

## **1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

BCIA Chair, Jessica Morgan, PAg welcomed attendees to the 76<sup>th</sup> BCIA Annual General Meeting of the BC Institute of Agrologists, introduced the staff of BCIA, and acknowledged Brian Mauza, PAg as Moderator and Rob Kupchanko, PAg as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

The Chair recognized Earth Day and respectfully acknowledged the following:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging and expressing great gratitude that today we are gathering in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. As part of the larger Secwepemcúl'ecw, this area is known as the place where the rivers meet. Since time immemorial, the people of the confluence have recognized, respected, and stewarded a healthy life for all that call this place home, and have shared these responsibilities with the neighbouring Nlaka'pamux to the south”.

As we are a provincial body in what is colonially called British Columbia, I would like to expand that acknowledgement to all Indigenous nations in whose territories we live and work. From the home of the Taku River Tlingit and Tahltan in the far northwest to the Ktunaxa people in the southeast region we share the common value of respect for the earth and all that inhabit it. We recognize that to be truly sustainable the environment can't be siloed and compartmentalized. As was emphasized yesterday, and we know through our work, the land, the water, the air, are all connected. We must remember and embrace the Indigenous worldview of all our relations. This includes meaningful relationships with indigenous nations that are built on trust and shared learning, as well as relationships with each other, relationship with the territories we call home, and relationships with all things that make these places so special.”.

The 2022-2023 BCIA AGM Report was referenced during the meeting and available for downloading. The Chair indicated to all attendees, in person and online, that the meeting will be recorded. This hybrid meeting attendance is eligible for assigned professional development hours and qualifies as attendance towards the Articling Program for articling registrants.

Parliamentarian Rob Kupchanko, PAg outlined the housekeeping rules for in person and online attendees. Attendees were referred to the Rules of Order as listed in the AGM Report. Moderator Brian Mauza, PAg outlined the rules regarding in person and online questions and answers.

The BCIA Board is responsible for the strategic and professional direction of the Institute within the guidelines of the PGA and BCIA Bylaws. The President introduced the current 2022-23 Board members and expressed gratitude for their support throughout the year.

- Regional Electoral District 1 Councillors:
  - Todd Larsen, PAg; Rebecca Martin, PAg and Vice President
- Regional Electoral District 2 Councillors:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg and Chair; William Shaw, PAg

- Regional Electoral District 3 Councillors:
  - Warren Mills, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg and Treasurer; Yasemin Parkinson, PAg
- Government Appointed Lay Councillors:
  - Aiden Wiechula, RPF; Brock Endean; Carla Corbett Schiller, RPBio; and Matthew Voell, J.D.

Jane Kerner served for a second year as the Past-President and was a non-voting Registrant Board Member.

**In Memoriam:** There was a moment of silence in recognition of: Verner Winger; Jennifer Karmona; Bakhshish Dosanjh; Vic Wright and any other registrants or previous registrants who have passed away this past year of whom BCIA was not aware of.

***The President called the meeting to order at 9:13 am***

## **2. Ministerial Greetings**

Ministerial video greetings were presented:

- The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- The Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food

## **3. Confirmation of Quorum**

Rob Kupchanko, Parliamentarian confirmed 82 in person eligible voting registrants in attendance and 279 online eligible voting registrants, thereby confirming quorum was confirmed of which a minimum of 5% is required. Registrants were referred to the Rules of Order, pp 5-7 of the AGM Report.

The Chair noted that the following reports included in the BCIA AGM Report do not require a motion to accept them: Chair, CEO/Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Communications Officer, and Committees. These reports have been received by the Institute and any questions will be taken at the end of the meeting. If any additions to the agenda, these will be added to Agenda #17 - Other Business.

## **4. Adoption of Agenda**

***Motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried***

## **5. Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes**

***Motion to adopt the 2022 AGM Minutes as presented. Carried***

## **6. Chair's Report**

The Chair directed registrants to pages 16-17 of the AGM Report for the report. The highlight of 2022 was the enforcement of Reserved Practice on September 1<sup>st</sup> with countless hours of volunteers at various levels and capacities contributing to this milestone. For the next year, the Strategic Plan will undergo a review and new staff will be introduced through newly created positions. Thank you to the current staff for their hard work and accomplishing major tasks assigned to them.

## **7. CEO and Registrar's Report**

JP Ellson, CEO/Registrar ("CEO") and In House Legal Counsel directed Registrants to page 18 of the AGM Report for the report. The CEO highlighted the following:

- 25% growth in the last six years; third largest agrology institute in Canada

- Applications have increased substantially with 2023 expected to be another record year
- The office lease was renewed as new office space was not needed due to two remote positions

## 8. Business Arising from the 2022 AGM

The Chair noted that there was no business arising from the 2022 AGM.

## 9. Treasurer's Report

### Financial Position as of December 31, 2022

Kirk Phair, PAg and Treasurer, thanked both previous employee Seija Laukkanen and Tess Karuvetti for their work with the finances this past year. The Treasurer mentioned that one of the key deliverables of a BCIA AGM is the presentation of an audited financial statement, yet this could not be presented today. As part of the BCIA Bylaws it must be presented and be reviewed for feedback so there will be a continuation of the meeting at a later date, to be announced. Padgett is currently working on the financials and the statements are expected to be ready early June for a continuation of a meeting later that month.

The Chair presented the financial position of the Institute as of December 31, 2022 showing expenses and revenues comparing 2022 and 2023 budgets.

### 2022 Branch Financials

The Treasurer presented the unaudited 2022 Branch Financial Statements.

### Appointment of Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year

As required by BCIA Bylaws, an appointment of an auditor is needed. It is recommended to appoint BDO as the auditor in 2023 for the 2023-2025 financial years.

**Motion** to appoint BDO as the auditor for the 2023 fiscal year. **Carried**

### Annual Fees

There is no annual fee increase for 2024.

**Action:** based on the questions posed from the floor the Board, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will review and discuss the current Investment Policy to ensure BCIA's investing practices are aligned with its values.

## 10. Committee Reports

The President acknowledged gratitude to all committee members and referred registrants to the committee reports on pages 23-29 of the AGM Report. The current committees are:

- **Audit and Practice Review Committee:** Oana Enick, PAg; Chair
- **Credentials Committee:** Martin Sills, PAg(Ret); Chair
- **Discipline Hearing Committee:** (dormant in 2020) Vacant; Chair
- **Governance Committee:** Rob Kupchanko, PAg; Chair
- **Investigation Committee:** Don Rugg, PAg; Chair
- **Nomination Committee:** George Geldart, PAg; Chair

The President also extended appreciation to the members of the following working group:

- **Communications Working Group:** Eryne Croquet, PAg; Chair

## **11. Consideration of Submitted Resolutions**

No resolutions were submitted by the deadline for consideration at this meeting.

## **12. Questions from the Floor**

Questions from the floor regarding the reports from the various committees were invited. There were no questions presented. Questions from the other reports are provided at the end of these meeting minutes.

## **13. Report on Board Election Results**

One vacant position in District 3; one nomination was received and vetted through the Nomination Committee. The incumbent Board member was acclaimed for a three year term – congrats to Warren Mills, PAg. Next year all three Districts will have vacant positions.

## **14. Introduction of 2023-2024 Board & Recognition**

The President introduced the 2023-2024 Board as follows:

- Regional Electoral District 1 Councillors:
  - Natasha Neumann, PAg; Rebecca Martin, PAg and President
- Regional Electoral District 2 Councillors:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg and Past President; William Shaw, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Councillors:
  - Warren Mills, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg and Treasurer; Yasemin Parkinson, PAg
- Government Appointed Lay Councillors:
  - Aiden Wiechula, RPF; Brock Endean; Carla Corbett Schiller, RPBio;

Matt Voell, J.D has stepped down as a Lay Board Member. We thank Matt for his contributions on the Board. Jane Kerner steps down as Past President and we thank Jane for her wisdom and contributions on the Board

Due to not formally adjourning this meeting, this new Board structure will commence once the formal adjournment of the AGM takes place.

## **15. Location of 2024 Conference**

The 2024 Conference will be held in Nanaimo at the Nanaimo Conference Centre, May 8-10 as part of the BC Land Summit in partnership with four other professional organizations. The 77<sup>th</sup> BCIA AGM will be held in conjunction with the Land Summit. In 2025 BCIA has partnered with ASTTBC in the Kootenay Branch area.

## **16. Recognition of New PAgS, TAgS, and LLAgs**

Congratulations were extended to newly minted PAgS, TAgS, and LLAgs. A listing may be found in the AGM report pages 43-46. In addition, 25 year recognitions: Bruce Hupman and Jacqueline Rasmussen.

## **17. Other Business**

No other business was discussed. Further questions were presented from the floor and are provided at the end of these meeting minutes.

## **18. Announcement of new Board Chair**

Jessica Morgan, PAg welcomed Rebecca Morgan, PAg, as BCIA’s new Board Chair. Rebecca will advance to the position of President at the end of the 2023 AGM. Rebecca shared comments on the next steps and her vision for BCIA; a huge thank you to Jessica Morgan and Jane Kerner for their assistance in preparing her for the position of Chair.

**19. Adjournment of AGM**

***Motion*** to adjourn the meeting at a date to be determined, to be no later than June 30, 2023 to receive, review and approve the 2022 Audited Financial Statements. **Carried**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am**

Questions and Answers - pages 5-6

## **76<sup>th</sup> BCIA AGM Questions and Answers**

### **1. Why was there a delay to receive the 2022 Audited Financial Statements?**

Three main reasons: staff capacity with an employee leaving earlier in the year, changes by the federal government in the way audits are done for non profit organizations and an earlier AGM than typical resulted in a tighter timeframe to produce the documents.

### **2. Could you explain why the 'Total PD and Member Services' line is lower in 2023 than 2022?**

Indigenous training courses hosted by BCIA were reduced as the final deadline was approaching. The gain was net '0' with a course fee to cover the expenses.

### **3. As a regulatory body can the Institute accept sponsorships?**

There are sponsors to support our annual conference but what is new is a service agreement between BCIA and Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) to deliver on professional development in select topics. IAF has graciously supported this annual conference as well.

### **4. Why is the communications/outreach line significantly less than last year?**

There is increased social media presence and boosting of ads which allows for more exposure and decreasing overall costs than before.

### **5. How many full time employees (FTE) are there in the office and why the increase in salaries?**

There are currently three FTE employees yet next week a Provincial PD Coordinator will be added as the fourth. The communications tasks are contracted out. A new position as Deputy Registrar/Compliance Officer will be available soon for a total of five FTE employees by mid year.

### **6. How is advertising revenue generated?**

Employment listings require a \$200.00 fee to post on behalf of other organizations.

### **7. Are we expected an increased return on the GIC interest?**

The interest rate has increased to 4% so an increased return is expected.

### **8. Is there an opportunity to invest in more firm account with higher interest, and laddered? Consider investing in non-liquid assets such as real estate? What about ethical investing?**

There is an Investment Policy that indicates short term conservative investment vehicles. Biannual meetings with investment reps assist with decisions. Anything outside of the policy would need to be reviewed.

### **9. Why types of activities are assigned to 'Other Services and Projects'?**

This covers contracting services such as HR consulting, Practice Areas consultant etc.

### **10. What is the name of the bank that the Institute deals with?**

It is Royal Bank of Canada (RBC).

### **11. Why did we need to switch auditors from KPMG to BDO?**

Last year KPMG declined being BCIA's auditor just prior to the BCIA AGM so a vote could not be made at the event. In March 2023 an online vote was available to the registrants to appoint Padgett Services for 2022 financial year. The Board then sent out three proposal requests for 2023 and based on these proposals, BDO is recommended.

### **12. How is the conference location determined?**

This is based on the fair rotation between branches and when the BC Land Summit is being hosted. The intention is to make it accessible for all around the province.

### **13. Have there been any Duty to Report complaints?**

There have been 0 in 2022 yet one is coming through currently in preliminary stages.

### **14. Is there liability or risk in holding two designations?**

Under the PGA you are only allowed to practice in areas that you are knowledgeable and competent in. The numbers are increasing of dual designations.

### **15. How is BCIA working with PSA and PEA government employees?**

Provincial Advisory Council meets on a quarterly basis for discussions. This group is mandated to be fully informed of the PGA and pass information on to government employees regarding mandatory registration and designations.

**16. How many BCGEU employees may be practicing in the reserved practice that need to be registered with the PEA?**

This number is not known but there may be many based on the phone calls received by the office. It will be a two to three year process to bring those practicing and not registered in to the fold.

**17. ALR and comments by Eveline Wolterson, PAg**

Eveline highlighted the significance of the Provincial Agricultural Land Commission and its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2023. The Legislative Assembly of BC gave royal assent to the Land Commission Act, the first of its kind in Canada, that ushered in a program to preserve the Province's limited but valuable farmland resource.

**18. Are there any concessions made for increased outreach regarding reserved practice?**

There is a budget in place for increased outreach/education and the Compliance Officer role will play a key part in this.

**19. Clarify the Registrants ability to advocate.**

Restriction to advocate is only on the regulatory bodies. As an individual one must be very careful. Registrants are bound to a Code of Ethics under the PGA and this includes social media. The regulation of firms and the firms that employ registrants, including government employees, are bound by the code of ethics. As an agrologist, one is accountable for statements and actions.