

Appendix B.2.2: ALP Board Member Position Description

ALP directors are valued volunteers who are willing to invest their time and experience to advance the sheep industry. Directors assume the responsibility of representing the interests of hundreds of hard-working people and have an opportunity to make a significant difference in their industry.

Benefits

Being a director affords producers the opportunity to work with like-minded people to advance the Alberta sheep industry. Directors have an opportunity to apply their talents, while developing new skills that will enhance board performance and can be applied to other personal and professional endeavours. Benefits include:

- Enhancing communication, leadership, and decision-making skills.
- Gaining knowledge of analysis, direction setting, research, solution design, strategic and business plans, advocacy, public speaking, board governance and communications training.
- Expanding knowledge of the sheep industry and seeing individual operations in a national and international context.
- Opportunities to meet other leaders and to represent the industry provincially and nationally, in multi-species groups, throughout the value chain and with government.

Authority / Accountability

Under provincial regulations, the ALP board is granted the authority to manage and oversee all aspects of the organization's operations. Under board oversight, much of the day-to-day operations are delegated to hired staff. The board of directors is legally accountable for ensuring proper stewardship of ALP's financial resources and providing services to the Alberta sheep industry.

Key Responsibilities and Duties:

- Develop ALP's strategic plan to set objectives and priorities based on the ALP's mandate to generate, assemble and implement ideas to enhance the sheep and wool industry.
- Assume legal responsibilities inherent to boards in overseeing all aspects of operations, actions and financial management.
- Provide a unified voice for the Alberta sheep industry, and support board decisions once they have been made.
- Be knowledgeable of and abide by applicable provincial regulations and board-set policies (including expectations regarding confidentiality, general conduct and conflict of interests), understanding that non-compliance may result in removal from the board.
- Help establish, review and monitor board established policies.
- Provide a communication link between producers and the board.
- Properly prepare for and participate in all board matters, including meeting expectations for communication and meeting preparation (see 'Time Commitments' below).
- Listen to others' views, advocate personal ideas and ideas producers have asked you to bring forward (these ideas can sometimes be very different from your own), and be open to compromise.

- Potentially contribute to the work of board as a board executive or member of a committee
- Be an ambassador for ALP in the wider community.
- Be informed about issues affecting the sheep industry provincially and nationally.

Qualifications

The following are considered key position qualifications:

- Must meet eligibility requirements according to ALP Plan Regulation (i.e. own sheep, and have paid an ALP service charge in the past two years).
- Ability to devote sufficient time to board duties (see below).
- Openness to learning and working with others to achieve ALP’s mission and strategic directions.

Remuneration

Director position is essentially a volunteer position. However, the following compensations are made:

- Per diem paid for time spent at in-person meetings
- Annual compensation for time spent on conference calls (two per diems) and for office supplies
- Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses to attend in-person meetings

Time Commitments

Commitment	Time Expectation ¹
Position term	Three-year term (may be renewed once, for a total of six consecutive years)
In-person meetings ² (most often held in Airdrie, Alberta)	Typically 3 times/year 1.5 to 2 days (3 days on rare occasions)
Tele/video conference calls ²	Approximately monthly between in-person meetings 1 to 2 hours
Fall Annual General Meeting ²	1 day, once/year
Meeting preparation	As required, typically 1 hour
Emails regarding board matters, a response is expected within 48hr	As required, typically 1 hour
Communicating with producers	As required, typically 1 hour
All new directors participate in a board orientation session. Other training sessions may be required during a director’s term (e.g. board governance)	Orientation session: 4-6 hours Other training: approximately once/year

¹ Estimated times are for directors. Executive positions, such as the board chair or finance chair, and committee members assume greater responsibilities.

² Meeting dates are pre-set once per year to allow directors to plan ahead.

³ If you cannot afford to volunteer up to 3 hours a week then this might not be the right time in your life to join the ALP board.

For more information about joining the ALP board, please contact the ALP office (403-948-8533, info@ablamb.ca) or visit www.ablamb.ca for director contact information.

We look forward to working with new directors who are committed to achieving ALP's mission of 'Empowering the sheep industry through education, innovation and advocacy'.