

# CROSS-COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Cross-Commodity Advisory Council** held virtually via MS Teams on May 29, 2025.

---

## **PRESENT**

Adrian Arts  
Dapinder Gill  
Lindsay King  
Kate Durisek  
Michelle Cook  
Nikki Callaway  
Sukhpaul Bal  
Tyrion Miskell

BC Fruit Growers' Association  
BC Grapegrowers' Association  
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food  
BC Wine Grape Council  
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program  
BC Wine Grape Council  
BC Cherry Association  
BC Grapegrowers' Association

## **REGRETS**

Beth Cavers  
Gord Morrison  
Jesse MacDonald  
Karen Yeung  
Madeleine van Roechoudt  
Philip Gyug  
Ryan Ostertag  
Walter Makepeace

BC Cherry Association  
Consolidated Fruit Packers  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
BC Wine Grape Council  
Grower at Large  
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food  
Consolidated Fruit Packers  
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program

## **STAFF**

Kellie Garcia  
Shelby Austen

CCLSP Project Director  
CCLSP Administration & Communications Manager

## **1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved by: Adrian Arts**

*"THAT the May 29, 2025, meeting agenda be approved as presented."*

**Seconded by: Michelle Cook**

**CARRIED**

## **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by: Tyrion Miskell**

*"THAT the April 24, 2025, meeting minutes be adopted as presented."*

**Seconded by: Sukhpaul Bal**

**CARRIED**

## **4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **4.1 CURRENT CROSS-COMMODITY PROJECTS**

#### **a) BC DAS Operations: Progress Report**

Kellie walked the Council through the progress report and deliverables, outlining activities that have taken place between January and May 2025. The focus of efforts has been on model activation, damage scouting, user support,

and outreach. Field scouting and system enhancements are helping ensure model accuracy, while new fact sheets and event engagement have supported user education and platform adoption.

- Adrian asked about the status of BC DAS-specific outreach events outlined in the project application. Kellie noted that updates have been provided through existing events rather than standalone sessions. She also meets weekly with the consultant and is actively tracking project performance.
- Adrian asked about the user rate for webpage resources and whether content should be shared more broadly. Kellie will follow up with the consultant and add this metric as a performance indicator. Lindsay supported keeping resources housed on the DAS webpage.
- Adrian suggested a cost-per-model or cost-per-commodity analysis be completed to inform discussions about a long-term funding model for BC DAS. Michelle expressed support for this concept.

**Moved by: Michelle Cook**

**Seconded by: Adrian Arts**

*“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the BC DAS Operations Project Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$40,000.”*

**CARRIED**

Lindsay abstained from voting on the motion.

## **4.2 CURRENT CROSS-COMMODITY PROJECTS**

### **b) Education & Outreach to Promote Innovative & Non-Invasive Bird Deterrent on Farms**

Kellie walked the Council through the due diligence checklist, project application and budget. The project will aim to reduce the negative impacts of bird deterrents, promote innovative methods, and create long-term educational resources for producers with easy-to-follow guidelines.

- Kate emphasized the importance of addressing WorkSafe concerns in the report, such as confirming that the laser frequency is not harmful to workers or used for unintended purposes.
- Adrian asked Sukhpaul about the project's relevance to the cherry industry and their experience with the technology. Sukhpaul confirmed this was considered in early discussions and that project materials will need to be relevant beyond grape growers. Tyrion added that she is in contact with the cherry association and noted that while the project has cross-commodity benefits, the technology will be demonstrated in a vineyard.
- Adrian stressed the need for communications to highlight the relevance of the project to both cherries and grapes.

**Moved by: Sukhpaul Bal**

**Seconded by: Kate Durisek**

*“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Education and Outreach to Promote Innovative and Non-invasive Bird Deterrent on Farms TFISP application submitted by the BC Grapegrowers' Association with a maximum funding contribution of \$15,407 and a project timeline of May 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025.”*

**CARRIED**

Lindsay and Tyrion abstained from voting on the motion.

### **c) ABAYzne Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries**

Kellie walked the Council through the due diligence checklist, project application and budget. The project, in collaboration with the BC Cherry Association and ABAYzne Bioscience, will aim to provide a commercially viable cold protection product for cherry and grape growers.

- Kate asked whether the requested funds could be used to leverage other funding sources or applicable programs. Kellie responded that this would require further exploration, noting that due to eligibility and funding structures, most of the application work would fall to the universities involved. Kate also raised the need for future consideration, such as discounts or royalties, if industry is funding the development of a commercial product. Sukhpaul agreed that a formal partnership should be pursued if industry is contributing to product development.
- Adrian inquired about the proposed 2-year funding period and whether the same funding amount would be required in the later years of the project by the cherry association. He also asked whether it would be feasible to launch a project and seek additional funding partway through.
- Kate suggested establishing collaborative research agreements in advance with Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (AAFC) and the University of Saskatchewan if the project is to align with the recent AAFC/Ministry initiative. She noted that researchers are bound by privacy and data-sharing restrictions and raised questions about ownership and the role of industry.
- Dapinder asked about the total stakeholder and partner contributions to the project and noted that the product has not yet been approved for grapes, with long-term testing still needed. He emphasized that both commodities should be factored into the discussions.
- Adrian asked Lindsay about the budget allocation for sprayable products under their cold hardiness project and how it compares to the proposed project. Lindsay explained that \$290K is allocated over five years, with AAFC testing various sprayable products in a lab-based setting, whereas this project would be a commercial field study. Kellie added that the projects are complementary and that coordination with the subcommittee will support technical alignment.
- Sukhpaul expressed support for the project but recommended postponing until more details are available.

**Moved by: Sukhpaul Bal**

**Seconded by: Adrian Arts**

*“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council defer its decision on the TFISP application for the ABaZyne Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries to the June 24, 2025, meeting.”*

**CARRIED**

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **5.1 RECENT CCLSP MEDIA COVERAGE**

Kellie walked the Council through CCLSP's recent media coverage, including the press release “Growing Hope: BC's Tree Fruit and Grape Sectors Rebound with Resilience and Unity” and a featured article in Orchard and Vine magazine highlighting the recent Agriculture in Action bus tour.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held in-person on June 24, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.