



Victoria and Islands Branch Executive

Reports for October 29, 2022 Annual General Meeting

President's Report

The Victoria and Islands Branch Executive (VIBE) started this year off with the goal of restoration of our members and community engaging in person again after two years of limited interaction due to the pandemic. As a reclamation specialist my background is putting things back to a functional ecosystem and maybe in part that is why we as an executive set that as our goal for the branch even as the Covid-19 Omicron variant at the time was resulting in increased lock down measures to control its spread. Although Covid-19 remains a reality, our resilience to adapt and restore what we value led to a mix of in-person and virtual professional development opportunities, two major community outreach events with the virtual science fair in April 2022 and the in-person Island agriculture show event in July 2022. We were able to create volunteer opportunities for our members at these events and they answered the call.

The Executive

The 2022 VIBE consists of:

Articling Program Coordinator:	Daniel Lamhonwah, PAg
North Island Director:	Angela Boss, PAg
South Island Director:	Hanaa Saeed, PAg
South Island Director:	Jeff Styles, PAg
Director at Large:	Steve Stussi, PAg
PD Coordinator (1 of 2):	Beth Sobieszczyk, AAg
PD Coordinator (2 of 2):	Bejay Mills, PAg
Treasurer:	Katarina Duke, AAg
Secretary:	Jenn Wilson, PAg
President Elect:	Christine Reimer, PAg
President:	Natalie Tashe, PAg

Starting in April we had our District 3 Councillors Kirk Phair, Yasemin Parkinson, and Warren Mills, District 3 attending our monthly VIBE calls.

Our VIBE has undergone two changes. We had Stephanie James who was the Articling Agrologist coordinator step down due to personal reasons and Daniel Lamhonwah put

his name forward. Katarina Duke, our treasurer, was accepted into a Ph. D program in September and Jen Wilson took on the responsibility of both secretary and treasurer for these final weeks of our term. The treasurer is a two-year term so we will need to elect for that position. Our president elect, Christine Reimer is not able to continue into the role of president so please consider putting your name forward for that position this year. I wanted to send a thank you to our VIBE as they are one of the hardest working volunteers and put in dedicated hours and happily stepped up to requests made during meetings. I could not have asked for a better team, and they made this year fun and memorable.

With our first in person branch AGM since 2019, we realized as we were planning that some of our VIBE had never been to an in-person Branch AGM. Luckily, we had some veterans on our VIBE that remember the pre-Covid days and what it meant to plan an in-person AGM and joint PD event. We are proud of our AGM event this year as we host our event at the Bird's Eye Co Farm and have invited our local indigenous community members Elder Hwiemtun (Fred Roland) and Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, Cowichan Tribes to teach and participate in our event. A special thanks to Steve, Kat, Bejay, Beth and Seija for their help in organizing the key aspects of this in-person event.

This year was another sign of changes and evolution of the BC Institute of Agrologists as Reserved practice ("Practice Rights") came into force for the profession of Agrology on September 1, 2022. A primary foundation of those rights are definitions of the agrology practice areas, which are clear, accountable, and enforceable. These changes will likely affect the year to come for our members and our councillors have been participating in our VIBE meetings and helping us navigate these changes. We hope their reports and the Institute's reports and workshops have allowed our members to keep abreast of our profession's evolution.

Our VIBE, at the outset, set up a diversity of PD events. Bejay and Beth worked well with our team and the ideas that were shared by our members to put on multiple events per month including the ongoing virtual reading club. What a team we had which set up a repertoire of PD events from touring farms, natural ecosystems and learning about the newest trends in our agricultural industry to learning about fossils. Thanks, VIBE team, for a great year and I am happy to report we had great participation from our members.

Some key facts for our branch in 2022 include the following:

Total BCIA membership is 1855

Total Victoria and Islands Branch (VIB) membership is 330 (17.8% of the total BCIA membership)

PAG: 211 (64% of total VIB membership)

AAg: 29 (9% of total VIB membership)

ATAg: 9 (3% of total VIB membership)

On leave (all categories): 25

Retired: 56

Student: 8

There are two, 25 year recognitions this year for the following two members:

- Brian Roberts, PAg
- Neil Turner, PAg

We will encourage them to attend the Branch AGM in person to receive their recognition.

I hope that the 2022/2023 VIBE will continue with engaging our members and local communities on the topics that matter. For me, personally with some of my family in Ukraine, it has highlighted the importance of food security and the global dependence we have on one another to properly manage and keep safe our resources for future generations. Our relevance as professionals where we are relied on for our professional judgement has never been more apparent and important. Let's further our professional development in the coming year and spend the time interacting with other members, resource-based industries and our local and indigenous communities.

Prepared by:

Natalie Tashe, M. Sc, MCPM, PAg
President, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Articling Program Coordinator's Report

As of October 3, 2022, the Victoria and Islands Branch has 29 Articling Agrologists (AAg) and 9 Articling Technical Agrologists (ATAg). The branch accepted 16 new articling registrants since the last AGM. We also have a total of 8 student members.

Our branch has had 12 AAg's complete their articling requirements and gain their Professional Agrologist status over the course of the year. A big congratulations to the following members:

- Andrew Anderson
- Shauna Black
- Angeli dela Rosa
- Melissa Demyen
- Derek Hogan
- Meg McIlffaterick
- Kelly McKinnon
- Corey Miller
- Lynn Pinnell
- Evan Scheidt
- Christopher Wall
- Zebang (Zeb) Wei (currently on leave)

Those articling continue to look for volunteer opportunities to fulfill the articling requirements, or through attendance at a branch Executive meeting.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all the articling requirements that were previously offered in-person have been offered online; however, we are transitioning back into in-person opportunities for select events, while continuing to adhere to any applicable restrictions.

On behalf of the entire Executive, I would like to thank BCIA Staff: Laurena Olsen, Tess Karuvetti and Seija Laukkanen, who help keep track of newly minted PAgS/TAgS, new articling registrants, branch transfers, and other tasks to help the Executive.

Prepared by:

Daniel Lamhonwah, PAg

Articling Program Coordinator, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Professional Development Coordinators' Report

During 2022, our members had the opportunity to join professional development events virtually or in person on a variety of topics. Below are summaries of these events.

1. February 20, 2022 - Dino Lab tour: An informative tour on many topics in paleontology theories, methodologies, and evolution. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and was well engaged with the group and our questions. There was in-depth presentation about how the dinosaur bones were collected and shipped to Dino Lab, what the dinosaurs could have looked like, how they moved and interacted based on their bones, discussions about paleontology related newer versus older theories. Terry showed us behind the scenes and described how the bones were extracted, prepared, repaired, modeled (for missing ones), and staged for display.

2. February 26, 2022 Dino Lab tour: An informative tour on many topics in paleontology theories, methodologies, and evolution. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and was well engaged with the group and our questions. There was in-depth presentation about how the dinosaur bones were collected and shipped to Dino Lab, what the dinosaurs could have looked like, how they moved and interacted based on their bones, Also discussions about paleontology related newer versus older theories. Terry showed us behind the scenes and described how the bones were extracted, prepared, repaired, modeled (for missing ones), and staged for display.

3. March 8, 2022 Reading Club – Flowering and yield of eastern filbert blight and hazelnut cultivars in southwestern BC – Thom O'Dell was an author of the article and facilitated discussion. Diverse attendance and great discussion on the topic and related tangents.

4. March 21, 2022 Reading Club – Heavy metal contents mobility and origin in agricultural topsoils of the Galapagos Islands – Tamara Dinter P.Ag was an author of the article and facilitated discussion. A very engaged group with everyone bringing knowledge from the past discussion of this topic, as well as new ideas gained in between the reading club sessions.

5. April 6, 2022 Reading Club – Changes in topsoil characteristics with climate and island age in the agricultural zones of the Galapagos – Tamara Dinter P.Ag was an author of the article and facilitated discussion. Excellent presentation, and much good discussion.

6. April 19, 2022 Reading Club – Soil microbial diversity–biomass relationships are driven by soil carbon content across global biomes- Bejay Mills P.Ag facilitated discussion. Very engaged group with well thought out comments and discussion.

7. April 19, 2022 lunch and learn: Farm Practices and Protection Act presented by Gloria Chojnacki and Sarah Thiesson of Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB). BCFIRB has multiple responsibilities, a component focuses on its administrative tribunal role under BC's Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act, notably, conducting farm practices studies and hearing farm practices complaints. Staff shared a summary of the Act, and the agrologists role in serving as expert witnesses in BCFIRB determinations of what constitutes a 'normal farm practice' in hearings from persons aggrieved by odour, dust, noise, and other disturbances from agriculture and certain aquaculture operations.

8. May 2, 2022 Reading Club – Agriculture production as a major driver of the Earth system exceeding planetary boundaries- Russ Horton P.Ag facilitated discussion. The core group of this reading club is continuing to have excellent discussions, that are following a general topic arc around soil health and environmental health.

9. May 14 2022 – Tour of Haliburton Farm & Biodiversity Project - The Haliburton Community Organic Farm in Saanich is a community-supported, small-scale sustainable organic agriculture collective that is carried out in harmony with local ecosystems. Adjacent to the farm plots is an urban biodiversity enhancement and restoration site or Haliburton Urban Biodiversity Project, an ephemeral wetland, adjacent meadow, and upland forest in process of being restored after decades of past agriculture use.

For this tour, Purnima Govindarajulu, Project Lead for the restoration site, shared the substantial volunteer effort over the last 15 year to restore the 5-acre human-built wetland and natural areas that support biological diversity for the adjacent Haliburton Community Organic Farm. Work involved removal of invasive species and construction of an artificial wetland and upland meadow. Today, the sight is a model enhancement project and serves as functioning habitat for a host of aquatic insects, frogs, swallows, snakes, and the long-toed salamanders which the groups was fortunate to see. The tour was followed by a work party to pull invasives.

For more information on the site, events and volunteer opportunities visit [Biodiversity | Haliburton Community Organic Farm \(haliburtonfarm.org\)](https://haliburtonfarm.org)

10. May 28 2022 – CRD Watershed tour led by Tobi Gardner - Sixteen registrants were part to a 3.5 hour technical tour to learn about restoration projects, water monitoring and forest management in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area. The tour visited the North Basin of the Sooke Reservoir and discussed water storage and demand on the resource, Rithet Creek and discussed hydrometric monitoring within the water supply area, and the Sooke Dam facility discussed Environmental Flows, Forest management,

among other topics. Many participants stayed around to chat afterwards and seemed happy to participate in in-person events again.

11. June 2 2022 – Reading Club- facilitated by Sue Durnin, P.Ag – two articles on desalinization plants.

12. September 24 2022- Tour, learning, and networking event at Vancouver Island University (VIU) Deep Bay Marine Station. A half day event learning about local marine life, current issues in marine sciences, aquaculture research, seafood and shellfish processing. It also included a local seafood industry marketing presentation during a seafood lunch of locally sourced shellfish with a chef presentation of the use of this product in the dish. There were tours of research labs, shellfish hatchery, spawning area, phytoplankton growing, bioreactors for growing plankton as well as boat tours of the shellfish farms in the harbor. Key notes were a presentation from Myron Roth P.Ag on the aquaculture industry and local shellfish aquaculture and another presentation by Dr. Timothy Green on his shellfish health and immunology research.

We would like to thank all the BCIA members inside and outside of our branch for participating in the PD events that have been held. We would also like to acknowledge the support we received from Seija Laukkanen, the BCIA Provincial PD Coordinator, for her support and work towards each of these events, including running the technical part of the webinar presentations and book club events.

Prepared by:

Beth Sobieszczyk PAg. and Bejay Mills, PAg.

Professional Development Coordinators, Victoria and Islands Branch, BCIA

Treasurer's Report

Below is a spreadsheet of VIBE 2022 accounts and projected 2023 budget. VIBE was allocated \$51000 in 2022 and carried over \$4980 from 2021, for a total 2022 budget of \$10,080.

With COVID-19 pandemic restrictions lifted, VIBE was eager to resume in-person professional development (PD) opportunities and AGM. As such, there was an increase in spending compared to the previous year. We currently have an anticipated surplus of \$1447.13. There were many online Reading Club PD events coordinated by the branch, but these events were available to all members, so the costs were covered by BCIA.

The branch has spent the carryover from 2021 and there is no surplus to be carried over.

2022 Expenses and Revenue Include:

- Estimate \$500 for PD events over the next month
- Estimate of \$50 in annual bank charges (as determined by BCIA admin)

2023 Projected Budget

Based on the 2022 budget we have prepared a summary for projected expenses in 2023.

Victoria & Islands Branch 2022


	Total
<u>REVENUE</u>	
Branch AGM	\$ 2,000.00
Branch AGM Sponsorship	\$ -
Other (donations, sponsorships)	\$ -
Professional Development Events	\$ 180.00
	\$ -
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$ 2,180.00</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Branch Executive Meetings	\$ -
A.Ag. /Mentor Events	\$ -
Member Travel Subsidies	\$ -
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	\$ 750.00
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 200.00
Other (supplies, awards, etc)	\$ -
Credit Card / Bank Fees	\$ -
Branch AGM	\$ -
Catering/Food/Venue	\$ 7,000.00
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards/Other	\$ -
PD at AGM	\$ -
Professional Development	\$ -
Presenter Expenses	\$ 1,929.33
Catering/Food	\$ -
Transportation (Bus/Parking)	\$ -
Partnering/PD Subsidy	\$ -
PD Organizer Travel	\$ -
	\$ -
<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$ 9,879.33</u>
	\$ -
<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>-\$ 7,699.33</u>
<u>Balance</u>	

Starting Bank Balance as of Jan 1, 2022

2021 Branch allocation

Expenses and revenues for 2022

Account Balance to date

	BC Institute of Agrologist Victoria & Islands Branch		
	2023 Budget		
	2022 Branch Subsidy	\$ 5,100.00	
	Balance of funds remaining	\$ 1,447.13	
	Funds available for 2022	\$ 6,547.13	
<i>Jan 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023</i>			
2023 Budget (Projected)			
Items	Expenses	Revenues	Explanation / Breakdown of Expenditures and Revenues
		\$ 6,547.13	
Professional Development			
Presenter expenses / honorariums / venue / gifts / supplies / materials	\$ 3,000		Will charge if needed to balance budget
Catering/food			
Transportation (bus, parking)			
Partnering/PD subsidy			
PD Organizer Travel			
Branch AGM			
Catering/Food/venue	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Venue rental, tea/coffee, and catered meal for 100 charging \$25 per person
supplies/awards/other	\$ 300		AV equipment rental (TBC)
PD at AGM	\$ 500		Elder welcome and FN PD event honorarium
Sponsorships revenues			
Branch Executive Meetings			
A. Ag./Mentor Workshops			
Non-PD Activities/Outreach			
Member travel subsidies			
Youth Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 200.00		Annual donation to Society for Advancement of Young Scientists for agrology related entries (4 x \$50)
Miscellaneous			
Total	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,047.13	
Net Balance for Year		\$47.13	

Prepared by:

Katarina Duke, M.Sc., AAg, ASCT and Jenn Wilson, P Ag
Treasurer, Victoria & Islands Branch, BCIA