

HISTORY OF THE PFRA PASTURE JOURNEY

“AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY”



1) April/May 2012-----Federal Ag Minister Mr. Ritz announced that the 75 year program of PFRA pastures will be divested (rid of) and the lands turned back to the provinces.

2) APAS—Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan - initiated meetings to R.M.s, municipalities, SARM, Other interest groups on the pasture divestation.

3) Fall 2012--- **PFRA PASTURE PATRON JOANNE BROCHU** ---**COLONSAY** started going to meetings, RMS, MLAS, MPS,CATTLEGROUPS, SARM and started working with APAS.

4) Pasture patron groups started having their own PFRA pasture meetings. How does this download work to the patron? The business plan, the improvements, the cost.

5) Late November 2012, Pasture Patrons from a few pastures attended a meeting in Bladwell, Saskatchewan. A steering committee was formed to bring all the pasture groups together to an informational meeting of Pasture Patrons ---Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2013 Sutherland Hall in Saskatoon.

6) December 19, 2012 pasture patron representatives were invited to a First Nations meeting in Regina.

7) Jan 23, 2013, PFRA PASTURE PATRON Informational meeting held in Saskatoon . HUGE ATTENDANCE with concerned pasture patrons from across the province.

Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart spoke and stated that the PFRA pasture patrons come first in regards to the future of these pastures.

There were other guest speakers. (Refer to the attached meeting agenda)

8) Business meeting in the afternoon. Interim Steering committee was struck with executive Chairman; Mr. Ian McCreary, Sec/Tres; Joanne Brochu, Directors from each of the seven districts across the province.

- The formation of CPPAS Community Pasture Patron Association of Saskatchewan - \$100 membership.

20 pastures at the January 23 meeting were ready to join CPPAS or had direction from their patrons to join this new provincial association. There were 58 PFRA pasture representatives at that meeting. Other pastures present were to take this new information home to discuss with their pasture patrons.

9) January 24, 2013 Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) Annual Meeting. Three resolutions were presented affecting PFRA pastures and their pasture patrons. The SCA only approved supporting to lobby the provincial government in delaying the divestation of the first ten named pastures.

10) JOINT Provincial Meetings with Saskatchewan Land Branch & Regina reps of PFRA had five meetings across Saskatchewan.

North Battleford, Feb 7,2013; Kindersley Feb. 8,2013; Watrous, Feb .12,2013; Weyburn, Feb.13, 2013; Shaunavon, Feb14, 2013.

11) Feb 7 & 8 PFRA pasture patron mail out outlining the year each pasture will be removed from the federal PFRA. This was a HUGE relief to the many patrons.

12) CPPAS conference calls were regular meetings as the membership grew and PFRA pastures had their meetings/ formed their PAC or steering committees and most pastures invited someone from CPPAS to tell the story as it unfolds.

13) CPPAS held at least two conference calls with the first 10 pastures that were to be divested this year. This discussion helped bring forward a common baseline to present to the provincial government. Seven of the first 10 pastures have already joined CPPAS with more pastures considering membership in CPPAS.

14) FEB. 28, 2013, the SCA made a public announcement that they now have formed a PFRA Pasture Patron committee with their members made up of PFRA pasture Patrons. Howard Toews was appointed their chairman.

15) March 1, 2013, CPPAS---Joanne Brochu & Ian McCreary invited to speak at /with other interest groups in Saskatoon Forum about the public lands: Pasture patrons, Environmental concerns, First Nations, species at risk, hunters.

16) SCA held a meeting and invited the first 10 pastures (REGINA) on March 8. CPPAS asked to attend but were not invited. Three or four of the first 10 pastures attended the meeting.

17) CPPAS met with Public Pastures Public Interest Group (PPPI) in Regina. Public forum Wed. March 27, 2013.

- The Public; environmental; Pasture management, First Nations and the Pasture Patrons concerns.

18) Thursday, March 28, 2013, Provincial Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart----

- Conference call with chairs of PFRA pastures.
- Improvement costs from the Feds to the province would not be charged to the patrons on leased land.
- Patron groups would have to provide the upkeep.

19) Lyle Stewart Public announcement ----Noon, March 28, 2013.

20) CPPAS met at 4:30 p.m. with Mr. Lyle Stewart and staff.

- CPPAS now has the majority of the pastures at this meeting.
- 35 confirmed members of pastures with strong interest from other pastures for joining CPPAS
- Concerns were raised about the cost of grazing compared to other provinces like Manitoba and Alberta.
- Presentation of the Manitoba business plan is revealed.
- The Minister is willing to meet with CPPAS again.

21) CPPAS initiated a meeting with SCA in regards to working together for the good of all the PFRA pasture patrons.

Meeting was held Monday, April 15, 2013 in Regina.

22) A meeting on April 17, 2013, with CPPAS and a professional accounting firm was held looking at forming a regional or province wide business plan.

23) CPPAS authorized the development of a website- www.cppas.co. The purpose of the site is to keep members and the public informed.

24) Presently CPPAS representatives are being invited to tell the story to other pasture patrons groups considering joining this great organization.

25)May 22 2013 Joanne Brochu (Colonsay) and Brent Cammer (Swift Current/Web) were invited to attend the Saskatchewan Conference of Treaty Land Entitlement of First Nations Chiefs in Prince Alberta.

26)June 24-28 2013 CPPAS chair Ian McCreary and directors Clint Christianson (Bracken), Bryce Burnett (Swift Current) and Brent Cammer (Web) accompanied Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson Prairie Pasture Tour.

27) Multiple media coverage Newspapers & Global T.V. in July with frustration the “first 10 pastures” are having trying to make proper business plans when still not all the important information from the federal &/or provincial government is available to those pastures to proceed.

Several news articles in Saskatoon Star Phoenix, and Regina Leader post on the struggle pasture patrons are having regarding issues facing to remain having affordable access to summer grazing. July 18/2013 Regina Global T.V. news---McCreany Pasture with Cppas chair Ian McCreary & Dean Palmer.

28) July APAS Mid Term Meeting CPPAS directors Brett Borys & Daryl Paslawski attended giving the CPPAS update. APAS pres release of asking both the Provincial and Federal Governments for a delay for the first 10 pastures.

29) Aug 1 2013 Cppas chair Ian McCreary & cppas director Ken Habermehl with the input from other cppas directors published the www.cppas.co website to public domain.

30) Aug 8 mid term summer meeting at Bladworth for cppas directors and representatives with the 7 of the first 10 pastures. Legal counsel and pasture module personnel shared valuable information in pasture corporate structure, potential management for the individual pasture running a business separately or as a partial or entire business group.

31) Aug 9 Meeting at Bladworth full day workshop of corporate structure and pasture module comparison based on how other pasture business plans have been formed and are working throughout Alberta and an update to the Manitoba module as well. Discussion on media approaches to get this information out to cppas members by patron mailout, website for this fall take out season.

32) Sept/Oct Interim Director conference calls every two weeks with CPPAS legal counsel participating. Conference Calls facilitated by APAS office Regina.

33) Oct 7 cppas directors met with MLT legal group to further understanding of value of PFRA pastures with professional managers in place for preservation of grasslands to pursue the value of CARBON CAPTURE CREDITS available to offset some of the costs to patrons for summer grazing fees.

34) OCT 10 Cppas directors negotiation team with Cppas pastures (7 of the first 10 pastures) along with cppas legal counsel met (Face to Face) with provincial lands branch and federal PFRA staff. The first 10 pastures time deadline is Nov. 30 2013. Managers are gone.

35) Cppas community pasture transition committee proposal now on cppas web-site Nov 1 2013.

36) Cppas directors speaking and telling this story at APAS regional meetings in North Battleford, Swift Current, Weyburn and annual APAS General meeting in Regina Dec 4 2013.

37) Nov 30 deadline passed and the first 10 pastures still cannot make a satisfactory negotiated settlement. The large arising concern is the status on non-reversionary lands.

38) Conference calls continue with all first 10 pastures invited to participate concerns with language on non-reversionary lands.

39) CPPAS directors working on Annual General Meeting Thursday Jan 30 2014 at Davidson Town Hall. 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.