

EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Extension Committee** held virtually via Teams on Thursday April 18, 2024.

Members Present:

Asha Wareham
 Evan Esch (CO-CHAIR)
 Gail Nelson
 Jesse MacDonald
 Kate Durisek
 Kellie Garcia (CO-CHAIR)
 Lindsay Hainstock
 Naomi Delury
 Ruth King
 Sera Lean
 Shelby Austen

BC Agricultural Climate Action Research Network
 Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program
 BC Fruit Growers' Association
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 BC Wine Grape Council
 Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 Sustainable Winegrowing BC
 Growers Supply
 Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project

Regrets:

Beth Cavers
 Chris Zabek
 Katelyn Hengel
 Nick Ibuki
 Sara Sweazey
 Taylor Older

BC Cherry Association
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 Summerland Varieties Corp
 Growers Supply
 Independent

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

- E. Esch was elected as the industry co-chair and the committee welcomed A. Wareham to the 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
All Members	Review and adopt TOR at next meeting.	✓
K. Garcia/S. Austen	Finalize conference theme and continue identifying and recruiting guest speakers.	✓
K. Hengel	Circulate information and questions to the group RE: Hort Upskill Program.	✓
S. Austen	Send AI survey, current registration list, and registration link to committee members.	✓
S. Austen	Update conference 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.	✓
S. Austen	Increase grape and cherry representation on website.	IP
S. Austen	Continue working on a common extension calendar that is more suitable for growers.	IP

3. MEMBER ROUND TABLE UPDATES

- G. Nelson stated that BCFGa has been conducting Tree Fruit Production Guide meetings, ensuring orchardists stay informed about new regulations, including mixing requirements and nozzle sizes. Overall, some crops are progressing about two to three weeks ahead of last year, though cold damage has led to

reduced yields for cherries and soft fruits. Lastly, the BCFG General Manager is in discussion with BCMAF and IAF to finalize plans for a replant program.

- A. Wareham introduced ACARN to the group, highlighting that most of their events occur in winter, and they are currently in a planning phase. In February, they conducted a well-received workshop focusing on water, soil, and climate for farmers and she anticipates the BC Living Labs Annual Workshop will take place later this year.
- J. Macdonald updated the group on recent activities for BC Living Labs, mentioning the completion of filming, with IAF taking the lead in editing and distributing outreach videos. Local living lab assessments are scheduled to commence shortly, with plans to expand to additional orchard and vineyard sites this year. AAFC is considering hosting a "meet the cherry" day to showcase new cherry varieties to orchardists. They also have an apple clear wing moth trial scheduled for this spring. Additionally, there is uncertainty among viticulture researchers about proceeding with certain projects this year due to bud damage in their trial vineyards, prompting discussions on the way forward.
- R. King shared updates from SWBC, including collaboration with Angry Otter Liquor on in-store displays and consumer recognition projects. She will serve as a research judge and speaker at the UBCO wine production symposium at Quails Gate Winery and participate as a panellist at the Ontario Craft Wine Conference in Ontario. She also highlighted a recent success from the Building Bridges Extension Conference, where a new connection from A&L Labs helped complete soil analysis and cover cropping at Kalala Organic Winery. Seeking input, she discussed plans for SWBC's sustainability spotlight, focusing on grower economics, and expressed intentions to organize a business coaching workshop tailored to farmers.
- K. Durisek updated the group on preparations for the BCWGC AGM on August 7th, mentioning plans for a grower day, cross-promoted by Triggs, featuring a vineyard tour and presentation. BCWGC will also host a nutrient management presentation at their upcoming Third Thursday meeting, with future meetings focusing on plant renewal strategies and matching plant materials to clones and varieties for the replant program announced by Minister Alexis. Additionally, they have launched a Best Practices Guide and media library on the BCWGC website and will be hiring a communications and membership coordinator to support administrative tasks.
- E. Esch reported that OHAG completed strategic planning sessions this winter and will reconvene in Q4. They facilitated technical presentations from chemical representatives to aid member recommendations to growers. Currently, there are three ongoing BCDAS tailgate sessions.
- S. Lean provided an update on Growers Supply's new initiative, [ProjectReLeaf](#), aimed at disseminating events, news stories, and communications. She is collaborating with grape suppliers to reassess spray programs and vine protection strategies. Lastly, Growers Supply is planning some upcoming equipment demonstrations and seeks industry collaboration to consolidate these into a single meeting for efficiency.
- L. Hainstock shared her new role as Regional Agrologist with the Ministry, mentioning plans for irrigation talks and developing practical tools for producers regarding cover crops. She will present to RDOS on May 9 about their new composting programs and the expected mass resulting from recent cold damage. K. Durisek and R. King suggested that vineyards may consider hilling up due to cold damage, requiring significant compost to retain heat, which could prove to be a beneficial solution.
- N. Delury shared news about a [Freeze Date Tool](#) developed by US Agricultural Research Service climatologists. This tool enables growers to track freeze dates in their area dating back to 1950. She suggested implementing this tool locally with BCDAS, emphasizing its potential usefulness for growers.

Upcoming Events Mentioned in the Roundtable Discussion:

For more information on upcoming events, please visit the [CCLSP Events Calendar](#).

BCFGA Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings	April 25 th , 2024,
BCDAS Field Days	April 17 th , 18 th , 19 th , 2024
SWBCG Consumer Tasting Event	April 20 th , 2024
Ontario Craft Wineries Conference & Tradeshow	April 23 rd , 2024
BCWGC Annual General Meeting	August 7 th , 2024
BC Living Labs Annual Workshop	TBD (Winter 2024)

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 EXTENSION PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE: REPORT FROM STAFF

- S. Austen presented the final report in detail.

4.2 CCLSP WEBSITE & EXTENSION CALENDAR

- S. Austen updated the committee on her progress with migrating the CCLSP website to WordPress format to increase functionality and allow for more features on the extension calendar.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 MOU WITH OKSIR/CCLSP AND IAF

- K. Garcia provided a detailed overview of the MOU, highlighting its purpose to transfer TFISP initiatives and recommendations to industry. Under the MOU, CCLSP will act as the liaison between industry associations and IAF, aiding in funding applications. CCLSP staff will help develop new applications, manage projects, coordinate with stakeholders, ensure industry agreement through committees, and submit budget reports to IAF. To streamline the process, applications will now be reviewed and recommended for funding by the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council and not its committees.
- K. Durisek asked for clarification on funding eligibility. K. Garcia stated that all funds must be funnelled through industry associations or other eligible agricultural entities and independent consultants will not be eligible on their own.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
K. Garcia	Determine project eligibility (as outlined in MOU) and distribute to members.

5.2 PROJECT IDEAS FOR TFISP FUNDS

- K. Garcia presented the cross-commodity roadmaps developed at the Building Bridges Extension Conference in February. The roadmaps will be used to help the committee determine extension priorities for 2024.

5.3 IDEAS FOR INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT IN CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

- N. Delury provided a progress update on the clean energy project aimed at producing value-added products from food waste. Currently, the team is identifying gaps within various industries and a national survey targeting food producers will be sent out soon. She requested suggestions from the committee on target demographics within the industry and strategies for effective outreach.
 - K. Durisek said she would be happy to give a cidery perspective and G. Nelson offered to distribute the survey in the BCFGAs newsletter.
 - L. Hainstock mentioned that some cherry producers are doing their own research on cherries with rain split. She would be happy to provide the list of producers.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
N. Delury/L. Hainstock	Connect offline RE: Cherry producers and rain split
N. Delury	Distribute project information to committee members.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- The next Extension Committee meeting will be held on June 13th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.