



Victoria and Islands Branch Executive

Reports for October 1, 2023 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

Prepared by:

Jenn Wilson, PAg

President, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

The Victoria and Islands Branch Executive (VIBE) started this year off with the goal to continue last year's efforts to provide a mix of in-person and virtual professional development (PD) opportunities, to socialize and to support our communities.

With changes in BCIA staff, branches were asked to temporarily suspend PD events in early 2023 until the BCIA team was fully staffed. Bonnie Keleher returned as the interim Provincial PD Coordinator until Jasmine Wong joined the BCIA team. Despite this delayed start, VIBE has more than made up for lost time in organizing events and activities.

BCIA Board organized three president calls in March, May and August of 2023. This was a welcomed opportunity to connect with Board and other presidents.

The Executive

Your VIBE met monthly and also provided the first opportunity for a registrant to say their professional oath at one of our monthly VIBE calls. I hope more articling folks will take advantage of this opportunity if the AGM isn't an option.

The 2023 VIBE consists of:

- Articling Program Coordinator: Daniel Lamhonwah, PAg
- Director At Large: Melina Sorensen, PAg
- Director North: Steve Stussi, PAg
- Director South: Jeffrey Styles, PAg
- President Elect: Natasha Cowie, PAg
- President: Jenn Wilson, PAg
- Professional Development Coordinator (1 of 2): Beth Sobieszczyk, PAg (2nd year of term)
- Professional Development Coordinator (2 of 2): Alex Fillo, AAg

- Secretary: Lynn Pinnell, PAg
- Treasurer: Natalie Tashe, PAg

Hanaa Saeed, PAg, was our other Director South but moved away in April 2023. Since we had two Director South volunteers, Melina Sorensen, PAg, agreed to cover the Director At Large position. Thank you Hanaa for supporting our branch and setting up this year's AGM venue. Thanks to Melina for being flexible and covering this position as of May 2023.

Each VIBE volunteer contributed to this year's events. Here are some of their contributions above their executive position duties. Daniel helped organize volunteers for the Island Agriculture Show and volunteered at the BCIA booth. Melina organized and volunteered at the Swan Lake invasive species removal event, led the June reading club meeting, and helped organize our South Island – Victoria social event. Steve organized the Nanaimo social event and Nanaimo Food Share tour. Jeff organized and led the July 8 GFL tour that also included Vancouver branch registrants. Thanks, Jeff, for this great collaboration with our neighbouring branch. Natasha organized and presented a webinar on the River Forecasting Centre. Natasha also led the September reading club meeting on the Western Canadian Freshwater Availability and helped organize our Victoria social event. Beth organized the tour of Topsoil Urban. Alex surveyed registrants on the Reading Club so that we could deliver this PD opportunity at the times and in ways that work for most of us. Lynn organized the Cascadia seaweed webinar. Natalie organized the K'omoks First Nation Tour of Comox River and Kus-kus-sum Site. I covered off the Westholme Tea tour and a reading club webinar.

Thanks to the VIBE team for stepping up and going beyond your duties by organizing, volunteering and contributing to this year's events and activities. I am very grateful to be part of this executive.

Membership statistics

There are a total of 2042 registrants across the province and 355 are VIB registrants, that's 17.4 percent. VIB has 217 PAgS and 37 AAgS and ATAgS. There is also one 1 TAg and one 1 LLaG. Thirty in our branch are on leave, 58 are retired, and 11 are students.

Congratulations to the following VIB registrants for 25 years of membership:

- Keith Thomas, PAg;
- Barbara Johnstone, PAg (retired);
- Sharon Erickson, PAg (retired);
- Justin Straker, PAg; and
- Daniel Saliken, PAg (retired).

Community events

We were able to organize volunteer opportunities for our registrants at the following events.

VIB participated for a second time in the Island Agriculture Show (the Show) on February 3 and 4, 2023 at Duncan's Cowichan Exhibition Centre. Our registrants asked us to support this community event at our 2022 AGM. The Show was well attended, and

volunteers fielded the usual questions - what is agrology and what do agrologists do. Visitors to the booth included consultants, students and farmers. Thanks to BCIA staff for supplying the display materials and banners. A big thank you to our volunteers Kazlyn Bonner, Jack Common, Natasha Cowie, Kelly Eakins, and Danial Lamhonwah, for answering all those questions. I finished up covering the last session and enjoyed the event and interacting with other booths and attendees.

On Sunday, April 16, 2023, Katarina Duke and Lana Harach participated as judges in this year's Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair (the Science Fair). Registrants of our branch have supported this Science Fair for several years to give back to our Vancouver Island community. Four cash prizes were awarded for the following age categories and projects:

- Elementary: Assessing different filter media for the removal of nitrates from agricultural runoff;
- Intermediate: Salmon as a keystone species and its cultural importance to Indigenous peoples;
- Junior: The use of salt for anti-bacterial cleaning solutions;
- Senior: The treatment of heavy metals in water using melanin found in hair.

Thank you to Katarina and Lana for representing our profession at the Science Fair, interacting with the students and awarding the prizes to the deserving students.

On May 27, 2023 Melina Sorensen organized and volunteered at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary to removal invasive species around Swan Lake. The organization has a vision to: "Conserve and restore Nature Sanctuary lands and waters while inspiring stewardship through community engagement and collaboration". After two hours of hard work, 6 full garbage bags worth of invasive English ivy was removed, which has numerous harmful impacts to the ecosystem. Volunteers learnt from the talented invasive species technician that accompanied us and had fun along the way!

Social Events

Thanks to Steve Stussi for organizing a North Island Social at the Longwood Brew Pub in Nanaimo on September 23, 2023. Thanks to Melina Sorensen and Natasha Cowie for organizing a South Island Social at the Ile Sauvage Brewing on September 13, 2023.

With more reliance on qualified professionals, I hope that the 2024 VIBE can continue to provide professional development opportunities, contribute to our communities and network within and outside of BCIA.

Articling Coordinator's Report

Prepared by:

Daniel Lamhonwah, PAg

Articling Program Coordinator, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

As of August 25, 2023, the VIB has 29 Articling Agrologists (AAg) and 8 Articling Technical Agrologists (ATAg). The branch accepted 16 new articling registrants since the last AGM. We also have a total of 11 student members with 6 new students since our last AGM.

On becoming professionals, congratulations to Ann Tuson, TAg and Giles Stevenson, LLA. We also have 21 new PAgS since our last AGM. Congratulations to these new PAgS:

- Rachel Erin Brotherston
- Julie Budgen
- Shaun Chadburn
- Tamara Dinter
- Katarina Duke
- Kelly Eakins
- Jennifer Edwards
- Jari Eikenaar
- Alexander Fillo
- Katharine Garrah
- Jonathan Jeffery
- Samuel Kent
- Tabitha McColl
- Andrew Nadler
- Rebecca Ouellette
- Shane Roberts
- Jamison Romano
- Scott Skagford
- Jasper Smith
- Melissa Tokarek
- Kelly Tradewell

Those articling, please continue to look for volunteer opportunities to fulfill the articling requirements and join our monthly Executive meeting.

On behalf of the entire Executive, I would like to thank BCIA Staff and in particular Laurena Olsen, who helps keep track of newly minted PAgS/TAGs, new articling registrants, and branch transfers.

Professional Development Coordinators' Report

Prepared by:

Beth Sobieszczyk, PAg and Alex Fillo, AAg

Professional Development Coordinators, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Over the past year, our registrants had the opportunity to join the following professional development events offered in person and virtually.

1. April 27 webinar – “BC’s River Forecast Centre: An Operational Overview, organized by the Victoria and Islands Branch”. The River Forecast Centre (RFC) analyzes snow packs, assesses seasonal water supply and flood risk, and predicts flows in British Columbia’s rivers and streams. It produces a range of bulletins, maps, and

warnings to inform emergency managers and the public about current and upcoming streamflow conditions. Two RFC hydrologists, Jon Goetz, PAg and Natasha Cowie, PAg, delivered a webinar on the RFC's operations and details of the forecasting process. Over 30 BCIA members from across the province attended this one-hour presentation.

2. May 10 Reading Club webinar – Facets Journal article titled “Undermining environmental assessment laws: post-assessment amendments for mines in British Columbia, Canada and potential impacts on water resources” by Ben R. Collison et al was discussed. This session was facilitated by Jenn Wilson who was joined by five other registrants interested in discussing this topic. Registrants discussed the paper for an hour. Varied backgrounds, experience and knowledge added to this engaging session. PD hours were earned for reading the article and for attending this lunch time session.
3. June 13 Reading Club webinar – This group read an Environment International Journal article titled “Source, migration and toxicology of microplastics in soil” then met online and had an excellent discussion about the impacts of microplastics in soil, and about how regulations and policy changes can impact the situation. Many insights were shared from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, but the consensus was that we want to continue discussing this important topic. Stay tuned for a part 2.
4. July 8 in person GFL Composting Tour – 15 Agrologists joined Jeff Styles PAg, on a tour of GFL's Organics Recycling Facility in Delta. This Facility, one of GFL's flagship facilities, processes approximately 140,000 MT of food waste annually from much of the lower mainland and turns it into Class A compost. The tour generally followed the compost process from beginning to end while discussing the state-of-the-art composting technologies utilized, the extensive air handling and odour control technologies, and some challenges that all compost facilities have to deal with (namely foreign matter [plastics!] in the finished compost). The group was engaged and full of questions and hopefully more knowledgeable around all the effort that is needed to produce a high-quality compost at a large scale.
5. August 3 webinar – “Cascadia Seaweed: Nature Based Solutions for a Healthier Planet”. BCIA registrants joined Bill Collins and Erin Bremner-Mitchell online for a one-hour lunch and learn on Cascadia Seaweed. Cascadia Seaweed cultivates local species of seaweed on low-impact ocean farms in partnership with coastal first nations. The harvested seaweed is manufactured into agricultural products for land-based farmers that increase yields and reduce emissions. The finished products are used as biostimulants and agrifeeds. Bill walked viewers through the process: nursery, seed launcher, monitoring, harvesting, and processing. Participants were engaged with lots of questions. The webinar was recorded and will be available under registrant resources on the BCIA website for others to view.

Upcoming events that will be reported on at the October 1, 2023 AGM:

6. September 9 in person – Westholme Tea Farm Tour
7. September 13 in person – South Island Social, Victoria
8. September 15 in person – Tour of Topsoil Urban
9. September 16 in person – K'omoks First Nation Tour of Comox River and Kus-kus-sum Site
10. September 19 webinar – Reading Club, “Western Canadian Freshwater Availability: Current and Future Vulnerabilities”
11. September 23 in person – North Island Social, Nanaimo
12. October 1 in person – Sea Cider Farm and Ciderhouse Tour

Reading Club

Over 22 registrants replied to our March questionnaire on continuing to offer VIB's Reading Club. The purpose of the Reading Club is to delve into different topics related to the field of agrology, expose members to new issues and topics and elicit the exchange of dialogue and ideas. The format consists of an independent reading of a designated article followed by a one-hour meeting where the reading is discussed, and dialog is free to explore the topic at hand and related ideas within the field of agrology. Reading materials can be articles from journals, magazines, papers, industry letters, etc. A call for papers and facilitators was issued in July, but the Reading Club is ongoing, and members are welcome to suggest papers and/or volunteer to lead sessions anytime. Please contact Alex.Fillo@gov.bc.ca if you have a paper you'd like to bring forward.

We would like to thank all the BCIA registrants inside and outside of our branch for participating in the PD events that have been held. We would also like to thank the BCIA Provincial PD Coordinator Jasmine Wong and predecessor Seija Laukkanen, for their support and work towards each of these events, including running the technical part of the webinar presentations and book club events.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by:

Natalie Tashe, M. Sc, MCPM, PAg

Treasurer, Victoria & Islands Branch, BCIA

This report contains the table of VIBE 2023 accounts current to September 1, 2023 and projected to the end of December 2023. The second table is the estimated 2024 budget. VIBE was allocated \$5,160 based on our current membership numbers as of 2023 and carried over \$1,452.90 from the 2022 budget, for a total 2023 budget of \$6,612.90. VIBE continued to organize in-person professional development (PD) opportunities and AGM.

BC Institute of Agrologists - Branch Financials Victoria & Islands 2023	
Bank Balance as at January 1st	\$1,452.90
Annual Branch Allocation	\$5,160.00
Total Funds for 2023	\$6,612.90
Total Expenses for 2023	\$8,474.04
Net Income	\$1,110.00
Current Account Balance	\$751.14
<u>REVENUE</u>	
Branch AGM	\$900.00
Branch AGM Sponsorship	\$0.00
Other (donations, sponsorships)	\$0.00
Professional Development Events	\$210.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	\$1,110.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Branch Executive Meetings	\$0.00
A.Ag. /Mentor Events	\$0.00
Member Travel Subsidies	\$0.00
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	\$682.50
Donations/Sponsorships	\$0.00
Other (supplies, awards, etc)	\$19.61
Credit Card / Bank Fees	\$10.00
<u>Branch AGM</u>	
Credit card / bank fees	\$50.00
Catering/Food/Venue	\$6,877.13
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards/Other	\$40.00
PD at AGM	\$0.00
<u>Professional Development</u>	
Presenter Expenses/Honorariums/Gifts	\$624.80
Catering/Food	\$100.00
Transportation (Bus/Parking)	\$0.00
Partnering/PD Subsidy	\$70.00
PD Organizer Travel	\$0.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$8,474.04
<u>NET INCOME</u>	\$1,110.00
<u>ACCOUNT BALANCE</u>	\$751.14

plaque engraving (last year's
plaque engraving and this year's
included)

BCIA - Branch Financials Victoria & Islands Proposed Budget 2024	
Estimated Bank Balance as of January 1st	\$175.00
Projected Annual Branch Allocation	\$5,160.00
Estimated funds available	\$5,335.00
Estimated expenses for 2024	\$8,084.80
Estimated revenue	\$2,925.00
Total Budget Spend	\$5,159.80
<u>REVENUE</u>	
Branch AGM	\$2,125.00
Branch AGM Sponsorship	\$0.00
Other (donations, sponsorships)	\$0.00
Professional Development Events	\$800.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	\$2,925.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Branch Executive Meetings	\$0.00
A.Ag. /Mentor Events	\$0.00
Member Travel Subsidies	\$0.00
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	\$700.00
Donations/Sponsorships	\$200.00
Other (supplies, awards, etc)	\$300.00
Credit Card / Bank Fees	\$128.00
<u>Branch AGM</u>	
Credit card / bank fees	\$331.80
Catering/Food/Venue	\$5,000.00
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards	\$25.00
PD at AGM	\$300.00
<u>Professional Development</u>	
Expenses/Honorariums/Gifts	\$900.00
Catering/Food	\$100.00
Transportation (Bus/Parking)	\$100.00
Partnering/PD Subsidy	\$0.00
PD Organizer Travel	\$0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$8,084.80
<u>Net Income</u>	\$2,925.00
<u>Total Balance</u>	\$175.20

assume \$25/person for 85

assume \$20/person and 40 ppl (2 events)

agri-fair 800

science fair

supplies, swag

2.9% per transaction and 30c for every transaction that goes through the website

plaque engraving

assume \$150 per honorarium