

## **1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

BCIA Board Chair, Rebecca Martin, PAg welcomed attendees to the 77<sup>th</sup> BCIA Annual General Meeting of the BC Institute of Agrologists in Nanaimo, introduced the staff of BCIA, and acknowledged Carl Withler, PAg as Moderator and Rob Kupchanko, PAg as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

The BCIA AGM Report was referenced during the meeting with the Chair indicating to all attendees, in person and online, the meeting was recorded. The hybrid meeting attendance was eligible for assigned professional development hours and qualifies as attendance towards the Articling Program for articling registrants as well as those accepted under both the Expedited and Limited License Agrologist (LLAg) Admission Programs.

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 Carl Withler, PAg outlined the rules regarding in person and online questions and answers.

Special guests were honoured and shown appreciation for their attendance at the AGM and support throughout the year as a partner organization in planning the 2024 BC Land Summit.

The BCIA Board is responsible for the strategic and professional direction of the Institute within the guidelines of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) and BCIA Bylaws. The Chair introduced the current 2023-24 Board members and expressed gratitude for their support throughout the year.

- Regional Electoral District 1 Board Members:
  - Rebecca Martin, PAg (Chair); Natasha Neumann, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 2 Board Members:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg (Past Chair); William Shaw, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Board Members:
  - Warren Mills, PAg; Yasemin Parkinson, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg (Treasurer)
- Government Appointed Lay Board Members:
  - Carla Corbett, RPBio; Guy Chartier (as of Feb 2024); Brock Endean; Betsy Gibbons (as of Feb 2024)

**In Memoriam:** There was a moment of silence in recognition of Bob Holtby and Scot MacLise, and any other registrants or previous registrants who have passed away this past year of whom BCIA was not aware of.

### ***The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm***

The Chair respectfully acknowledged the following:

“We respectfully acknowledge that today’s AGM takes place on the ancestral lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, which is embraced within the Coast Salish Peoples who reside on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island but whose territory touches many parts of the Salish Sea. We would like to expand that acknowledgment to all Indigenous Nations within the province from the home of the Taku River Tlingit (ta-koo

river tling-get) and Tahltan (tall-tan) in the far northwest to the Ktunaxa (too-nah-ha) people in the southeast region. Agrologists have worked together with Indigenous peoples since the profession was recognized in 1947. We share the common goal of respect for the land and the resources it can provide, and we recognize our duty to foster meaningful relationships as we help sustain it. Thank you for the honour of holding this meeting and conference on the lands of your nation.”

## **2. Ministerial Greetings**

Ravi Parmar, MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca, Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials attended online and delivered his greetings.

## **3. Confirmation of Quorum**

Parliamentarian Rob Kupchanko, PAg confirmed 75 (need to double check list) in-person eligible voting registrants in attendance and 346 online eligible voting registrants, thereby confirming quorum of which a minimum of 5% is required. Participants were referred to the Rules of Order.

## **4. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair noted that the following reports included in the BCIA AGM Report did not require a motion to accept them: Chair, Interim CEO, Registrar, Provincial PD Coordinator, Committees and Working Groups, Branch Executives. These reports were received by the Institute and questions were taken at the end of the meeting.

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

## **5. Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes**

***Motion to adopt the 2023 AGM Minutes (April 22, 2023 and January 16, 2024) as presented. Carried***

## **6. Business Arising from the 2023 AGM**

The Chair noted that there was no business arising from the 2023 AGM.

## **7. Presentation on Governance**

Bradley Chisholm, Principle of the Regulator’s Practice presented information on governance to the attendees.

## **8. Annual Reports**

The Chair directed registrants to the AGM Report for various staff, committee, working group, and branch executive reports, and acknowledged the tireless work of the volunteers towards the operation of BCIA. The Interim CEO and Registrar provided complimentary verbal reports. The Chair acknowledged the support and tireless work of them helping BCIA operate and move forward.

## **9. Treasurer Report**

### **Presentation and Adoption of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements**

Kirk Phair, PAg and Treasurer, presented a summary of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements and referenced these in the BCIA AGM Report.

***Motion to adopt the 2023 Audited Financial Statements as presented.. Carried***

### **Appointment of Auditors for the 2024 Fiscal Year**

As required by BCIA Bylaws, an appointment of an auditor was needed. It was recommended to appoint BDO as the auditor for 2024.

***Motion to appoint BDO as the auditor for the 2024 fiscal year. Carried***

#### Annual Fees Update

The Board and Staff will be considering inflationary and budgetary measures to determine if an increase for 2025 annual fees is required.

### **10. Consideration of Submitted Resolutions**

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

### **11. Questions from the Floor**

Questions from the floor regarding all reports were invited. The questions are provided at the end of these meeting minutes.

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

Elections were held over a 30 day period earlier this year in accordance with the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) in all three electoral districts, simultaneously for all three-year terms.

The election results were:

1. District 1 – Rebecca Martin, PAg (acclamation)
2. District 2 – Catherine Hayes, PAg
3. District 3 – Yasemin Parkinson, PAg (incumbent)

### **14. Introduction of 2024-2025 Board**

The Chair introduced the 2024-2025 Board as follows:

- Regional Electoral District 1 Board Members:
  - Natasha Neumann, PAg; Rebecca Martin, PAg (Chair)
- Regional Electoral District 2 Board Members:
  - Catherine Hayes, PAg; William Shaw, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Board Members:
  - Warren Mills, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg (Treasurer); Yasemin Parkinson, PAg
- Government Appointed Lay Board Members:
  - Carla Corbett, RPBio; Guy Chartier; Brock Endean; Betsy Gibbons
- Past Chair – Non-Voting:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg, RPBio

### **14. Introduction of New Board Vice Chair**

Yasemin Parkinson, PAg was introduced as the newly acclaimed Board Vice Chair. Yasemin will advance to the position of Chair at the end of the 2025 AGM.

### **15. Acknowledgements**

New registrants and student members were recognized and welcomed to the Institute. 25 year and 50 year registrants were also highlighted.

#### Agrologist of the Year Award

Sean Rapai, PAg of the Cariboo Central Interior Branch (District 1) was presented with the Agrologist of the Year award.

#### Lifetime Achievement Award

Martin Sills, PAg(Retired) of the Cariboo Central Interior Branch (District 1) was presented with the Lifetime Achievement award.

#### Honourary Agrologist Award

Pete Spencer was the posthumous recipient of the Honourary Agrologist Award. Carl Withler, PAg accepted the award on behalf of the family.

### **16. Location of 2025 Conference**

The 2025 Conference will be held in the Lower Mainland with a date and location to be announced later in the fall.

### **17. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

### **18. Adjournment of AGM**

***Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. Carried***

## **77<sup>th</sup> BCIA AGM Questions and Answers – May 8, 2024**

**Question:** Regarding wages and benefits in the financial statements, will the 2024 numbers be lower than the 2023 numbers, and more in line with 2022?

**Answer:** Yes, they will be lower. The higher numbers in 2023 were due to the leaving of the past CEO.

**Question:** At the January 16, 2024 AGM continuation, there was mention of deficiencies relating to prior financial policies that needed to be rewritten. Is there any outfall from these deficiencies?

**Answer:** No fraud was identified. The financial discrepancies were more related towards policy and processes.

**Question:** Do we have money in the bank and are not deficient in funds?

**Answer:** Yes, there is money in the bank.

**Question:** Is there a purpose for the investment fund as referenced in the financial presentation?

**Answer:** There is a BCIA investment fund in order to generate money.

**Question:** What is our investment policy, and what is the ethical guidelines, and where can we find the policy.

**Answer:** The investment policy can be found in the registrant portal of the BCIA website; we don't take any risks therefore GICs are invested in.

**Question:** There has been references to changes within the institute relating to the implementation of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA). Please elaborate what these changes are to be.

**Answer:** Changes are anticipated relating to how the PGA is interpreted. The Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) has allowed us to continue, not in a punitive manner, and focusing on outreach, education and awareness relating to the changes of the PGA and are continuing to prioritize this focus. The statutory duty to report is important to realize the expectations of a registrant and watch for more details to be released in the future. Also, the practice areas and definitions will need to be collaborated and intersections defined relative to our partner PGA organizations.

**Question:** In the presentation there was discussion of identification of critical risk to the public and the public interest. Are there definitions of either of these for BCIA?

**Answer:** There is a certain amount of ability to interpret both the PGA and the Agrologists Regulation as it relates to certain situations and to the registrant body. Note that the PGA is in place to protect the public. If there are specific questions for a specific situation, please contact the Registrar at the BCIA office.

**Question:** Has any cost benefit analysis been done justifying the increased oversight with the PGA regarding infringement of Canadian constitutional rights for political interference?

**Answer:** All PGA regulators must be compliant with the Interprovincial Labour Mobility Act. Also, new registrants must meet the National Education Standards upon entrance into BCIA and we must ensure we are in alignment with the standards in addition to the new legislation International Credential Recognition Act (ICRA). Under the PGA the Canadian Constitutional Rights were considered when it was created. We are not able to undertake any formal political lobbying. We have the flexibility to continue with outreach, education, and awareness of the PGA to bring those working in agrology that remain unregistered.

**Question:** What is the Board's policy for those working in agrology but are not registered?

**Answer:** Since the PGA was brought into force, registrants have a statutory duty to report individuals that are working within the regulated practice and not registered. Please reference the OSPG website to view the information webinars. Contact the BCIA Registrar regarding any inquiries.

**Question:** Will the BCIA consider reducing PDH for those working in the field vs working in the office. Give more PD weight to those that work outside of the normal 8 hour shifts.

**Answer:** The Audit and Practice Review Committee will be reviewing the PD Guidelines and will look into making appropriate updates.

**Question:** Does the BCIA anticipate a loss of dual registrations under the PGA? So registered with two or more PGA regulators?

**Answer:** It is common to hold dual registration between PGA regulators. About 10% of registrants hold dual registration with a general trend increasing. The processes of the registrations are completely independent. If a BCIA application is more appropriate for CAB or FPBC those will be referred appropriately.

**Question:** There are job postings asking for multiple designations yet lately there is only one designation being required with less postings including the PAg designation. Can there be a comment on this.

**Answer:** The Registrar has been working with government officials to support them to operationalize their own legislation, and also working with other PGA regulators on this. There are multiple ministries to engage with and identifying the champions, plus we also need to have all BCIA designations recognized including the new Limited License Agrologist (LLAg) designation.