

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

BCIA Board Chair, Rebecca Martin, PAg welcomed attendees to the 78th BCIA Virtual Annual General Meeting of the BC Institute of Agrologists.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that BCIA has a commitment to truth and reconciliation. We respectfully acknowledge that the offices of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists are located on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, specifically the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations. These lands, situated along the east coast of Vancouver Island, are connected in many areas to the waters of the Salish Sea.

We also acknowledge the many lands we each come from, and we invite you to reflect on your own relationship with local Indigenous communities. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, we challenge ourselves and each of you to be catalysts for change within your communities: to learn from and build genuine relationships with local Indigenous Peoples, and to walk a path forward with honesty, humility, and openness. Together, we can build a future rooted in mutual respect and shared stewardship of the land.

Thank you for the honour of being able to live and work on the lands of your nations.

The Chair introduced the staff of BCIA, and acknowledged Rob Kupchanko, PAg as Parliamentarian for the meeting, Jessica Morgan, PAg, Past Chair of the Board and member of the Financial Working Group.

2. Ministerial Greetings

The Chair shared a video welcome message from The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food and MLA Saanich South.

Special guests were honoured and shown appreciation for their attendance at the AGM and support throughout the year.

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 2024-2025 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 (Vice Chair); Kirk Phair, PAg

- Government Appointed Lay Board Members:
 - Carla Corbett, RPBio; Guy Chartier (as of Feb 2024); Brock Endean; Betsy Gibbons

The Chair advised that the BCIA Annual Report would be referenced during the meeting and was posted as part of the AGM Package in advance of the meeting. The Chair advised all attendees that the meeting was recorded. The 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.

3. Confirmation of Quorum

Parliamentarian Rob Kupchanko, PAg confirmed 477 online eligible voting registrants, thereby confirming quorum as defined in section 24 of the BCIA Bylaws. Participants were referred to the Rules of Order. 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 package. He outlined the rules regarding online questions and answers and voting on motions.

4. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair referred attendees to the agenda and noted that all reports found in the Annual Report, other than the 2024 audited financial statement, do not require a motion to accept them. After calling the motion and receiving a mover and a seconder, a request to amend the presenting speaker of the Audited Financial Statement and the Appointment of Auditor from Guy Chartier, to Jessica Morgan, PAg was made. The motion was amended and recalled.

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Carried

5. Adoption of 2024 AGM Minutes

Motion to adopt the 2024 AGM Minutes, dated May 8, 2024 as presented. Carried

6. Annual Reports

The Chair directed registrants to the Annual Report for various committee, working group, and branch executive reports, and acknowledged the ongoing contributions of the many volunteers towards the operation of BCIA. The Chair acknowledged and thanked the former Interim CEO for her leadership during over the past year while a search for a permanent CEO was conducted.

The CEO/Registrar provided a verbal report on her first seven months with BCIA and acknowledged the many registrants, committee and board members and external partnerships she has had the opportunity to form thus far.

The Chair acknowledged BCIA's Committees and the Branch Executive Leadership members and expressed her gratitude for their support and tireless work in helping BCIA operate and move forward. She advised that BCIA is always looking for volunteers to sit on committees and anyone interested should contact BCIA.

7. 2024 Audited Financial Statement

Jessica Morgan, PAg, Past Chair, and member of the Financial Working Group advised that in the fall of 2024, the Financial Working Group was struck that was composed of the CEO, a registrant board member, being myself, a lay-board member, Guy Chartier, and a lay-member, Dwayne Hart, CPA. This working group replaced

the singular role of the Treasurer. On behalf of the other Board members, I'd like to thank Kirk Phair for his dedication to the treasurer role. Jessica advised that the Audited Financial Statements were located start at page 18 of the Annual Report. She then invited Ken Carmichael, from BCIA's appointed auditors, BDO, to present a summary of the 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

A registrant enquired about the increase in expenses related to travel and meeting costs in 2024 over 2023. The CEO advised that this was in partially a result of the new GL coding system that was implemented in 2024 that allows for more accurate recording of these expenses that had been captured in other areas, and of course, is partially contributed to the overall general increase in cost of living. The CEO advised that this amount would also include costs for meeting/venue spaces and other meeting related expenses.

Motion to adopt the 2024 Audited Financial Statements as presented. Carried

8. Appointment of Auditors for the 2025 Fiscal Year

As mandated by BCIA Bylaws, the appointment of an auditor for the 2025 fiscal year is required. It was recommended to appoint BDO as the auditor for 2025.

Motion to appoint BDO as the auditor for the 2025 fiscal year. Carried

9. Board Member 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 – Julie Robinson, PAg
2. District 2 – Theresa Loewen, PAg (acclamation)
3. District 3 – Faye Hirshfield, PAg

10. Introduction of 2025-2026 Board

The Chair thanked the 2024-25 Board members for the hard work and diligence over the past year. She acknowledged those members whose terms concluded at the end of the AGM:

- Natasha Neumann, PAg, District 1
- Jessica Morgan, Past Chair
- William Shaw, PAg, District 2
- Kirk Phair, PAg, District 3 and
- Carla Corbett, RPBio, Lay-member whose term ends on May 31, 2025.

The Chair introduced the 2025-2026 Board as follows:

- Regional Electoral District 1 Board Members:
 - Rebecca Martin, PAg (Past Chair), Julie Robinson, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 2 Board Members:
 - Catherine Hayes, PAg; Theresa Loewen, PAg
- Regional Electoral District 3 Board Members:
 - Faye Hirshfield, PAg; Warren Mills, PAg; (Vice Chair) Yasemin Parkinson, PAg (Chair)
- Government Appointed Lay Board Members:
 - Carla Corbett, RPBio (till May 31, 2025); Guy Chartier; Brock Endean; Betsy Gibbons

Rebecca Martin, PAg, introduced the new Chair, Yasemin Parkinson, PAg, and invited her to speak. Yasemin Parkinson, PAg, advised that she was honoured to be stepping into the role of Chair of the Board and the future direction of BCIA. She also acknowledged the years of service of the outgoing Past Chair, Jessica Morgan, and now Past Chair, Rebecca Martin, PAg and thanked them for their contributions and dedication.

Rebecca Martin, PAg, expressed her gratitude in having been able to serve as Board Chair for the past two-years and thanked all the Board members and staff for their support and work.

11. Adjournment of AGM

Attendees were reminded to remain online after the adjournment of the AGM for a professional development opportunity with Janis Brooks from Salishan Solutions regarding Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation learning opportunities in partnership with BCIA. Janis's presentation was immediately followed by Jennifer Lawrence, MAL, CEO and Registrar of BCIA, who provided a presentation on BCIA's new Strategic Plan. The session concluded with the announcement of the 2024 Agrologist of the Year and 2024 Mentor of the Year recipients.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 pm. Carried