

CROSS-COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date:	January 29, 2026
Time:	9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Location:	In Person or Virtual: RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom (1450 KLO Rd, Kelowna) Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 211 248 998 623 1 Passcode: DF7Mq3bp

MEETING AGENDA

1. WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Recommended Motion

"THAT the January 29, 2026, meeting agenda be adopted as presented."

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (Page 3)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the November 27, 2025, meeting minutes be adopted as presented."

4. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

5.1 CCLSP Committees and Communications (Page 10)

5.2 Stabilization Fund Report (Page 12)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council recommends that the remaining stabilization fund balance of \$38,912 be rolled into the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project budget to be used for projects at the discretion of the Advisory Council."

5.3 Current Cross-Commodity Projects (Page 13)

a) ABazyme Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries: Progress Report (Attachment 1)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the ABazyme Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries: Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$60,000."

b) BC Access to Plant Material: Final Report (Attachment 2)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the BC Access to Plant Material: Final Report submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association and recommends proceeding with a final payment of \$12,917."

- c) Financial Support for Producer Portion of SIR Program Costs: Progress Report (*Attachment 3 & 4*)

Recommended Motion

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Financial Support for the Producer Portion of SIR Program Costs Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$175,000.”

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on April 30, 2026, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

CROSS-COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Cross-Commodity Advisory Council** held virtually via MS Teams on November 27, 2025.

PRESENT

Adrian Arts
Alan Gatzke
Beth Cavers
Bobby Ercego
Dapinder Gill
Gord Morrison
Jesse MacDonald
Karen Yeung
Kate Durisek
Madeleine van Roehoudt
Michelle Cook
Philip Gyug
Sukhpaul Bal

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

**CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
January 29, 2026
Agenda No. 3.0**

REGRETS

Shirley Choi
Walter Makepeace

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
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: Alan Gatzke

Seconded by: Michelle Cook

"THAT the November 27, 2025, meeting agenda be approved as presented."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Madeleine van Roehoudt

Seconded by: Sukhpaul Bal

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

CARRIED

4. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

- Jesse shared that AAFC is waiting for the outcome of the federal budget vote, which may impact research programs and staffing levels. The Summerland Research and Development Centre recently experienced a two-week power outage, including generator failure, and staff are still assessing impacts. Grape Day was held at UBCO on November 26, to provide updates on current SCAP projects. He also noted that internal research funding decisions from fall 2024 submissions have now been released.
- Kate also highlighted Grape Day, noting progress in smoke-taint mitigation research. On December 16, BC Wine Grape Council and Wine Growers BC will host a 2025 Vintage Seminar in Penticton and distribute a grower survey to capture experiences from this season. The Wine Grape Industry Task Force has received preliminary approval to move ahead with its long-term strategy. Kate added that feedback has been received from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency regarding the spray guide, and on industry's feedback on the bird deterrent consultation. She also noted that SWBC did not receive Agri-Assurance funding and will review its business model to broaden the membership base in the new fiscal year.
 - Alan asked about PMRA feedback and whether there have been discussions on drone spray applications. Adrian said conversations are ongoing, particularly around the differences between U.S. and Canadian regulations.
- Karen reported that grape yields are currently 20–50% above harvest estimates. The industry is encouraging consumers to buy BC and support local producers, while also working to address interprovincial tariff barriers affecting grape and wine movement.
- Dapinder reported a strong harvest this year. The BC Grapegrowers' Association worked to match growers with wineries to ensure BC grapes were prioritized over out-of-province fruit. He looks forward to the 2025 vintage survey results to understand how much fruit was imported into BC. He also shared that he is now managing the Starling Control Program. Populations increased this season, so it is important that the program continues. Updated starling communications materials will be developed under the CCLSP bird deterrents project.
- Bobby agreed that the sector is working through oversupply challenges and continuing to educate growers on planting and purchasing contracts.
 - Sukhpaul asked whether BC grapes could be sent to other wine regions. Bobby said this is generally not feasible, as neighbouring regions also face oversupply. Bulk wine shipments may be possible but offer lower returns.
- Adrian shared that he is currently in Ottawa and has met with several federal agriculture critics and participated in discussions on business risk management. The BCFGA Vice President is also attending the Canada–Mexico bilateral meeting for the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. He also noted that BCFGF has received provincial funding and formed an apple working group, which will soon meet to develop a 2026 marketing strategy and guide fund allocation. He said BCFGF had a successful Ag Lobby Day, with follow-up meetings underway with local MLAs on key priorities. He has also been advocating provincially on an Ag Credit Corp proposal for a commodity loan product, which came out of the Minister's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy. Finally, he expressed concern about the lack of consultation with industry ahead of the launch of the Enhanced Replant Program.

- Kate asked about the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act program. Adrian clarified that the commodity loan program being proposed is different, and in Ontario provides a prime-rate loan for up to 75% of the crop.
- Michelle asked whether SIR could assist with BC apple marketing. Madeleine emphasized the value of highlighting SIR's environmental impact and how BC's production system differs from other regions.
- Alan said peach production and prices were strong this season. He noted ongoing issues with mislabelling of Washington apples and soft fruit as BC product at retail. He also highlighted that Kelowna was recently named a UNESCO City of Gastronomy, which presents a strong opportunity for small to medium diversified farms to connect with local chefs and retailers.
- Gord said the season was highly competitive, with aggressive pricing. At the same time, they saw higher cull rates and more quality issues than usual and are still determining the cause. As a result, they are being very careful about when they pack fruit. He added that their whole team is on high alert for mislabelling, and he has spoken with many produce and store managers in recent weeks.
 - Michelle asked whether the higher cull rates could be related to codling moth. Gord said they haven't seen major codling issues in the packinghouse and believes the problem is more likely due to fruit breakdown in bins, potentially from leaving fruit on the tree longer for colour or labour-related delays.
- Phil reported that the Premier's Task Force has completed its final recommendations, focusing on water, labour, land, and investment strategies. He noted the Minister's tour in September, which highlighted grape sector challenges, tree fruit packers, and provided an opportunity to connect with local growers. The Ministry has recently restructured under a new strategic framework and created a Programs and Services Branch to better coordinate initiatives across the Ministry and its partners. He added that the Enhanced Replant Program (ERP) is now in its second intake year. The tree fruit stream has recently closed, and the wine grape stream will close on December 15. The ERP Advisory Committee will meet soon to plan for year three based on this year's results.
 - Kate asked if the ERP webinars were recorded. Phil confirmed there are two recordings - one that walks through the application process and another that provides stream-specific details. Both are available on YouTube and the IAF website.
 - Adrian requested more coordination with industry partners on communications next year, particularly before deadlines close. He also suggested that the Ministry and IAF discuss who is best placed to lead the advisory group. Kate and Bobby supported the need for earlier notice of deadlines and better feedback mechanisms on program challenges.
 - Sukhpaul asked whether the announcement of the new plant health lab facility included any update on hiring a plant pathologist. Phil said there is no current staffing update and referred to earlier discussions about a letter of support from industry outlining this need.
- Madeleine reported that this season produced fewer large-sized apples, the opposite of last year. Late-summer heat caused fruit to mature quickly, leading to increased splitting.
- Michelle noted that SIR's 2026 parcel tax will be \$186/acre, and local governments also saw increases this year. SIR has also raised costs for their USA customers. This season, 86% of orchards recorded less than 0.02% codling moth damage.
 - Beth asked whether backyard trees remain a concern for codling moth and whether nurseries are engaged. Michelle explained that SIR runs a host tree registry, working with

nurseries to track backyard apple tree sales. Trees within 200 metres of a commercial apple and/or pear orchard are monitored by SIR staff.

- Sukhpaul said the cherry crop swung from the smallest in 2024 to the largest ever this year, partly because growers held back on pruning last winter to ensure a crop. Labour shortages remain challenging, with many growers dependent on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, which brings added housing pressures during heavy crop years. Packing capacity was also a concern; the Algoma cherry line did not operate due to the mid-season sale, leaving many growers to find alternative packers.
 - Madeleine said she had difficulty accessing bees this season because hives were kept in cherry orchards longer than usual. She asked BCCA to remind growers to release bees after bloom, noting they are a shared resource. There may be an opportunity to include bee education at the AGM. She also noted that Walmart will require a bee pollinator addendum for food safety in 2026.
- Beth reported a busy export season due to the large cherry crop. There was an increase in spotted wing drosophila, likely because some growers reduced spraying last year during the small crop. Several orchards were removed from export programs because of high pest pressure. Heavy rain in the Creston area created issues with crop insurance due to inspection timings. She noted that the BCCA AGM will be held on March 6, and that the association expanded its domestic marketing program, including a lifestyle photoshoot to promote BC cherries.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

5.1 CCLSP Committees & Communications

A written update was provided.

5.2 Stabilization Fund Report

Kellie walked the council through the status of the stabilization fund.

- Phil noted that the Ministry is considering a six-month extension to the MOU with IAF to support administration of the remaining project funds.
- Sukhpaul asked whether an extension is necessary for a small remaining amount, or if the funding could instead be allocated directly at the Council level. Kellie said extending the MOU aligns with the cross-commodity project timeline and is the most practical approach. She added that CCLSP expects to have enough leftover funding in the main budget to continue its work to March 2027 to complete wrap-up and reporting, if desired by industry.

5.3 Current Cross-Commodity Projects

A written update was provided for all CCLSP projects.

a) BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes progress report.

Kellie walked the Council through the progress report outlining the status of all activities and deliverables.

- Madeleine asked why a payment is being recommended if the project is currently under budget. Kellie noted that invoicing does not always match up with the payment schedule set by IAF. The project is currently underbudget but spending is anticipated to increase soon.

Moved by: Sukhpaul Bal

Seconded by: Beth Cavers

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes Project Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$46,200.”

CARRIED

Philip and Michelle abstained from voting on the motion.

5.4 Cross-Commodity Project Development & Funding Applications

a) Coordinated Regional Labour Strategy, Policies, and Programs

Kellie walked the council through the project application and due diligence form, noting the project will end in 2027.

- Madeleine asked how the proposed structure differs from BC Fruit Works (BCFW). Adrian explained that BCFW involved the wrong mix of participants, while the new collaborative committee would mirror the Advisory Council model, bringing together people with labour experience. Each association would appoint two representatives, with BCFGA providing staff support to move work forward. Kellie added that this project will focus on policy and research, noting that the recent labour research project produced 35 recommendations that industry currently lacks the capacity to advance. The shared oversight committee would serve as the governance structure, responsible for creating the workplan and strategy.
- Sukhpaul said this is a good opportunity to prioritize foreign labour needs, building on lessons learned from the domestic labour work.
- Alan pointed out an important policy component in the application related to visitor visas.
- Kellie emphasized that the project's funds cannot be used for advocacy. Instead, the shared position will conduct policy analysis and research, with findings handed off to associations to support their advocacy efforts.
- Sukhpaul suggested exploring and building relationships with countries that offer short-term contracts tailored to BC's needs.

Moved by: Madeleine van Roechoudt

Seconded by: Sukhpaul Bal

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Coordinated Regional Labour Strategy, Policies, and Programs TFISP application submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association with a maximum funding contribution of \$352,550 and a project timeline of December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.”

CARRIED

Philip and Adrian abstained from voting on the motion.

b) Industry Association Bylaw Review

Kellie walked the council through the project application and due diligence form, noting the project will have a customized approach for each participating association. The project will complement the Ministry's recent RFP for Board Training, ensuring associations can strengthen governance practices in a coordinated way. It would be valuable for each association to review and update their bylaws ahead of the training so they can fully benefit from the sessions. This approach will help ensure all associations are operating on a more even playing field moving forward.

- Kate asked about the timing of the Board Training RFP and how it aligns with this project. Phil said the RFP closes soon and he will request additional details to support alignment.
- Sukhpaul requested an amendment so associations that do not need a bylaw review can instead focus on governance structure. Adrian supported this suggestion and said the budget could be increased if needed.
- Bobby asked whether funding would be distributed equally. Kellie clarified that allocations will be based on need, not equal shares.
- Alan suggested a motion directing staff to revise the application and budget within two weeks and circulate it by email for approval.
- Kate suggested submitting the application as-is and preparing a separate governance-focused project. Alan recommended moving forward with a single aligned project to ensure bylaw updates stay connected to broader governance discussions. Kate noted potential alignment with the WGTF's organizational work.

Moved by: Madeleine van Roechooldt

Seconded by: Alan Gatzke

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council defer consideration of the Bylaw Review for Tree Fruit and Wine Grape Industry Associations TFISP application, submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program, for two weeks to allow staff to consider how to address the Council's request to broaden the application to include governance."

CARRIED

Philip and Michelle abstained from voting on the motion.

c) PAC Point Tracking Modernization

Kellie walked the council through the project application and due diligence form, noting the project will modernize the internal tracking process for the BCFGA and extend participation to wine grape growers.

- Alan suggested offering tracking services for non-members. Adrian clarified that BCFGA already tracks points for non-members on a fee-for-service basis. Kellie noted that this project focuses on the technical aspects of creating a modernized tracking system, but the BCFGA can work in parallel to develop a user-pay model. Shelby added that modernization work will allow members to be categorized by association, which will improve understanding of cost recovery from non-members.
- Philip asked how routine maintenance will be managed. Shelby explained that annual hosting and maintenance will be handled by the development team, with an internal schedule set jointly with

BCFGA. Annual costs are expected to be approximately \$2,500. Adrian confirmed that BCFGAs will cover these ongoing costs.

Moved by: Beth Cavers

Seconded by: Bobby Ercego

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the PAC Point Tracking Modernization TFISP application submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program, subject to the program being inclusive for all BC tree fruit and grape growers, with a maximum funding contribution of \$55,125 and a project timeline of December 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026,

CARRIED

Philip and Michelle abstained from voting on the motion.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) 2026 Meeting Schedule

Meetings for 2026 will be held from on January 29, April 30, June 30, and December 15.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held in person on January 29 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

MEMORANDUM

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
January 29, 2026
Agenda No. 5.1

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

January 19, 2026

From: Shelby Austen, CCLSP Admin. & Comms. Manager

Subject: Update on CCLSP Committees and Communications

Advisory Council & Committees:

Building Bridges 2026

In place of a January meeting for the Innovation and Extension Committee, members were invited to participate in Building Bridges 2026. This event was a scaled-down version of our annual two-day conference that focused on refining the knowledge transfer roadmap. The roadmap is a living document used by the tree fruit and wine grape sectors to align industry priorities and create a coordinated approach to better service growers throughout the season. Our intent is to create an iterative planning process for industry knowledge transfer that can be replicated each year, with broader priorities refreshed every three to five years.

Twenty-nine participants attended, representing growers, consultants, industry association staff and board members, and government. The workshop provided an opportunity to review last year's roadmap, assess progress made in 2025, and identify how we can better support growers in 2026. Participants discussed planned activities, identified areas where cross-sector collaboration would add value, and explored practical tools to support coordination - such as regular in-season check-ins to share insights and experiences across the region.

CCLSP staff are currently transcribing and synthesizing input received at the workshop and will develop a formal 2026 Knowledge Transfer Roadmap for review and use this season.

Wine Grape Industry Task Force Working Groups

Kellie continues to participate in the Wine Grape Industry Task Force when opportunities for collaboration arise. She is a member of the Organizational Alignment Working Group, whose work ties in with the cross-commodity governance project recently approved by the Advisory Council. She will also be attending an upcoming meeting of the Data Strategy Working Group, where they have been discussing decision support tools for wine grapes (including BC DAS).

Communications:

Current communications efforts are focused on finalizing the 2025 Annual Review, including graphic design support from Wayside.

In late November, we held a planning session with the BC DAS consultant to identify priority materials for the Southern Interior Horticulture Show. Planned deliverables include a "call to action" flyer seeking

grower testimonials and feedback, particularly considering upcoming funding constraints. In addition, we will prepare a sticky-note feedback wall at the show to gather anecdotal input on grower experiences and the potential impacts if BC DAS were no longer available. This feedback will help inform our long-term strategy and key performance indicators.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will introduce a single-page Advisory Council Highlights following each meeting. These will help support Advisory Council members in sharing consistent, board-ready updates on CCLSP activities. We will also prepare short, shareable articles after major CCLSP events for distribution through association newsletters.

Upcoming presentations are also planned, including updates to the SIR Board, the BC Cherry Association AGM, and at the Southern Interior Horticulture Show. At the show, two CCLSP projects will be featured: Sean Beirnes of Interstem Solutions will present on findings from the Global Club Access for BC Growers project, and Galen Barnhardt of Barn to Bottle Consulting will present on the BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes.

MEMORANDUM

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
January 29, 2026
Agenda No. 5.2

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

January 22, 2026

From: Kellie Garcia, Project Director

Subject: Stabilization Fund: Financial Update and Proposed Allocation of Remaining Funds

The current stabilization fund balance is \$63,912. The Ministry has required that IAF hold back \$25,000 to support the completion of a summary review report at the end of CCLSP, with scope and deliverables to be confirmed jointly with the Ministry.

I recommend that the Advisory Council request the remaining \$38,912 be rolled into the overall CCLSP budget to be used for projects at your discretion. This would provide a buffer for current projects and support for activities that are beyond the current CCLSP budget (e.g. agriculture tour, local government engagement, building bridges workshop 2027).

TFISP Account Reconciliation (Provided by IAF on Dec 15, 2025)		
Balance in Investment Account Mar 31 2025		3,121,398
Adjustment for TFMC transfer		(805,447)
Less Payment Transfers April - Oct 20 2025		(691,220)
Add Interest earned April - Nov 30 2025		43,286
OKSIR Balance Nov 30 2025		1,668,017
Outstanding Commitments as of Nov 2025		
OKSIR		808,930
BCFGA		63,000
Total Outstanding Commitments		871,930
Administration Fee @ 4%		125,000
Remaining Funds Available for 2025/26		671,087
New Commitments Jan 2026		
Regional Labour Coordination		352,550
PAC Points Tracking Modernization		55,125
Governance Services for Associations		199,500
		607,175
Hold Back for Final Reporting (required by Ministry)		25,000
BALANCE		38,912

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council recommends that the remaining stabilization fund balance of \$38,912 be rolled into the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project budget to be used for projects at the discretion of the Advisory Council."

M E M O R A N D U M

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
January 29, 2026
Agenda No. 5.3

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

January 22, 2026

From: Kellie Garcia, Project Director & Shelby Austen, Admin and Comms Manager

Subject: Update on Cross-Commodity Projects

Report on Budgets

CCLSP general operating expenses

Expense Category	2025 EXPENSES						2025 Actual Budget	Difference
	2025 Projected Budget	Q1 (Jan to Mar)	Q2 (Apr to Jun)	Q3 (Jul to Sep)	Q4 (Oct to Dec)			
Communications	\$ 4,000	\$ 143	\$ 5,405	\$ 2,416	\$ 187	\$ 8,152	-\$	4,152
Meetings & Travel	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,983	\$ 1,506	\$ 3,915	\$ 1,837	\$ 10,241	-\$	241
Employee Expenses	\$ 213,650	\$ 46,530	\$ 56,612	\$ 52,792	\$ 53,967	\$ 209,901	\$	3,749
Supplies, Software, Subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ 195	\$ 122	\$ 90	\$ 3,726	\$ 4,133	-\$	133
Rent	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 2,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,959	\$	41
Contract Services	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$	9,500
Contract Admin (SIR 8.5 %)	\$ 20,795	\$ 4,237	\$ 5,661	\$ 5,033	\$ 5,118	\$ 20,050	\$	745
TOTAL	\$ 265,445	\$ 54,089	\$ 72,266	\$ 64,246	\$ 65,335	\$ 255,937		\$ 9,509

Expenses - CCLSP administered projects

Project Name	Budget	Spent in 2024	2025 EXPENSES				Spent To Date	Budget Remaining
			Q1 (Jan to Mar)	Q2 (April to June)	Q3 (Jul to Sep)	Q4 (Oct to Dec)		
Agriculture Tours	\$ 14,517	\$ 6,407	\$ 8,109	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,517	\$ -
BC DAS Operations	\$ 300,545	\$ 18	\$ 200,455	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,054	\$ -	\$ 224,527	\$ 76,018
BC DAS to Wine Grapes	\$ 115,500	\$ -	\$ 4,318	\$ 5,682	\$ 4,125	\$ 8,972	\$ 23,097	\$ 92,403
BC Fruit Works	\$ 143,302	\$ 104,107	\$ 39,195	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 143,302	\$ -
2025 Extension Conference	\$ 31,555	\$ 1,000	\$ 30,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,555	\$ -
Labour Supply Research	\$ 109,270	\$ 64,631	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,640	\$ -	\$ 109,270	\$ -
Global Club Variety Access	\$ 45,714	\$ 17,143	\$ 28,571	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,714	\$ -
Research Briefs	\$ 143,850	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,400	\$ 27,400	\$ 54,800	\$ 89,050
Herbicide Tech. & Extension	\$ 36,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,750
ABAzyne Trials	\$ 131,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 71,250
Bird Deterrents	\$ 15,407	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,407
TOTAL	\$ 1,087,660	\$ 193,305	\$ 311,203	\$ 11,682	\$ 154,218	\$ 36,372	\$ 706,781	\$ 380,879

Revenue - CCLSP administered projects (current and completed)

Project Name	Total Revenue Expected	Received To Date	Remaining
CCLSP	\$ 855,658	\$ 599,730	\$ 255,928
Agriculture Tours	\$ 14,517	\$ 14,517	\$ -
BC DAS	\$ 300,545	\$ 240,000	\$ 60,545
BC DAS to Wine Grapes	\$ 115,500	\$ 46,200	\$ 69,300
BC Fruit Works	\$ 143,302	\$ 143,302	\$ -
Extension Conference (2024)	\$ 32,269	\$ 32,269	\$ -
Extension Conference (2025)	\$ 31,555	\$ 31,555	\$ -
Labour Supply Research	\$ 112,408	\$ 112,408	\$ -
Global Club Variety Access	\$ 45,714	\$ 45,714	\$ -
Research Briefs & Videos	\$ 143,850	\$ 57,540	\$ 86,310
Herbicide Tech. & Extension	\$ 36,750	\$ -	\$ 36,750
ABAzyne Trials	\$ 131,250	\$ 60,000	\$ 71,250
Bird Deterrents	\$ 15,407	\$ -	\$ 15,407
PAC Point Tracking Modernization	\$ 55,125	\$ -	\$ 55,125
Industry Association Governance	\$ 199,500	\$ -	\$ 199,500
TOTAL	\$ 2,233,350	\$ 1,383,235	\$ 850,115

Note: Table does not include projects administered by the BCFGA, which amount to \$485,550.

Report on Progress

ABAzyne Research and Trials

See Attachment 1: Progress Report.

Recommended Motion

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the ABAzyne Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries: Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$60,000.”

BC Access to Plant Materials (BCFGA)

See Attachment 2: Final Report.

The total budget for this project was \$33,000. A progress report and invoice summary for \$14,017 was submitted in November 2024. Costs incurred since then include the contractor at \$15,900 and the BCFGA project administration fee of \$3,000 (10%). The project finished slightly under budget - the final payment requested is \$12,917, which is the difference between total costs of \$32,917 minus interim payments of \$20,000.

Recommended Motion

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the BC Access to Plant Material: Final Report submitted by the BC Fruit Growers’ Association and recommends proceeding with a final payment of \$12,917.”

BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes

The BC DAS expansion to wine grapes project has moved from planning to early implementation. Current work is focused on refining the beta models that have been added to BC DAS, establishing beta test criteria to share with our testing team (27 industry stakeholders have already agreed to participate), and aligning efforts with the Wine Grape Industry Task Force Data Strategy Working Group to ensure consistency with broader sector priorities. Early outreach is underway, including an upcoming presentation at the Southern Interior Horticulture Show to introduce the tool, share progress, and demonstrate use cases.

An exciting new opportunity is also being pursued in partnership with the BC Wine Grape Council. Nathaniel Newlands at AAFC approached us to engage a postdoctoral researcher he is advising, Jumi Gogoi. Jumi has a background in data analytics, coding, machine learning, and precision agriculture. She will be funded through the MITACS program, with matching funding from our existing project budget and the BCWGC. A proposed work plan is attached for your information.

BC DAS Operations

2026 is a pivotal year for BC DAS. The system has been an important resource for tree fruit growers and horticultural specialists since 2018. Funding is running out in December 2026, so it is critical that the project team assess how the system is performing, clearly articulate the value it provides to growers, and address gaps that limit uptake and effectiveness.

In addition to delivering the day-to-day operational and horticultural activities in 2026, the project team will focus on the following areas to set up for long-term viability:

- Clarify and define current usership and identify opportunities to build membership.
- Clarify the future purpose of BC DAS: define what the system is meant to deliver and to whom, identify improvements that could be made, and decide what is core versus what is optional.
- Refine outreach efforts to focus on the most impactful materials and events.
- Track horticultural support needs and refine approach if needed.
- Capture the true cost of delivering BC DAS and build a reasonable budget (showing what's required to maintain versus enhance).
- Prepare a business case and "sales pitch" for funding renewal and stakeholder alignment.
- Secure long-term funding using an appropriate cost-share model.
- Create a simple annual framework for evaluation and reporting on BC DAS outcomes.

This month, Kellie is writing the 2026 work plan and Shelby is preparing materials to collect grower feedback on BC DAS at the upcoming horticulture show. An online survey will be distributed to all active users, followed by targeted phone interviews to a select few, to collect stories about how people are using DAS and what value it brings to them. Numerous quantitative performance metrics are also now being tracked through the platform.

The BC DAS steering committee will be meeting on February 2. There continues to be active participation and engagement on the committee - a good sign that people see the platform as a useful tool for industry.

Bird Deterrent Education and Outreach

ACARN has been contracted to complete a regulatory review of products approved for use in BC (including any proposed changes) and to develop a resource book with practical guidelines for producers. Twirling Umbrellas will be contracted to produce short videos and social media content to extend the project's reach. The deliverables also include a "workshop segment" on bird deterrent methods and project findings for use in partnership with other important industry initiatives such as BC DAS and Sustainable Winegrowing BC. Work is set to begin in April 2026.

Financial Support for Producer Portion of SIR Program Costs

See Attachment 3: Progress Report.

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Financial Support for the Producer Portion of SIR Program Costs Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$175,000."

Governance Support Services for Industry Associations

We received approval for this project from IAF on January 14. The project will support five industry associations to strengthen their governance and organizational frameworks through a tailored, needs-based approach. Over the next couple of weeks, the project team will focus on recruiting a governance consultant to lead the project. The consultant will first work with each association to assess its current governance status, clarify objectives, and co-develop an appropriate work plan and budget. The work plans will determine which process(es) each association would benefit from: organizational structure assessment, governance review, and/or policy and bylaw review and modernization.

Herbicide Best Practices, Technology, and Extension

Molly Thurston is working with Ken Sapsford to deliver demonstration trials, outreach and extension activities, and new sprayer technology. An herbicide boom prototype has been researched, developed, and constructed, and the boom and nozzles will be available for display at the Southern Interior Horticulture Show. A presentation on herbicide calibration, nozzle selection, and best management practices has also been developed and will be delivered by Ken Sapsford at the show. In addition, boom and nozzle demonstrations, herbicide calibration procedures, and record sheets have been prepared. These resources and handouts will be available to growers at the Southern Interior Horticulture Show and at field days in 2026.

A trial site and grower cooperator have been selected in Summerland, BC, and a site visit was completed by the project team on October 15, 2025. Boom testing and product trial demonstrations will be conducted at this site, including a grower control comparison, and the site will host the 2026 field days. Demonstration trial planning, best management practice development, and field day planning are all currently underway for delivery during the 2026 growing season.

Local Government Engagement

The cross-commodity partner organizations (BCFGA, BCCA, BCGA, BCWGC, SIR) are collaborating on delegations to regional district boards and councils in the region. The purpose of the delegations is to introduce our tree fruit and wine grape industry groups, highlight shared priorities, and explore opportunities to collaborate with local governments.

Our first delegation was January 21 at the RDNO. Our delegation request to the RDOS is under review and, if approved, will occur on February 19.

Our request to appear before the RDCO was denied. The reason given was that it does not align with section 16 (a) of the Delegation/Presentations Regional Board Policy, which states that the Chair and/or Corporate Officer or designate has the authority to screen and, if deemed appropriate, deny a request to appear as a delegation if the issue is not within the mandate or jurisdiction of the Regional District Board. The response from the RDCO Corporate Officer stated that “while the RDCO Development Services team is actively implementing the Board-approved Agriculture Strategy and the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission has programming that supports the agricultural sector, the RDCO itself does not have a direct service (i.e. service establishment bylaw or letters patent) pursuant to agriculture.”

We will be submitting delegation requests to Kelowna, Lake Country, Summerland, Oliver, and Osoyoos but will wait until after the RDNO and RDOS presentations so we can incorporate lessons learned.

Tree Fruit Production Guide Modernization (BCFGA)

Rachel Penner Consulting has been engaged by the BCFGa to provide support for project implementation. She has a strong blend of agricultural experience, content strategy expertise, and change-management skills. Rachel has recommended extending the project completion timeline to fall 2026. This extension will provide sufficient time to complete stakeholder and system needs assessments, conduct a comprehensive content audit and revisions, and develop the information architecture required to enhance the guide’s usability and functionality. It was also determined that aligning project activities with existing TFPG cycles, such as the Technical Advisory Group meeting in the fall and the annual Grower Meeting in the spring, would be beneficial. Sensitization and awareness-building efforts can also be incorporated into industry events, including the Southern Interior Horticulture Show and the BCFGa Annual Convention.

Csek Creative has also been engaged to support the project’s web development component. Having worked extensively with the BCFGa on both the Tree Fruit Production Guide and the association’s webpages, they bring a strong understanding of the project’s technical requirements. Based on their experience, they advise that attempting scaled upgrades to the current system would not be a sound investment, as the existing technology is outdated and will become increasingly difficult to support and host. A full rebuild is the most effective approach to ensure the technical flexibility needed, streamline and modernize the content, and provide a stable foundation for long-term integration with BCDAS. Csek Creative also provided insight into their ongoing work with the WSU Decision Aid System (DAS), which will help inform future BC DAS and TFPG upgrades.

PAC Point Tracking Modernization

We received IAF approval of this project on January 14. In advance of project approval, Shelby developed a Scope of Work, System Requirements Document, and Sample Workflow to guide the design of the new system, so she was ready to launch the project immediately. Graphem Solutions Inc. has been selected as the web developer and will work closely with Shelby and the BCFGa to build a custom, web-based PAC point tracking system. A contract has been signed, and a project kick-off meeting will be held on January 23 to review the project plan and align expectations for next steps.

Regional Labour Coordination

Formal approval for this project was received in early January. Kellie is coordinating the project until the shared regional labour coordinator is hired. We have formed the Interior Horticulture Labour Committee and are setting our first meeting dates. The committee, which has two representatives each from cherries, apples, and wine grapes, will set overall project direction and priorities, approve workplans, and oversee delivery of outputs, including a regional labour strategy, annual labour needs assessments, and policy recommendations on labour programs, housing, recruitment, and workforce stability. We aim to hire the new coordinator before the end of February. A job profile and posting will be shared widely so we can hopefully find good candidates through our networks.

Research Briefs and Videos

Shelby continues to meet monthly with ACARN, most recently on January 6. Twelve research brief topics have been identified for development; however, some topics remain subject to change pending researcher availability and participation. The briefs are at various stages of development and review, and we are aiming to have several ready for distribution at the Southern Interior Horticulture Show.

Brief Topics and Status:

- Cherry exports – Complete
- Cherry fruit quality – Formatted and under researcher review
- Apple sunburn – Near completion; awaiting data and captions from the researcher
- Leafhoppers – In progress
- Cherry cold mitigation and fruit set – Ready for formatting
- Apple rootstock optimization – Ready for formatting
- Sudden apple decline – Drafting underway
- Crown gall – Pending
- Post-harvest decay in apples – Pending
- Post-harvest disorders in cherries – Pending
- Spotted Wing Drosophila – Pending
- Smoke taint mitigation – Pending

(Note: Final inclusion and timing of some briefs are dependent on researcher availability and participation.)

Storyboarding is underway for the video component, with four topics identified: extreme temperatures (cross-commodity), pest and disease management in grapes, pest and disease management in apples, and cherry exports and fruit quality. The videos will focus on impacts, grower experiences, actions taken, and key takeaways. Each video will be approximately 3–5 minutes in length, and nine growers have volunteered to participate in filming.