

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**74th Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 1:00 pm**  
**Virtual Session Hosted From the Langford Main Office**

**1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

BCIA President (“President”) Jane Kerner, PAg welcomed Registrants, staff and Councillors and noted that Brian Mauza, PAg shall moderate the meeting and Rob Kupchanko, PAg is the Parliamentarian for the meeting. The President indicated to all attendees that the meeting would be recorded.

The President respectfully acknowledged the following:

“I would note that for purposes of location of this AGM the meeting is deemed to occur at our head office in Langford BC. Consequently we would like to begin by acknowledging that the lands on which we gather are the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. I would like to expand that acknowledgement to all Indigenous nations within the province from the home of the Taku River Tlingit and Tahltan in the far north west to the Ktunaxa 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.”

Special guests and key partners were acknowledged:

- Ann English, CEO and Registrar, Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
- Brenda Southam, Executive Director, Real Estate Institute of BC
- Brian Clark, President, College of Applied Biology
- Christina Bhalla, Executive Director, Appraisal Institute of BC
- Christina Gelowitz, CEO, Association of BC Forest Professionals
- Christine Houghton, CEO, College of Applied Biology
- Jim Weir, Executive Director and Registrar, Agrologists Manitoba
- Larry Spence, President, Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
- Rebecca Freedman, Director, Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance
- Kate Haines, Director, Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance
- Tara Culham, Executive Director, BC Society of Landscape Architects
- Theresa McMurray, CEO, Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC
- Trevor Joyce, President, Association of BC Forest Professionals
- Valerie Pearson, Executive Director and Registrar, and staff from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists

The President introduced the current 2020-21 Council members and expressed gratitude for their support throughout the year.

- Regional Electoral District 1 Councillors:
  - Todd Larsen, PAg; Rebecca Martin, PAg and Treasurer
- Regional Electoral District 2 Councillors:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg and President Elect; Kevin Eastwood, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Councillors:

- Warren Mills, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg; Jane Kerner, PAg and President
- Government Appointed Lay Councillors:
  - Aiden Wiechula, RPF; Brock Endean; Carla Corbett Schiller, RPBio; and Matthew Voell, J.D.

## 2. Ministerial greetings

Ministerial greetings were presented as videos (2) and a written letter (1) as follows:

- The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister, Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (video)
- The Honourable George Heyman, Minister, Environment and Climate Change Strategy (video)
- The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (written)

**In Memoriam:** There was a moment of silence in recognition of Clay Campbell, PAg; Tim C. Marshall, PAg; Stewart Paulson, PAg; Jack Reams, PAg; Lyle Resh, PAg(Ret 75+); Adrian Semmelink, PAg (awarded posthumously) 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 1:17 pm***

## 3. Confirmation of Quorum

Rob Kupchanko, Parliamentarian confirmed 470 eligible voting Registrants in attendance, thereby confirming quorum. Registrants were referred to the Rules of Order, pp 5-7 of the AGM Report.

Concerns over internet connectivity for Jane Kerner, PAg resulted in the following motion based on Bylaw 26:

***Motion*** that the incoming President Jessica Morgan, PAg shall become the Chair of this meeting at any time that the President is unable to do so and shall continue in the position until such time that the President is able to resume her duties. **Carried**

## 4. Adoption of Agenda

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

## 5. Adoption of Minutes of 2020 AGM

It was noted that “unceded territories” was repeated twice in the land acknowledgement.

***Motion*** to adopt the 2020 AGM minutes with the one minor edit. **Carried**

## 6. Agrologist of the Year Award

The President was pleased to announce that Chris Armes, PAg of Cariboo Central Interior Branch (District 1) is the recipient of the 2020 Agrologist of the Year award. Chris is fondly referred to as the ‘Range Godfather’. Chris’ biography of his career as a Range Officer can be found on page 13 of the AGM Report.

## 7. President’s Report

The President directed Registrants to page 14 of the AGM Report for the President’s Report.

## 8. Chief Executive Officer and Registrar’s Report

JP Ellson, CEO/Registrar (“CEO”) directed registrants to pp 16-17 of the AGM Report for the CEO/Registrar’s Report. The CEO highlighted the BCIA head office operations during COVID and observed that no plan for in-person PD can be made until the Provincial Health Officer modifies or lifts the current public health restrictions. Branch AGMs may return to in-person but will be up to the individual branches. Both the Deputy Registrar’s and Provincial Professional Development Coordinator’s reports were noted on pp 18-21 of the AGM Report.

## 9. Business Arising from the 2020 AGM

The CEO reported there were four (4) resolutions put forward in 2020. Of those four resolutions, motion 2.c) was tabled for further research. Discussion around the motion centered on which streaming options should be available at AGMs and conferences, although the motion referenced solely AGMs. Research on streaming options indicated that the costs of livestreaming PD activities at a conference could be in excess of \$20,000 for a quality product. Consequently, Council determined that the provincial AGM will be virtual in the future, thereby allowing all Registrants to attend, and will **not** necessarily be held in conjunction with a physical conference event. Each conference will include an “Ask Your Council” or similar event that allows direct questions from Registrants to Council. A physical conference is scheduled to be held in Penticton in 2022, to be held separately from the provincial AGM. The BCIA Bylaws provide an appeal process for Registrants, should they disagree with Councils decision on the matter of not streaming the conference. The CEO invited registrants to contact him directly at [jp.ellson@bcia.com](mailto:jp.ellson@bcia.com) for a detailed explanation.

## 10. Treasurer’s Report

### Presentation of 2020 Audited Financial Statements

Rebecca Martin, PAg and Treasurer (“Treasurer”), presented a summary of the 2020 Audited Financial Statements, referenced in the BCIA AGM Report, pp 30-35, which were posted to the Registrant Resources section of the website following approval by Council. Today’s financial PowerPoint presentation will be available on the same webpage.

**Motion to adopt the 2020 Audited Financial Report as presented. Carried**

### 2021 BCIA Budget

The Treasurer verbally summarized the 2021 BCIA Budget, which Council approved on December 5, 2020, and was posted to the Registrant Resources webpage. Council approved the 2021 budget with a projected deficit of \$59,080. With the 2020 net income of \$119,558, this should create a surplus of \$60,000 over two years.

### Branch Financial Statements

The Treasurer presented the unaudited Branch Financial Statements. The 2020 Branch Financial Reports are posted to the BCIA website under Registrant Resources > Branch Resources. In 2020, branches had \$23,353 of carryover from 2019, and were allotted \$38,880 for Branch functions, of which \$25,187 was spent. COVID-19 posed challenges for all Branches, which held solely virtual events but ultimately reduced expenses. At year end, Branches carried over a total of \$33,039 from 2020 to 2021.

### Appointment of Auditor for the 2021 Fiscal Year

KPMG were appointed as auditors in 2018 for the 2019 and 2020 financial years thus no Request for Proposals were sent this year.

**Motion to appoint KPMG as auditors for the 2021 fiscal year. Carried**

### Annual Fees

The Treasurer noted the 2021 annual fees remained unchanged from 2020. Council will assess later in 2021 to determine if an annual renewal fee increase will be implemented for 2022.

## 11. Committee Reports

The President acknowledged gratitude to all committee members and referred Registrants to the committee reports on pp 22-26 of the AGM Report and a list of all respective committee members on page 27. Under the new *Professional Governance Act* some names of the standing committees have changed. 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 Groups:

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

## **12. Consideration of Submitted Resolutions**

A call for resolutions was sent out to all BCIA registrants on March 18, 2021 with a closing date of April 6, 2021. No submissions were received.

## **13. Professional Governance Act Update**

The CEO noted that much work has been done in the past 3 ½ years with extensive communications to the registrants. The *Agrologists Regulation* that came into effect on February 5, 2021 confirmed the inclusion of natural environmental sciences and restoration, remediation and reclamation services in the definition of agrology.

Reserved Practice or practice rights will be the next concept for approval with Keith Duhaime, PAg currently providing comprehensive input to the Reserved Practice proposals in consultation with the Professional Governance Working Group. It is expected that here will be a significant grace period to identify the overlaps with other regulators and consultation with stakeholders. BCIA's areas of practice will also need to be rationalized and reduced down to a reasonable amount during that period.

## **14. Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) Presentation**

Rebecca Freedman and Kate Haines, both Directors with OSPG, presented a comprehensive overview of the: regulatory framework of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA); highlights of changes that BCIA registrants should know about; roles and responsibilities of the OSPG and regulatory bodies; OSPG policy guidance; Standards of Good Regulations and OSPG operations. This presentation will be available afterwards on the BCIA website.

## **15. Questions from the Floor**

Questions from the floor and associated answers, including those from the OSPG presentation, are provided at the end of these meeting minutes.

## **16. Report on Councillor Election Results**

The CEO noted that under the PGA, Registrant Councillors have had staggered terms however from 2022 onward all terms will be the three (3) year period required by the PGA. In the spring of 2021 all Registrants were notified of five vacant positions on Council. Two of these positions had one (1) year terms to accommodate the transition to the three (3) year staggered terms scenario. Four of the vacancies were filled by acclamation; the fifth by appointment by Branch Executives within the Regional Electoral District #1. The Nomination Committee vetted the nominations in accordance with the PGA and deemed the nominees to be candidates for election. Jessica Morgan, PAg was re-elected in District 2 thus being able to transition into the position of President effective upon the conclusion of this AGM.

## **17. Introduction of 2021-2022 Council and Recognition**

The President introduced the 2021-2022 Council as follows:

- Regional Electoral District 1 Councillors:
  - Todd Larsen, PAg; Rebecca Martin, PAg and Treasurer
- Regional Electoral District 2 Councillors:
  - Jessica Morgan, PAg and President; William Shaw, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Councillors:
  - Warren Mills, PAg; Kirk Phair, PAg; Yasemin Parkinson, PAg
- Government Appointed Lay Councillors:
  - Aiden Wiechula, RPF; Brock Endean; Carla Corbett Schiller, RPBio; and Matthew Voell, J.D.

Jane Kerner noted that she will remain on Council as a non-voting member with the title of Past President.

Recognition of Council members whose terms expired in order to come into compliance with the *Professional Governance Act*, were recognized with glass awards for their contributions. They were:

1. Jane Kerner, PAg; outgoing President and District 3 Councillor
2. Kevin Eastwood, PAg; outgoing District 2 Councillor

Don Rugg, PAg was introduced to recognize the BCIA PD Provincial Coordinator, Bonnie Keleher as she retires at the end of June. Bonnie was an invaluable member of the team at the BCIA head office.

### **18. Location of 2022 BCIA Conference**

In partnership with the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC), the BCIA Conference will be held May 5-7, 2022 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre in the Okanagan area. Registrants were reminded that BCIA AGMs will be held virtually with next year's date to be determined.

### **19. Recognition of New PAgS and TAgS**

Congratulations were extended to newly minted PAgS and TAgS with a reminder for them to send their signed respective *Professional Oaths* to [p.ag@bcia.com](mailto:p.ag@bcia.com) as soon as possible. A listing may be found in the AGM report pp 45-46. Their respective Professional Oaths should be recited at their branch AGM, to their Branch Executive, or at other appropriate branch events.

Since implementing the Technical Agrologist designation early in 2020 BCIA has welcomed 8 new TAgS to BCIA, 3 of these being dual registrants with the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

### **20. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

### **21. Message from Incoming President**

Jessica Morgan, PAg thanked Jane Kerner, PAg for her fine leadership as President this past year plus Council for their dedication. Jessica spoke briefly about her education, career background, personal endeavors, and BCIA volunteerism.

### **22. Adjournment of AGM**

***Motion to adjourn the meeting. Carried***

**Meeting adjourned at 3:24pm**

## QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE OSPG PRESENTATION

**Question:** Do you know what the status is of the other recommendations made to government under the professional reliance review?

**Answer:** The Professional Reliance Review Report had over 120 recommendations with 2 being implemented by bringing the PGA into force. The majority of the other recommendations were specific to the various statutes that include aspects of professional reliance. It is up to each ministry responsible for those statutes to implement the recommendations, with the ministries taking them into account as they carry out their amendments as the opportunity becomes available to them.

**Question:** Given the interdisciplinary nature of our work, will there be opportunities for overlapping reserved practice?

**Answer:** The PGA does allow for overlapping reserved practice such as between the foresters and the engineers with forests, roads, and crossings where either professional can be hired to do the exact same work with interchangeable skill set. It could be referred to as 'Alignments and intersections' with professionals, such as with the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, that allows for more than one professional to contribute to the work in the same space. The regulated practice of agrology excludes any practices that are currently reserved to another profession; regulatory structures that are already in place have to be considered when developing reserved practice.

**Question:** How will the increased pressures on the regulatory bodies related to the Duty to Report requirements be supported by government?

**Answer:** The regulatory bodies have indicated concerns with work load, more specifically impacts with government policies, yet the Professional Governance Advisory Committee will be serving as the secretariat in order to handle inquiries and to provide direction to the appropriate departments. Tracking will be done to indicate if an increased pressure is realized with support systems to be in place if required.

**Question:** Does the duty to report also apply to professionals outside the five regulatory bodies that currently fall under the PGA?

**Answer:** The duty to report is only for Registrants under the PGA but if other provisions or mechanisms for reporting are in place to express concerns then Registrants should be following them, such as reporting to Work Safe BC.

**Question:** How come the Ministries of Environment or Agriculture were not included in the list of phased implementation of provincial entities?

**Answer:** The OSPG is currently looking at these ministries. The list was informed by those ministries and organizations that have had experience working with EGBC on their Organizational Quality Management Program, a volunteer program in place for several years. The intent is to take the learning from this first intake phase to help inform the next phase of intake.

**Question:** Given that many Registrants work in contaminated sites, is the Ministry of Environment going

to be part of the implementation process?

**Answer:** The Ministry of Environment is providing representation at the Professional Governance Act Advisory Committee. The OSPG can facilitate discussions that need to happen in other parts of government directly with regulatory bodies if need be.

**Question:** Will Registrants be advised of potential intersections/overlaps between BCIA and other groups, like the College of Applied Biology, as we move forward?

**Answer:** Outreach and engagement is important to prepare Registrants for understanding what comes next regarding Reserved Practice; messaging will be provided by BCIA at the appropriate time.

**Question:** Can you elaborate on the Duty to Report and how it applies to employers? Can the PGA enforce the duty to report on employers?

**Answer:** The PGA does enforce the duty on employers so with that the regulatory bodies can enforce the duty of a Registrant to report but the OSPG actually has the ability to enforce that Duty by employers. So it's both the duty of the employer of a Registrant to report on that Registrant and if the employer takes reprisals in respect of an employee who fulfilled their duty OSPG can also take enforcement action against that.

**Question:** ECO Canada is a national environmental regulatory body. Will they be part of the PGA?

**Answer:** OSPG has been in discussions with ECO Canada to learn more about the organization and at this time there is no announcement pertaining to this.

## **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Questions:** Could clarification be made regarding the transition to the current composition of Council that now includes Lay Council members? Can you comment on the new government appointed Lay Committee members? Are lay members provided a stipend or paid for their time? Can lay members attend an AGM?

**Answers:** Under the PGA and current Bylaws, Council consists of 7 Registrant Councillors and up to 4 government-appointed Lay Councillors. Under the previous Agrologists Act there was the authority to appoint 3 Lay Council members but they were never appointed by government. Three new Lay Councillors came on board in September 2020 with the fourth member appointed in February 2021. The twelfth position on Council is the Past President position of which is non-voting and Jane Kerner, PAg will transition into the position after this meeting.

Each of the 5 standing committees established by the PGA and any other committees of whose activities relate to Governance, such as the Governance Committee, must have at least one Lay Committee member present for any hearing, meeting, or activity. Each standing committee was assigned multiple lay committee members so that it was ensured at least one will be present.

There is no stipend or payment for duties as a volunteer but expenses are covered especially for face to face meetings.

Lay members are entitled to attend as guests yet only Registrants can vote and bring forth resolutions at an AGM.

**Questions:** To encourage volunteering for the association and given how much time can be spent doing so, what would be the process for increasing the PD hours that can be awarded for committee related work? Would that be a resolution or a decision made at council?

**Answers:** A specified amount of PD hours can be claimed for Committee and Council work towards the

mandatory requirements. OSPG has not provided a firm direction as to changes, if any, on how many PD hours can be claimed yet currently the Audit & Practice Review Committee sets the standards with recommendations sent to Council for consideration and decision. At some point a review of how many PD hours that can be claimed for Council and Committee work will need to be considered.

**Question:** Given that the PGA is relying on BCIA to regulate our members, what is the current / projected future process for auditing members?

**Answer:** The number of committee members is determined by their respective TORs which are recommended through the Governance Committee and approved by Council. Auditing practices may be adjusted when practice rights are granted yet currently only PD claims are audited. The process of auditing a registrant's practice will be developed with OSPG when bringing in practice rights.