

EXTENSION SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of the Extension Subcommittee held virtually via Teams on Monday December 11, 2023.

Members Present:

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| Beth Cavers | BC Cherry Association |
| Chris Zabek | BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food |
| Evan Esch | Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program |
| Gail Nelson | BC Fruit Growers' Association |
| Katelyn Hengel | BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food |
| Kate Durisek | BC Wine Grape Council |
| Kellie Garcia | Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project |
| Lindsay Hainstock | BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food |
| Melissa Tesche (CHAIR) | Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program |
| Naomi Delury | Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada |
| Nick Ibuki | Summerland Varieties Corp |
| Ruth King | Sustainable Winegrowing BC |
| Sara Sweazey | Growers Supply |
| Shelby Austen | Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project |
| Taylor Older | Pearl Agricultural Consulting |

Regrets:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Jesse MacDonald | Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada |
| Sera Lean | Growers Supply |

1. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS		
MEMBER	ACTION REQUIRED	STATUS
K. Garcia	Reach out to potential additional subcommittee members (Galen Barnhardt, Lewys Bevan, Lisa Wambold, university partners and/or researchers).	IP
K. Garcia/M. Tesche	Update TOR for review and approval at next meeting.	✓
S. Austen	Begin working on common extension calendar.	IP
S. Austen	Check availability/dates at Penticton Lakeside & book venue for conference.	✓
K. Garcia/S. Austen/M. Tesche	Start drafting agenda for conference and reach out to potential speakers.	IP

2. ROUND TABLE UPDATES

- B. Cavers informed the committee that the BCCA AGM has been scheduled for March 1, 2024.

- T. Older mentioned some great opportunities for extension are happening across the border in Washington such as the North Central Washington Tree Fruit Days on Jan 16-18, 2024. Zoom options are available.
- N. Ibuki mentioned that he and J. Macdonald gave a presentation on apples to fifth grade students.
- K. Durisek stated that grapes are planning their annual Insight conference on March 12-13. The conference will focus on viticulture, business/leadership, and marketing/communications. She is also working with WorkSafeBC to develop a roadmap for vineyard safety policies and procedures. Lastly, BCWGC is looking to hire someone in digital communications under a co-op or grant sponsored program.
- G. Nelson informed the group that the BCFGa will be hosting a soft fruit industry workshop in Osoyoos on Dec 13th, 2023, to provide information to producers on market opportunities and receive feedback on their action plan. The Tree Fruit Production Guide review meeting will be held virtually on December 18th, 2023, and grower meetings in early 2024. The BCFGa AGM will be held on February 21, 2024.
- K. Hengel and L. Hainstock are planning 4 pruning workshops in January that will take place up and down the valley. They are also busy planning the Southern Interior Horticultural Show on February 16-17th, 2024.
- R. King informed the group that SWGBC has scheduled their Consumer Tasting event for April 20th, 2024. The theme for their 2024 Sustainability Spotlight will likely be business related with a focus on available funding and how to submit applications.
- C. Zabek mentioned BCMAF's launch of the Regional Extension Program. Based on feedback received, they are putting together extension project ideas for next year.
- L. Hainstock informed the group that she will soon be posting a webinar series on weather topics in orchards. She is also working internally to receive more support on production guides, etc.
- E. Esch has been working with K. Hengel on an orchard removal project using air curtain burners to dispose of orchard waste.
- M. Tesche mentioned that the Orchard Pest and Disease Management Conference in Portland is coming up. She will be presenting with E. Esch on sterility.

Upcoming events noted in the round table discussion:

BCFGa Soft Fruit Workshop	December 13, 2023
Tree Fruit Production Guide review meeting (virtual)	December 18, 2023
Orchard Pest & Disease Management Conference (Portland)	January 10-12, 2024
North Central Washington Tree Fruit Days (virtual options available)	January 16-18, 2024
Southern Interior Horticultural Show	February 16-17, 2024
BCFGa AGM	February 21, 2024
BC Cherry Association AGM	March 1, 2024
BCWGC Insight Conference	March 12-13, 2024
SWGBC Consumer Tasting Event	April 20, 2024

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE: REVIEW & ADOPT

- K. Garcia presented the updated TOR but due to time constraints it was tabled until the January meeting.
- K. Durisek raised a question about expanding the committee provincially. She informed the group that BCWGC is intentional in including growers from Vancouver Island in their membership and would like to see this happen for extension. The group decided this is a good view to have going forward to foster collaboration.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
All	Review and adopt TOR at next meeting.

3.2 EXTENSION PRACTITIONER'S CONFERENCE: UPDATE & DISCUSSION

- S. Austen presented the draft conference program in detail and asked the group for any input or suggestions they had. The draft program was based on preliminary suggestions.
- The group stated that determining a theme will help determine speakers.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
K. Garcia/S. Austen	Finalize conference theme and continue identifying and recruiting guest speakers.
S. Austen	Look into moving the extension practitioners' conference to Feb 27-29 to remove the conflict with the BCCA AGM.
S. Austen	Send out a save the date to potential attendees.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 OKANAGAN COLLEGE HORTICULTURE UPSKILL PROGRAM

- LOCATION**
- NUMBER OF OFFERINGS**
- TIMING**

- K. Hengel presented the OC Horticulture Upskill Program in detail.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/horticulture-upskill-program>
- She informed the group that they have partnered with Okanagan College this year to deliver 3 cohorts of students with tuition fees covered by BCMAF. OC is currently looking at additional grant programs for next year.

- She is looking for input from the committee on time of year and location for these offerings to best accommodate those interested.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
K. Hengel	Circulate information and questions to the group.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- The next Extension Subcommittee meeting will be held during the week of January 22, 2024.
- K. Garcia will confirm the 2024 meeting schedule by email.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
K. Garcia	Poll members to schedule subcommittee meeting dates for January, April, June, and November 2024.