

EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Extension Committee** held virtually via Teams on Thursday June 13, 2024.

Members Present:

Asha Wareham
 Beth Cavers
 Chris Zabek
 Gail Nelson
 Kate Durisek
 Kellie Garcia (CO-CHAIR)
 Lindsay Hainstock
 Naomi Delury
 Shamore Watson
 Shelby Austen

BC Agricultural Climate Action Research Network
 BC Cherry Association
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 BC Fruit Growers' Association
 BC Wine Grape Council
 Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 BC Fruit Works
 Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project

Regrets:

Sera Lean
 Evan Esch (CO-CHAIR)
 Jesse MacDonald
 Katelyn Hengel
 Nick Ibuki
 Ruth King
 Sara Sweazey

Growers Supply
 Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
 Summerland Varieties Corp
 Sustainable Winegrowing BC
 Growers Supply

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

2. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS		
MEMBER	ACTION REQUIRED	STATUS
Kellie Garcia	Reach out to potential additional subcommittee members (Galen Barnhardt, Lewys Bevan, Lisa Wambold, university partners and/or researchers).	✓
Kellie Garcia	Determine project eligibility (as outlined in MOU) and distribute to members.	✓
Naomi Delury	Distribute project information to committee members.	✓
Naomi Delury/Lindsay Hainstock	Connect offline RE: Cherry producers and rain split.	✓
Shelby Austen	Increase grape and cherry representation on website.	✓
Shelby Austen	Continue working on a common extension calendar that is more suitable for growers.	✓

3. MEMBER ROUND TABLE UPDATES

- Chris Zabek informed the committee that the Ministry's Regional Extension Program has secured a contract with Southern Irrigation to conduct a series of irrigation field days. Dates and locations are yet to be determined.
- Beth Cavers provided an update on the BCCA's recent field days in Summerland and Creston, which focused on maintaining and managing orchards with little to no crop. Currently, BCCA staff are working with growers in the field to help them comply with export program regulations.

- Kate Durisek reported that her recent focus has been on BCWGC R&D committee meetings. The next meeting will address climate resilience, rootstocks, and clones. She also highlighted the upcoming SWBC and BCGA event on June 26 to assess vine damage in the field. Lastly, the BCWGC/BCGA AGMs and Grower Day will be held in Penticton on August 7, in collaboration with the Triggs Lecture Series, focusing on reestablishing vineyards after damage.
- Shamore Watson introduced herself to the committee and provided an update on her work with domestic labour. She is currently assessing the labour needs while launching a social media campaign for BC Fruit Works. Although she has workers signed up, she doesn't have enough producers to do matches. This year, BC Fruit Works will adopt a more hands-on, customer service-oriented approach.
- Naomi Delury updated the committee on her project to assess various commodities for potential value-added opportunities from production waste. She is awaiting the launch of a nationwide producer survey and will inform the committee when that is available.
- Gail Nelson updated the group on the BCFGAs' grower-based horticulture and crop protection committees, which aim to improve growers' emergency response capacity. They are considering projects on water use efficiency, whole-orchard nutrient management, crop load management, and sunburn protection, with plans to organize producer trials soon. She also mentioned that BCFGAs' new website is now operational.
- Asha Wareham informed the committee about her collaboration with BC Food Web to translate complex research studies into clear, accessible briefs for producers. They aim to become a provincial resource and plan to implement a fee-for-service model soon. This fall, they will host an extension practitioners' workshop focused on how to develop producer-facing materials, such as videos and KTT planning. Additionally, she is working on creating a provincial events calendar with a climate focus.
 - Lindsay inquired about the process for selecting topics for the research briefs. Asha clarified that while BC Food Web emphasizes sustainability, they aim to have a broader content range. Regarding BCIA designations for those translating research into producer-facing documents, Asha explained they do not currently hold this designation but may work towards this model, ensuring all briefs are approved by a designated authority before distribution.
- Lindsay Hainstock stated that they have secured the venue and started planning for the second year of the Southern Interior Horticulture Show on February 12-13, 2025. Additionally, she has been invited to represent BC at the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) meeting, focusing on cherry research organized by Dr. Matt Whiting of WSU in June 2025. Lastly, MAF has received internal approval to translate educational videos into Punjabi and Spanish.
- Shelby Austen updated the committee on recent CCLSP activities, including lunch and learn sessions for producers. They hosted two financial support sessions with Agricultural Credit Corporation and Farm Credit Canada, and one mental health support session in collaboration with AgSafe and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Recordings of all sessions have been edited and are now available on the BCFGAs' [YouTube channel](#).
- Kellie Garcia stated that CCLSP hopes to host an agriculture and local government forum in the fall. More details will be shared once the idea is pitched to the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council.
 - Beth emphasized the significance of including Creston in the forum. Asha informed the committee about a similar project that was completed on Vancouver Island and that she will connect CCLSP with the project's Director. Chris expressed support, highlighting its importance from an industry perspective.

ACTION ITEMS	
MEMBER NAME	ACTION REQUIRED
All members	Send thoughts and ideas to Lindsay RE: 2025 SIHS
Shelby Austen	Contact BC Food Web Director RE: Committee membership

Upcoming Events Mentioned in the Roundtable Discussion:

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

SWBC & BCGA Vine Damage Field Day	June 26, 2024
Growers Supply Labour Saving Demonstration	June 26, 2024
BCMAF Water Wisdom Webinar	June 27, 2024
BCWGC Third Thursday R&D Meeting	July 18, 2024
BCWGC & BCGA AGMs & Grower Day	August 7, 2024
Southern Interior Horticulture Show	Feb 12-13, 2025

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 UPDATE: STABILIZATION FUND ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS

- Kellie walked the committee through the due diligence template for projects recommended to the stabilization fund. She confirmed that only industry associations that were involved in the stabilization process are eligible for funding, and she is waiting to hear from IAF on the updated fund balance.

4.2 PROJECT IDEAS FOR STABILIZATION FUND

- Members who have ideas or projects they wish to prioritize this season are encouraged to contact CCLSP staff.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT

- The next Extension Committee meeting will be held on November 14 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.