

BCIA Vancouver Branch 2020 AGM Agenda

Thurs. February 4, 2021. Held virtually.

Agenda

6:00 pm Welcoming Remarks and Guest Introductions by Eric Distefano, PAg, Branch President

6:05 pm AGM

- Call to Order
- Confirmation of Proper Notice and Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes from 2019 AGM
- Unfinished Business (if any)
- Branch Executive Reports
 - President's Report – Eric Distefano
 - Treasurer's Report – Elisa Munro
 - Articling Coordinator's Report – Kathy Ma
 - PD Coordinator's Report – Taisha Mitchell
 - Directors' Report – Marika Green, Rob Larson, Graham Watson, Saba Zarif
- Provincial Reports
 - Councilor's Report – Warren Mills
 - Executive Director/ Registrar Remarks – JP Ellson
- Election of new Executive Committee Members
 - President: Kelly Moore
 - President-Elect: Deb Bryant
 - Treasurer: Duncan Wood
 - Secretary: Saba Zarif
 - Articling Coordinator: Kathy Ma
 - PD Coordinator: Taisha Mitchell
 - Student Representative: Carson Li
 - Directors (3-4): Marika Green, Rob Larson, Kate Schendel, Graham Watson
- Presentations (A.Ag. presentations, Awards)
- New Business

8:00 pm Motion to Adjourn the 2020 AGM

8:05 pm New Branch Executive please stay to chat with Kelly Moore (2021 president) before leaving

Presidents Annual Report - 2020

Eric Distefano, PAg

Welcome to the Vancouver Branch's 2020 AGM.

Obviously this year went completely different than all of us expected. Not only does our organization continue to change and adapt in this new environment under the professional reliance review, we also had the pandemic curve ball thrown our way. For those of you that aren't regularly connected to our organization, the main purpose of the local branches are to help facilitate the onboarding and the procedures of our organization upon the new members, alongside the hosting of professional development events for all of our member to continue their pursuit of their professional education. Until 2020, the majority of these events and onboarding waypoints were in person, with little structure to amend the status quo. Clearly throughout this year, all of this has changed and here's to hoping the struggles in the first part of 2020 will allow for long term progress in our future.

Our executive held 11 meetings this year, which is more than a typical year. Only our first meeting was held in person, and all follow-up meetings were completed via zoom video conferencing sessions. While all of us were reacting to the changes in our personal and professional lives, I have a sincere appreciation for the members of this year's executive for the time they spent trying to find new and creative ways to engage the members of our branch while working through all of the unforeseen stressors that most of us endured during the year.

Our Directors, Saba Zarif, Marika Green, Graham Watson, and Rob Larson, all came up with their own interesting and engaging events this year. Our director team held events focused on native plants, the uncertainty of COVID-19, and of course an operation tour on..... the interaction of barley, hops, water, and yeast. A special acknowledgement to Taisha Mitchell; Taisha was a very active member of our executive and the first person to raise her hand to help. If this year was any indication, next year's semiannual professional development conference will be outstanding. In many years, including this one, our executive relies on new perspectives and ideas revolving around how to keep professional development events fresh and relevant, and I thank this group for continuing this trend.

In the year of creative new challenges, Kathy Ma as Articling Coordinator had to adapt to the recent changes to the articling program with the new technologist designations and did a great job of managing the provinces largest membership branch. Kathy Ma has been an excellent communicator and always brought an interesting viewpoint to our executive with her work in invasive species.

You always come away impressed while working with Elisa Munro. Not to be stopped by her Mat Leave, Elisa championed through crunching the numbers as Treasurer, and has brought us to a solid financial position leading into 2021.

A big thank you to both Carson Li and Yasemin Parkinson for really leading the charge in establishing a better connection with the local universities and colleges as our Student Representatives. Our team held multiple events this past year specifically targeting student engagement and messaging revolving around the new professional reliance model. Both of you were outstanding assets on the executive and I hope this step toward student engagement continues.

Deb Bryant continued her great work as Secretary this past year in what has been a complete reformatting of our local executive meeting minutes. Certainly an item Deb will leave as a legacy item.

Lastly, Kelly Moore, I appreciate all time you've spent this year in sidebar conversations while we tried to figure how to make this year work. I have the utmost confidence in Kelly continuing to lead the new slate of executives in 2021 as Branch President.

I firmly believe in the stance that you get out what you put in and leaving any organization better than where you left it. While I had hoped there would be more opportunity to help create new in person engagement strategies for our membership this past year, my hope is that the push towards some of our events being hosted digitally will help some of our demographic stay more connected with our branch for the long term. If anything, we now have the opportunity and structure to continue forward with a different professional development model dependent upon our memberships preferences, which is a great step in our way forward.

Prepared by Eric Distefano, PAg
2020 Vancouver Branch President

Treasurer's Annual Report - 2020

Elisa Munro, PAg

		2021 Budget (Projected)		2020 (to date)		Guidelines
		Expenses	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues	
2021 Branch Subsidy		\$	5,600.00			
Balance of funds remaining		\$	6,264.91			
Funds available for 2021		\$	11,864.91			
<i>Funds remaining in branch account as of Dec. 31, 2020</i>						
Items	Jan 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021		Jan 1 2020 - Dec 31 2020		Explanation / Breakdown of Expenditures and Revenues	Reference Branch Budgets & Expenditures Guidelines
	Expenses	Revenues	Expenses	Revenues		
Professional Development						<p>Branches may choose to break down projected PD expenses under this category or simply provide a projection of total PD expenses and revenues. (See PD Plan template)</p> <p>E. #1 a) & b) Presenter fees, travel, honorariums, gifts, light refreshments, supplies, venue expenses (Most PD expenses will be under this line)</p> <p>E. #1. c) Activities with a lunch/dinner over \$12 pp expense (should include revenue)</p> <p>E. #1 d) rented transportation such as bus/van (should include revenue)</p> <p>E. #1 f) Non-branch organized PD or PD subsidies.</p> <p>E. #1 g)</p>
Presenter expenses /honorariums/venue /gifts/supplies/materials	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 500.00			Includes PD subsidy of \$50 for 80 members of Vancouver Branch at 2 select non-branch PD events	
Catering/food	\$ -					
Transportation (bus, parking)	\$ -					
Partnering/PD subsidy	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00			
PD Organizer Travel	\$ -					
Branch AGM						Branches must provide breakdown of projected revenues, expenses under this category
Catering/Food/Venue	\$ -		\$ 2,075.37	\$ 1,210.00		E. #4. b) If lunch/dinner over \$12 pp expense, should include revenues
supplies/awards/other	\$ -		\$ 50.00			E. #4 a) venue, AV, materials, awards
PD at AGM	\$ -					E. #3 c) Presenter fees, travel, honorariums, gifts
Sponsorships revenues	\$ -					E. #8. b)
Branch Executive Meetings	\$ 200.00				Branch executive meetings will be on-line for first half of the year and this is to provide funds for in-person meetings towards the end of 2021 if possible	E. # 5 - Note the estimated number of meetings and expected total charges incurred ie refreshments, mileage. Note: Cannot exceed \$500 under this category.
A.Ag./Mentor Workshops	\$ 250.00		\$ 177.19			E. #2 a) & b) Expenses to deliver AAg workshops, presentations & Mentor recognition ie. venue, light refreshments
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	\$ 200.00				Outreach events for student members	E. 7. Non-PD activities such as awards recognition, socials, networking
Member travel subsidies						E. # 3 a) Travel subsidies to BCIA AGM for Registrants, or carpooling Registrants
Youth Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 300.00				Donation to an agronomy related group (TBA)	E. #6 - Donations /awards to agronomy related youth groups. Note: Should not exceed \$300 under this category.
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00		\$ 167.78			May include other supplies, awards, credit card charges
Total	\$ 9,650.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,581.45	\$ 1,570.00		
Net Balance		-\$9,150.00		-\$3,011.45		

Articling Coordinator's Annual Report – 2020

Kathy Ma, PAg

I was happy to continue working with a great branch executive and connecting with new Articling Agrologists, Student members, and new Professional Agrologists.

Since the 2019 AGM, there have been:

- 37 new Articling Agrologists (an increase from 29 in 2019)
- 5 new Articling Technical Agrologist (new designation, 0 in 2019)
- 27 new student members (an increase from 26 in 2019)

As of December 31, 2020, there are 89 active Articling Agrologists (AAgs and ATAgS), and 63 student members registered to the Vancouver Branch. The Articling Program for Technical Agrologists (ATAgS) is new for 2020, and is associated with the new Registered Technologist in Agrology (RTAg) designation.

Congratulations to the 13 Articling Agrologists who have completed their articling requirements in 2020, and gained the status of Professional Agrologist:

- Laura Dilley
- Jasmin Dobson
- Caitlin Dorward
- Emily Elsliger
- James Humble
- Bryan Jackson
- Laura Jefferies
- Robert Larson
- Stephen McGuire
- Amy Norgaard
- Meagan Vidian-Jones
- Allison Westin
- Bryce Whitehouse
- Carny Wong

New PAgS had their certificates mailed out directly to them and completed their Code of Ethics recital at a monthly Branch Executive meeting.

Mentorship

On behalf of the Branch Executive, I would like to thank all Professional Agrologists who have volunteered as mentors. Several AAgs and ATAgS have reached out to request assistance in finding a mentor, and were successfully matched to a volunteer PAg mentor in their area of practice or similar.

The mentoring program enhances the professionalism of the organization and provides AAg mentees an opportunity to build networks and learn about the varied profession of Agrology. You would also receive 5 professional development credits for your time.

Regards,
Kathy Ma, PAg

Professional Development Coordinator Annual Report – 2020

Taisha Mitchell, PAg

The BCIA Vancouver Branch had a successful year of professional development opportunities, despite the challenges with COVID-19. We looked to our fellow branches and external organizations for inspiration on how to successfully hold digital and safe in-person events as restrictions allowed.

This year the jointly held Fraser Valley Branch and the Vancouver Branch event was delivered online on Monday November 16 and Tuesday November 17, 2020. The virtual event, hosted by the Fraser Valley Branch, was titled “*Public Speak in a Virtual World*” and was facilitated by Ivan Wanis Ruiz, a communications expert. This workshop covered effective presentations and virtual presentation speaking skills. This event was interactive, where participants submitted several slides from a presentation of their own to evaluate.

This soft-skills event was attended by 22 registrants (9 from the Fraser Valley Branch, 8 from the Vancouver Branch, and the remaining from various other branches) and was relevant as we all navigate the transition to online presentations and communication.

Director's Annual Report – 2020

Marika Green, AAg

Rob Larson, PAg

Graham Watson, AAg

Saba Zarif, AAg

Brewery Tour, Barnside Brewery, Delta – August 18th 2020

On Tuesday, August 18th 2020, 20 BCIA members joined the Vancouver Branch BCIA Executive Committee for an in-person tour of Barnside Brewery, located in Delta, BC. Attendees split into two different groups and all wore mandatory masks, to respect social distancing guidelines. One group started their tour at the brewery itself, and the other at Barnside's hop yards. In the brewery, state of the art facilities were toured, and attendees learnt the step to step process on how to make a refreshing pint of beer. In the hop yard, attendees got to see their various strains of hops, and got to take apart a hop bud to smell its delicious aroma. Afterwards, we all joined together, spacing ourselves of course, for beers and snacks (provided by Barnside Brewery). The tour yielded positive feedback, as people were enthused to be able to go out and see individuals within the BCIA community and network, as well as learn more about local produce, self-sufficient beer making, and community involvement. The attendees were impressed with it being a true farm-based brewery, crafting fresh tasting beer using their own farm grown ingredients. One individual stated it was a "great combination of agriculture, food science and networking".

Indigenous Plant Use Tour, Maplewood Flats, North Vancouver – October 10th 2020

In October attendees joined Wild Bird Trust of BC at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver for an indigenous plant use walk. A member of the Squamish Nation led attendees on a walk where they learned about indigenous plant uses, from medicines and teas to different uses for foraged plants and berries. Highlighted plants on the walk included snowberry, nootka rose, and Oregon grape. After the indigenous plant walk, attendees were also given a tour of the plant nursery at Maplewood Flats. In order to reduce group, two sessions were held. The event was outside to allow plenty of spacing between attendees and everyone wore masks.

Tools for Navigating Uncertainty: An Interactive Discussion, Virtual – December 2nd 2020

On December 2nd, 2020 BCIA members took part in the PD event titled "*Tools for Navigating Uncertainty: An Interactive Discussion*". During this event, Erica Crawford (SHIFT Collaborative) facilitated breakout conversations for participants to share how they have managed their COVID-19 experiences, using a "What?, So What?, Now What?" framework. Rob Larson (Director of the Executive) shared insights on how uncertainty is addressed through a risk assessment lens in natural hazard management. Overall, the group shared takeaways they have learned through their recent personal and professional experiences. Examples of action items participants said they would start doing to better navigate uncertainty, based on what they learned included:

- Apply risk management concepts to daily decision-making
- Walk at least once a day!
- Recognize that in adapting to hazards, society progresses on a continuum of varying uncertainty and levels of agreement.

District 3 Councillor's Annual Report

Kirk Phair, PAg

Jane Kerne, PAg

Warren Mills, PAg

Greetings Vancouver Branch Agrologists!

There have been several changes within our organization in the past year, mostly guided through the enactment of the Professional Governance Act (PGA). The biggest change has been regarding the composition of the BCIA Council. Council was altered to meet the requirements of the PGA with a change from 8 Councillors each elected by a regional branch to the new format of 7 Councillors from 3 Districts, plus up to 4 lay Councillors. District 3 is composed of the Vancouver and Victoria Branches with 3 Councillors: Kirk Phair, Jane Kerner, and Warren Mills. In September, we held the first council meeting as District Councillors plus 3 lay Councillors.

Councillor elections will now be held online and registrants interested in the opportunity can look to the Bylaws for information on the submission process. There was a recent call for nominations and online voting for one seat in District 3 will take place in March 2021. Keep your eye on emails and the BCIA website for information on voting.

Under the PGA, all listed professional organizations must adhere to a consistent governance framework such as bylaws, committees, and policies. There are 5 legislated Committees which are required from the PGA and it is mandatory that at least one lay committee member (not an Agrologist) is on each one. These committees include: Nomination, Credentials, Audit & Practice Review, Investigation, and Discipline. These committees provide important information and self-governance functions for the Institute. For more info, see <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/>

BCIA has continued to adhere to, provide input, and adapt previous policies to reflect the new legislation. Institute Bylaws were revised last fall, and some were ratified at the May AGM. The PGA requires training to encourage reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Effective January 1, 2021, all new Articling Registrants are required to complete an approved course, and all Registrants must do so by December 31, 2022. As always, you can look to BCIA staff to communicate not only these changes, but opportunities to meet these requirements. Keep your eyes on email and website communications for more details. The current definition of 'agrology' has been refined to better prepare BCIA for practice rights, which is the next big change we work towards under the PGA.

Despite the hurdles and changes that 2020 has presented, BCIA has remained a resilient and adaptable organization. Professional Development opportunities have switched from in-person field tours to a wide variety of online learning options. The provincial AGM was held virtually in May 2020, and will again be a virtual event in 2021. All branch AGMs are currently being held virtually. Looking forward in a positive direction, the 2022 AGM is planned to be held in conjunction with ASTTBC in Kelowna, BC. BCIA budget forecasting has been challenging but we expect to report a budget surplus for 2020, as opposed to the budgeted deficit, and annual fees will not be raised in 2021. One change regarding budgets is that the allocation to branches has been reduced from \$30 per branch registrant to \$20. This is to address more events being hosted online by BCIA Central and less in person events hosted at a branch level.

It has been an interesting and definitive year, and the BCIA is poised to continue its legacy of effective self-governance of natural resource professionals across the province.

Respectfully, Kirk Phair, PAg, Jane Kerner, PAg, and Warren Mills, PAg, District 3 Councillors