

REPORT TO ALBERTA SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Prepared by Glen Parker, CSBA representative to CLRC

OVERVIEW

Thank you for the invitation to update ASBA members on the activities ongoing at CLRC. At this point, there is ongoing discussion regarding the replacement of the APPX database system with a decision expected by Jan 1, 2022. Implementation and development of the new database would be expected to occur in 2022, running alongside the existing APPX database until such time that our IT team is confident that it is ready to switch over to completely.

STAFFING

Since my last report to CSBA, we have added a new IT programmer, Jack Tran, who has been training on the APPX system under our consultant, Bob Spitz. Jack is doing exceptionally well and starting to really take hold of the IT role and works well with all the other staff. He is really looking forward to the changes coming at CLRC. Sandra Legault, our finance admin, resigned in August. We are fortunate that Julie Siebel who had been one of the horse registrars and had left CLRC about a year ago, came back as the finance controller and as a bonus, is familiar with the registrar role and is helping catch up with the outstanding work in some of the horse breeds. We have just recently hired an additional programmer to work with Jack Tran who will start in later November. Hiring of an additional registrar is on hold at this time until the work loads of the registrars can be evaluated.

Staff continue to work an alternating schedule with home and office time because of Covid 19, and this will continue for the foreseeable future. We are adding laptops for our registrars as finances allow so that all staff will have their own laptop to use from home as this will improve security and productivity.

Staff morale has changed dramatically for the better in the six years I have been on the CLRC board. There is much more cross training amongst the registrars than there ever was so that they could cover for each other in case of vacation or illness. Staff appreciate the option to work from home and the pandemic has

pushed CLRC to develop this ability quicker than we had anticipated. This is one benefit that helps to offset the lower wage scale that CLRC has had to deal with, and I can see where we continue to use a home/office work schedule in the future. It does require the GM to monitor production much closer to ensure that output does not fall off. I do not see where we can go to a total work from home environment at this time as staff still have to print certificates and do mailings from the office. Much work still comes in by mail which may change in the future as we move to more of an electronic registry service.

FINANCES

Cash flow is positive with CLRC projecting a modest profit of around \$15000 by year end. We are on target to hit the projected unit total of 110,000 processed units by Dec 31 or very close. Turnaround times continue to fluctuate between 20-30 working days which would indicate that there is still lots of work coming in.

CLRC will be increasing fees by 2.5% or \$0.20 per unit effective Jan 1., 2022. This will again allow for a projected profit in 2022 of approximately \$22000 on projected units of 109,000. On projected gross revenues of \$1,231,000, this represents a profit margin of 1.78% which is very minimal to allow for adding staff, hardware and new requested services. We have had many comments by our member associations that would like to see small regular increases rather than large, irregular increases as has happened in the past. CLRC is also trying to approve our budget earlier in the summer so that our members have more time to allow for any increases and plan their own budgets.

CLRC will be losing two associations as Speckle Park and Warmbloods have terminated their agreements with CLRC. This represents a significant loss of units to CLRC but as both associations required two of our more experienced registrars, this will free up their time to concentrate more on other associations and help to catch up and reduce the turnaround times. The board and staff at CLRC feel that there is enough pending work from other associations to fill the loss of these two organizations and with some of the changes coming, will allow for quicker and better service to the remaining 55 member associations.

As you all know, the Integrated Genetics Project, which CSBA is participating in, is conducting a review and assessment of two database programs to assist CLRC in determining the best program to replace the outdated APPX database currently

being used. CLRC has had to spend significantly to retain an APPX consultant to manage this program since the retirement of Glenn Clark and APPX is a legacy program that needs to be replaced. It is disappointing to me that this need was identified over 15 years ago but the directors of the day did not move to upgrade the database then, it is now critical to the future of CLRC that this is addressed. Once a new platform has been decided on, it will probably take a year to develop and implement and to retire APPX. There will also be a need to review the entire fee structure for services as much work will be able to be done electronically by members with review and verification done by the registrars as required by the Animal Pedigree Act. We are anticipating that a new program will revamp and rejuvenate all processes for our members and are looking for cutting edge technology that will project CLRC to the forefront of all livestock registry providers in Canada. This is all part of the new strategic plan that the future board of directors will have to develop and implement. This is a large, innovative project with the potential to integrate and import data from farm management programs, genetic improvement and testing programs and many other outside databases under one reservoir of storage and accessibility for all the CLRC membership while improving services.

There will be a significant cost to any new program, so the issue will be how to fund this development. We would hope that our member associations will see the value in this project for their members and will be willing to assist CLRC with funding. Once the costs have been calculated, CLRC will be reaching out to our membership for ideas and thoughts on how to proceed.

Thank you for this opportunity to update the members of ASBA and if you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted

Glen Parker