsibility in the grassland ecosystem producing unmatched biological value.

It has been my honor to represent Alberta leaseholders as Chairman. Filling the shoes of Past Chair Larry Sears has been no easy task as Mr. Sears has left a lasting imprint on this association. His immense skillset had enabled him to forge AGLA through twelve unnerving years of political and bureaucratic unrest. There are few in the industry who could match his level of commitment. I am pleased that Larry has remained close to the executive and look forward to working with him in the future.

Sincerely,
James Hargrave, AGLA Chairman



James Hargrave, Chairman

Your AGLA Board

James Hargrave • Walsh
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Darcy Wills* • Coutts
403.344.4312

Pat Rutledge • Monitor
403.577.2382

Lanni Bristow* • Heinsberg
780.943.2236

Larry Sears* • Stavely
403.549.2481

Terril Pierson • Wardlow
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Kevin Meneice • High Prairie
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Simon Schonofer • Jenner
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Kyle Forbes • Redcliff
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Dan Gray • Big Stone
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Wilbur Stewart* • Big Valley
403.876.2784

*Indicates term expires 2017

Annual General Meeting Notice

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association will be held on February 22th, 2017 at the Hanna Community Centre

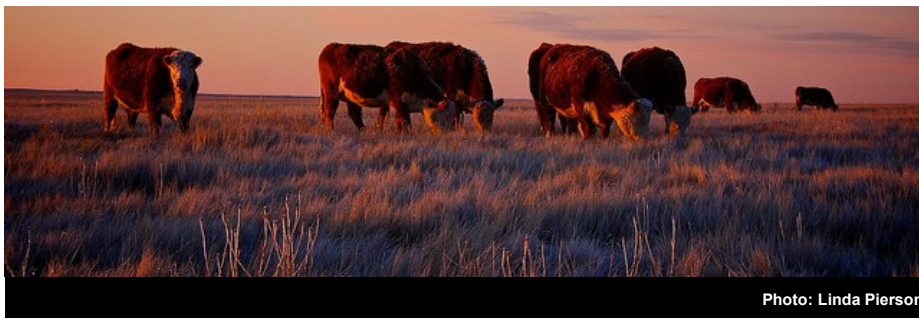
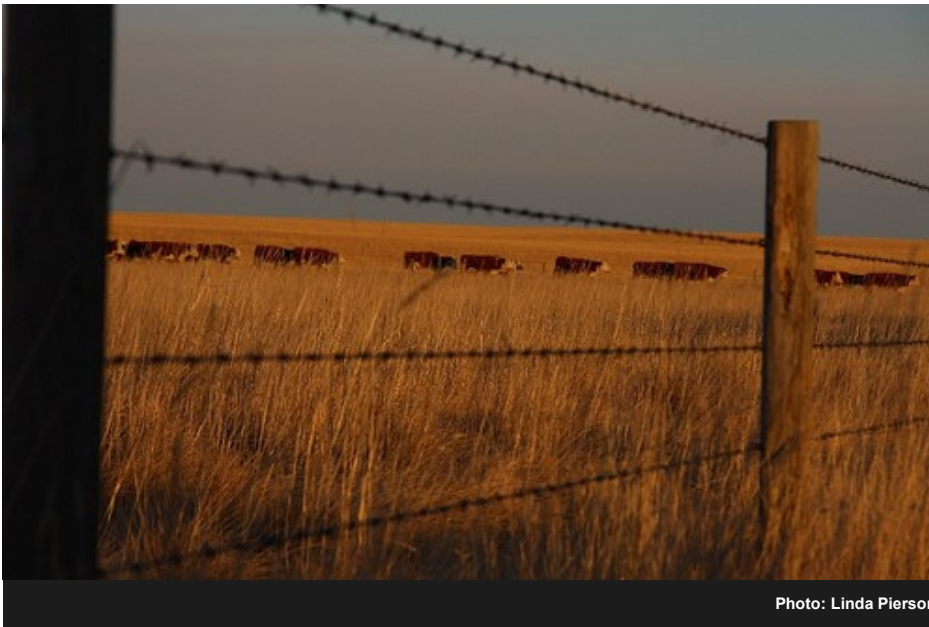


Photo: Linda Pierson



2017 AGM Agenda

- 12:30 pm Registration & Coffee
- 1:00 pm Approval of Agenda & Chairman's Report – James Hargrave
- 1:15 pm Treasurer's Report – Darcy Wills
- 1:30 pm Election
- 1:45 pm Constitution changes
- 2:00 pm Coffee break
- 2:30 pm EAP Activity Update, Grazing rental rates proposal – Amanda Miller
- 3:00 pm Recreational Access discussion
- 3:30 pm Questions, Resolutions
- 4:00 pm Adjournment

AGLA Year in Review

Expansion of the Board and New Directors

At last year's AGM, we had a number of new directors elected. The increased involvement from leaseholders is great news for the association as we expect grazing lease issues to continue to be a hot topic in government and other special interest groups. Kevin Meneice from High Prairie is our new representative from Zone D. It is great to have a northern Alberta perspective on the board as the challenges for leaseholders are different from that part of the province. Simon Schonofor from Jenner and Dan Gray from Big Stone were elected as our new directors-at-large. Kyle Forbes from Redcliff also joined the board and represents the newly created Zone A1.

A complete listing of the board of directors along with their contact information can be found on our website www.albertagrazinglease.ca.

Election of a new Chairman

The 2016 annual general meeting saw the Chairman of twelve years Larry Sears step down and Secretary-Treasurer at that time James Hargrave fill the vacancy. Since the election of the NDP government both our outgoing and new chairman have reached out to party members and made some valuable contacts. Some of these contacts have been essential in getting us to the upper chambers of government. Building these relationships has also enabled us to communicate with the high levels of the bureaucracy.

Grazing Advisory Committee

Many of the issues that have arose between the department and the industry were due to a lack of communication and clarity. The recent formation of the Operational Grazing Disposition Holders Committee aims to create an open and informed dialogue between the Leaseholder community and the Department. Up to the days of the Redford government, AGLA attended a semi-annual meeting with Department staff that was crucial in dealing productively with policy and operational issues. It was later disbanded. Every year that goes by there seems to be an increasing public appetite to alter some of the policies that make our grazing dispositions secure. The new committee will act as a very important line of communication with government to deal with an unending string of operational/policy issues. The new committee aims to meet quarterly.

The membership includes Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Western Stock Growers Association, Northern Alberta Grazing Association, Central Alberta Grazing Association, Sustainable Canada, Special Areas and a number of government representatives.



Continued...

Grazing Advisory Committee (continued)

The committee has been committed to reviewing the results of the MNP lease cost survey and completing the grazing rental rate proposal that will be submitted to cabinet. This proposal has been the work of many over the past two years and we are happy to come to a consensus and approve the proposal. The proposal will be covered in more depth at our AGM on February 22.

High on the list of topics to tackle in upcoming committee meetings include the Grazing Lease Code of Practice update, recreational access issues, extended tenure based on a risk approach (tenure for stewardship), succession planning and management challenges, administration and management of heritage rangelands.

Ministerial Tour

In September, James Hargrave, Bill Newton and Aaron Brower hosted Minister Shannon Phillips, Minister Oniel Carlier and House Speaker Robert Wanner at the Hargrave Ranch. The tour highlighted the adaptive management that occurs by the leaseholder when a multiple use of the landscape takes place (industrial development). Much emphasis was put on the value of improvements and the security of tenure that is required for producers to invest in the grazing disposition. Our message was clear, there is no proxy for the grazing leaseholder. It is not possible to replicate the ecological/biological value the Leaseholder maintains and diversifies through adaptive management. We ended up having nearly four hours with the Ministers, Speaker and their entourage. We feel the day went very well and are confident that the time spent will have a lasting impact on their view of the grassland stewards, the leaseholders.



Ministers Phillips and Carlier and Speaker Wanner on tour at Hargrave Ranch

Foothills Restoration Forum



James Hargrave presenting at FRF

In November, James Hargrave presented at the Foothills Restoration Forum AGM in Claresholm. The presentation focused on his family's efforts over the past half century to recover the biological value that is lost when oil and gas is present. The slideshow covered the challenges with industrial activity on grasslands but also showed solutions and a pragmatic approach to the delicate balance of multiple uses on the grassland ecosystem. The underlying thread of philosophy in the presentation is the fact the land manager is in the best position to ensure a healthy, functioning grassland.

There were about 170 in attendance and the presentation seemed well received.

Public Accounts

On February 4th, 2016 AGLA presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in Edmonton. The presentation was a response to the scathing Auditor Generals report. The all-party committee had 15 MLA's present as well as representation from the Auditor Generals office. AGLA had three board members attend, Larry Sears, Bill Newton and James Hargrave as well as our manager Lindsye Dunbar. Our attendance and presentation was very well received by every committee member and is sure to have a lasting positive impact on the way government views grazing dispositions.

Alberta Land Institute

The Alberta Land Institute (ALI) released a report last year looking at alternative compensation methods for oil and gas activities on crown lands. AGLA was one of a number of groups given the opportunity for input on the first draft. We found the first draft contained many errors and misunderstandings and addressed those in our discussion. The second draft included revisions but still lacked a true understanding of the compensation for the daily interference the leaseholder experiences. We hope that the information from Public Accounts will have a positive effect on the Alberta Land Institutes opinion of compensation.

AGLA will continue to work with ALI to battle misapprehensions and has been asked to be a part of a research initiative that is just in the initial stages.

Changes to AGLA By-Laws

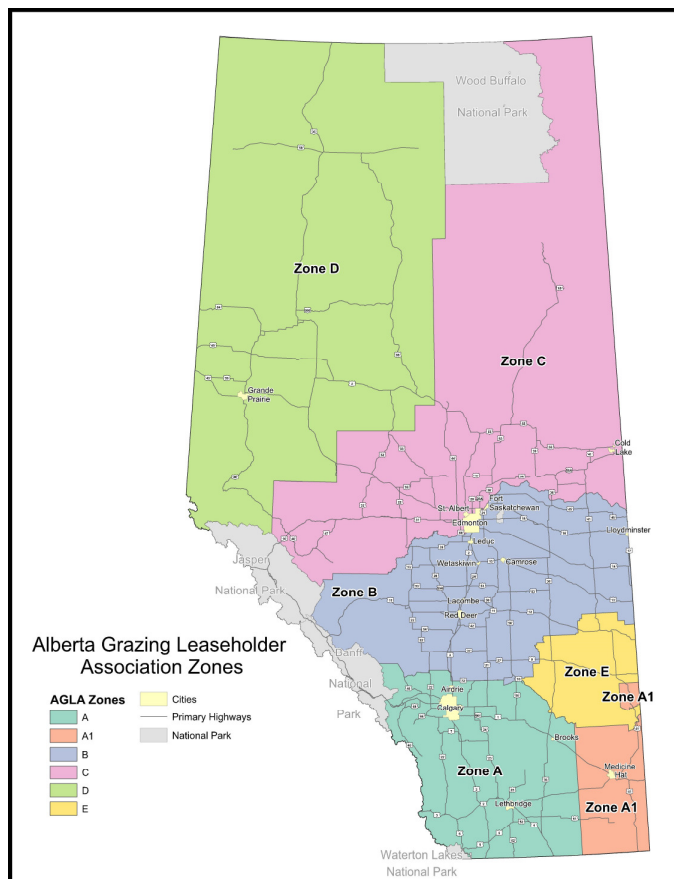
In the upcoming AGM, the membership will be asked to vote on a couple of changes to the AGLA by-laws via Special Resolution.

The first proposed change is to Part 3.1 to change the number of directors on the board and the zones represented. Currently, the by-laws mandate that the board shall consist of 9 directors who shall be elected at the membership annual meeting. The new resolution will change Part 3.1 to 'the Board of Directors of the Association consisting of no more than 15 directors who shall be elected at the membership annual meeting for terms of 2 years ending on the occasion of the election of a new Board. There will be 6 zones with each zone represented by no less than 1 director and no more than 3 directors and 2 director-at-large positions on the Board.'

The second proposed change gives specifics on the new zones. The resolution puts forward the change to the zones as follows: Part 3.2 a) Zone "A" as defined by Alberta Agriculture Public Lands will be split to form Zone "A" and Zone "A1". Zones "B" and "C" are as defined by Alberta Agriculture Public Lands with the Peace River region of Zone "C" forming a Zone "D" and the Special Areas regions forming Zone "E". The new zones are laid out on the map below.

The third proposed change deals with the notice to the board in regards to Meetings of the Board. Part 3.4 decrees "Meeting of the Board shall be called by ten days' notice in writing mailed to each member or by three days' notice by fax or telephone." The resolution proposes we update this to include email as one of the options under three days' notice.

As per the by-law for altering the AGLA by-laws, these three resolutions will be brought forward at the AGM to be voted on by the members entitled to vote as are present in person.



STAY INFORMED ON THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUR GRAZING LEASE

KEEP YOUR AGLA MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE. JOIN THE AGLA EMAIL LIST.

Contact us at: albertagrazinglease@gmail.com or 587-435-4072

**The AGLA respects and will protect your confidentiality. Your email address will only ever be used to send you updates and information on AGLA and your grazing lease. It will never be shared with anyone else.