

EXTENSION SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of the Extension Subcommittee held virtually via Teams on Monday January 25, 2024.

Members Present:

Beth Cavers
Chris Zabek
Evan Esch
Gail Nelson
Jesse MacDonald
Katelyn Hengel
Kate Durisek
Kellie Garcia (CO-CHAIR)
Lindsay Hainstock
Melissa Tesche
Naomi Delury
Nick Ibuki
Ruth King
Sera Lean
Shelby Austen
Taylor Older

BC Cherry Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program
BC Fruit Growers' Association
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
BC Wine Grape Council
Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Summerland Varieties Corp
Sustainable Winegrowing BC
Growers Supply
Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
Independent

Regrets:

Asha Wareham
Galen Barnhardt
Sara Sweazey

BC Agricultural Climate Action Research Network
Monte Creek Winery
Growers Supply

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

1.1 ELECTION OF NEW INDUSTRY CO-CHAIR

- M. Tesche has stepped down as the Extension Subcommittee Co-Chair. The committee will discuss next steps and a replacement will be elected at the April 18th meeting.

2. 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
S. Austen	Begin working on common extension calendar.	✓
K. Garcia/S. Austen	Start drafting agenda for conference and reach out to potential speakers.	✓
All Members	Review and adopt TOR at next meeting.	✓
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.	✓
K. Hengel	Circulate information and questions to the group.	✓
K. Garcia	Poll members to schedule subcommittee meeting dates for January, April, June, and November 2024.	✓

3. MEMBER ROUND TABLE UPDATES

- N. Delury informed the committee that many grants for AAFC are still pending approval and she hopes to have an update soon.
- G. Nelson updated the group on BCFGAs successful stone fruit meeting. The BCFGAs has recently applied for marketing campaigns in the domestic space and their upcoming AGM has been changed to a two-day format, occurring on February 20-21st.
- M. Tesche shared that she just got back from Apple Crop Protection Day in Washington. The conference shared an assessment of the WA apple industry that she will bring to the extension conference for inspiration during the collaborative roadmaps workshop. She was very impressed by the presentations because they were all pre-recorded and played for the audience with the scientist available to answer questions after.
- K. Durisek stated that she has been heavily involved in trying to understand the impacts of the recent cold snaps, their effects on grapes, and trying to keep growers informed on how to mitigate losses. BCWGC hosted a recent R&D meeting to better explain the temperatures experienced throughout the valley. She is also working with L. Hainstock to launch BCWGC’s best practice guide.
- E. Esch mentioned that the Okanagan Horticulture Advisors Group (OHAG) has finished their governance review. This year they are focusing on professional development for members and plan to host some high-level, practitioner targeted, technical talks for tree fruits.
- S. Lean informed the group that she has been on the ground with various horticulture directors, consultants, and staff trying to understand the effects of the cold snaps on stone fruits.
- L. Hainstock updated the group on the Southern Interior Horticulture Show and that PAC points will be offered at the event. She also mentioned that two streams of KTT funding will be available soon: one for knowledge transfer development and one for hands-on learning for skills and development.
- K. Hengel informed the group that they have received approval to run a 4th cohort of the OC Horticulture Upskill Program with a Spanish translator.
- J. Macdonald has created some resources to help AAFC researchers put together pre-recorded presentations. He also informed the group that the Summerland Research Centre would like to host more outreach events and has capacity for up to 40 people.
- R. King informed the group that preliminary reports are already suggesting 80-90% bud death and growers are struggling. SWGBC is busy trying to advocate for funding to support growers during this time. They will also be hosting an onboarding session on Feb 21st.
- B. Cavers mentioned that the BCCA AGM will take place on March 1st, and they hope to incorporate some field days in the weeks following. She would like to use some of the KTT funding for a talk on the recent cold damage and how to mitigate.

Upcoming events noted in the round table discussion:

Southern Interior Horticultural Show	February 16-17, 2024
BCFGA AGM	February 20-21, 2024
SWGBC Onboarding Session	February 21, 2024
BCCA AGM	March 1, 2024

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
L. Hainstock/K. Durisek/ G. Nelson	Connect on how to track PAC points for grapes like BCFGAs does for tree fruits.
K. Garcia/B. Cavers	Request that G. Krahn invite Kellie to future BCCA Research and Extension Committee meetings.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE: REVIEW & ADOPT

- K. Garcia presented the revised Terms of Reference that includes the feedback from the previous two meetings. The committee provided additional feedback, and the Terms of Reference was adopted.

4.2 EXTENSION PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE: UPDATE & DISCUSSION

- a) Registration
- b) Accommodations
- c) Conference Program
- The committee was reminded to register and book accommodations as soon as possible for the upcoming Extension Practitioners Conference on Feb 27-29 in Penticton.
- K. Garcia presented the Draft Conference Program in detail and received feedback regarding the content to be delivered at each workshop.
 - From IAF the committee would like updates on what they look for when receiving applications, application timelines, and the inner workings of the IAF bid process for projects.
 - A survey will be sent to the committee for feedback on how to best cover the topic of AI during the conference.
 - A draft outline for the Knowledge to Practice workshop was shared with the committee. The committee mentioned that they would like to learn about specific tools for outreach, how to best use them, and how to better communicate in scenarios with heightened emotions while still encouraging accountability.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
S. Austen	Send AI survey, current registration list, and registration link to committee members.
S. Austen	Update Program to include facilitators (K. Garcia, M. Tesche, L. Hainstock)
S. Austen	Provide committee feedback to IAF and Fuse Consulting.
S. Austen	Finalize agenda and reach out to speakers.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 CCLSP WEBSITE & EXTENSION CALENDAR

- S. Austen presented the CCLSP website and common extension calendar in detail and asked for committee feedback.
- The group stated that it is great to finally have a space to coordinate efforts. The calendar can be well utilized by practitioners to eliminate scheduling conflicts and share events. If the calendar is to be targeted for growers, a new platform may need to be used in collaboration with a web developer. The current platform does not allow for easy searching for commodity-specific events or for embedding the calendar on other websites (e.g. industry association sites).

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
S. Austen	Increase grape and cherry representation on website.
S. Austen	Continue working on a common extension calendar that is more suitable for growers.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- The next Extension Subcommittee meeting will be held on April 18th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.