



Fraser Valley Branch  
Annual General Meeting  
**MINUTES**

Fraser Valley Branch of BCIA –Annual General Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2022  
Online Webinar via Adobe Connect

**1. Pre-Meeting Notes**

- 1303 Kim Grout opens with a welcome message and a Territorial acknowledgment.
- 1305 Sarah van Heeswijk, the Youth Development Manager for the BC Ministry of AFF, introduced Victoria Pitsiaeli, from 4-H British Columbia, who presented her speech on the psychology of animals. Her speech was part of the Provincial 4-H Communication Finals held August 2021. A donation of \$300 was presented to 4-H.

**AGM Minutes**

Attendee Count: 68 Fraser Valley Branch members in good standing present. Meeting is in quorum.

**1. Call to Order** Kim Grout, P. Ag.

Kim Grout called the meeting to order at 1:16 pm.

**2. Agenda Adoption** Kim Grout, P. Ag.

Kim Grout presented the Agenda.

**MOTION:** Parashar Malla, PAg, moved to accept the Agenda as presented, passed.

**3. Minutes from AGM held January 26, 2021** Kim Grout, P. Ag.

The minutes from the last AGM were circulated.

**MOTION:** Kim Grout, PAg, moved to accept the 2021 AGM Minutes as presented, passed.

**4. President's Report** Kim Grout, P. Ag.

Kim Grout presented the president's report. A copy of the report was included in the meeting package.

**5. Professional Development Coordinator's Report**

Rashmi Gaire, P. Ag.

Rashmi Gaire, PAg, presented the Professional Development Coordinator's report. A copy of the report was included in the meeting package.

**6. Articling Agrologist Coordinator's Report**

Parashar Malla, P. Ag.

Parashar Malla, PAg, presented the Articling Agrologist Coordinator's Report. A copy of the report was included in the meeting package. Please volunteer to mentor a new A. Ag.

**MOTION:** Dawn Ross, PAg, moved to accept the Executive Reports as presented, passed.

**7. Treasure's Report**

Lynn Pinnell, A. Ag.

Lynn Pinnell, AAg, presented the 2020 Treasure's Report and the 2021 Proposed Budget.

Geoff Hughes-Games asked for clarification about why BCIA/ Head Office adjusted the Flood Relief donation from \$1000 to \$500. JP Ellson responded saying it was Council, not Head Office, that made the decision.

**MOTION:** Nicole MacDonald, PAg, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, passed.

**8. BCIA Provincial Reports**

JP Ellson, P. Ag.

JP Ellson, PAg, presented the Registrar and Councillor's update. Information was provided on the Professional Governance Act and remaining steps before it comes into effect September 1, 2022. Other topics included the 2022 Budget, PD Audits, the Provincial AGM and conference, and the new Strategic Plan set for 2023-2028.

Clayton Botking mentioned how Professional Agrologists are often tasked by the province to report or comment on issues beyond their scope/areas of practice because their specialties are eroded into a generalist function. CB asked how this could be resolved. JP responds by saying the province cannot do that anymore because all PAgS are bound by a code of ethics and soon the provincial government and the ministries of government will be recognized as a firm which means they are also bound by the same code of ethics.

Victor Martens asked if graduates of the 2-yr Food Processing and Production and Agri Business Management programs at BCIT could be registered with the ASTTBC or if they will now be transferred to the TAg under BCIA. JP responded that this is something they will need to talk to ASTTBC about in the upcoming year. For now, JP believes graduates from that program may have

the choice to join either one. VM also asked if plant managers and QA managers fall under food processing, which appears to be one of the areas of restricted practice. JP says having the title of a plant manager or a QA manager does not automatically bring the requirement with it. It depends on the duties of the specific manager, for example if they are making decisions that fall under our reserved practices.

Dawn Ross asked what the process for regulating practice rights will look like especially since there are a lot of firms/government agencies employing non-PAGs in agrology work. JP responded that the ministries will need to report this to us. They will also be sitting down with PEA and BCGEAU as they will be involved with this too. This is where limited licenses and special limited licenses will be granted to many provincial employees to allow them to continue working in positions they have been in for years. However, they will now become subject to PD requirements and discipline.

Erin Brotherston asked how these new rules will be enforced and who to contact if issues/questions of this nature come up in their professional careers. JP says he is the best person to contact as he will initially be tasked to handle all prosecutions same as he handles complaints right now. If they get flooded with allegations of wrongful practice or with complaints, then the office's legal capacity will be expanded.

David Sahlstrom asked about BCIA's move to increase staff in the office saying that the PGA website states the CAB has 2800 registrants and PAG only 1800. DS claims that if the CAB has 8 employees vs 5 with BCIA, then BCIA is comparably staffed. JP assures that council is being prudent with the budget. A new position has not been posted yet and it is hard to predict what things will look like come in September. JP also noted that the total number of registrants does not reflect active members vs those on leave.

VM asked what positions in the BCMAFF would require PAg or TAg registration. JP says this ministry will be heavily affected and will require a lot of work.

Geoff Hughes-Games asked if instructors or professors teaching "agrology" will be required to register with BCIA. JP says that historically the response was yes, but they had no way to enforce it. This is something the team is looking at directly. Perhaps, they will be granted limited licenses.

Johanna Walker asked if in-between individuals in the livestock industry (sheep shearers, cattle hoof trimmers, dairy workers, etc.) will be affected. JP did not have a definitive answer, and this will need to be addressed before Sept 1.

**9. Election of New Executive**

Kim Grout, P. Ag.

Kim Grout, P. Ag. presented returning Executive members.

- President, Kim Grout, PAg
- Articling Coordinator, Parashar Malla, PAg
- Secretary, Nicole MacDonald, PAg
- PD Coordinator, Rashmi Gaire, PAg
- Treasurer, Dawn Ross, PAg

Kim presented nominations for Director-at-Large.

- Director-at-Large, Gail Schultze, PAg
- Director-at-Large, Jon White, AAg

**MOTION:** Kim Grout, PAg, moved to accept the new Executive Team as presented, passed.

**10. Recognition and Presentations**

Kim Grout, P. Ag.

Cornelius van den Berg, PAg, and David Kobelsky, PAg, were acknowledged for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with BCIA and Victor Martens, PAg, was recognized for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Zachary Fleming, PAg, and Imran Ahmad, PAg, recited the BCIA Code of Ethics.

Varinder (Bob) Brar, PAg, was recognized for achieving his PAg status after completing some courses to advance from his TAg status.

Four articling presentations were conducted: Erin Brotherston, AAg, Andrew Chan, AAg, Alex Hyde, ATAg, and Rachel Backer, AAg.

**11. Adjournment**

Kim Grout, P. Ag.

**MOTION:** Kim Grout, P.Ag., moved to adjourn the 2022 Fraser Valley Annual General Meeting, passed.

Kim Grout adjourned the meeting at 2:46 pm.