



Board of Directors Meeting held on March 2, 2021 via conference call.

---

**On the call:** Jack Bates, Jason Smith, Ripanjit Malhi, Bar Hayre, Carolyn Teasdale (left meeting at 9:50), Dalbir Benipal, Harjot Toor, Humraj Kallu, Bryce Guliker, Gurprit Singh Brar, Eric G. (left meeting at 10:00), Anju Gill (staff), Clara Moran (staff), Karen Carter (staff), Carrisa Boynton (guest from Smartsettle - joined meeting at 10:00-10:15)

**Regrets:** none

1. **Call to Order** - J. Bates called the meeting to order 9:02.
2. **Approval of the Agenda - Motion: 21/03/02:35** “to approve the agenda as circulated.” Add to the agenda BCAC Berry Representative Appointment 12.1. Carried.
3. **Approval of the January 14, 2021 Minutes - Motion: 21/03/14:36** “to approve the minutes as presented from the previous meeting.” Carried.
4. **Business Arising from Minutes** -
  - a. Per diem rates and policy #6 from previous meeting - Karen is working on developing a process for reimbursing the directors for their committee hours and time spent on Board business.
5. **Reports.**
  - a. **Chair - Jack Bates.** Offered a thank you from the board to all the staff for the hard work in the last year.  
There have been suggestions from the growers and members in lieu of what has happened in the US, we need to be more active in NABC and UHSBC.
  - b. **ED – Anju Gill.** Report as circulated.  
The lawyers in Washington prepared a copy of the draft for the next round of the USITC investigation. The draft will be available to the board via drop box.  
J. Bates reported on upcoming meetings: CHC meeting Blueberry working group – March 7 11:30 -12 EST; BC Caucus – March 10 2-4 PST; AGM 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2-4 ET; NABC & UHSBC March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. **Promotions Committee -Bar Hayre.** Report as circulated.  
The committee recommended to the board to keep the domestic promotion 2021-22 budget the same as last year - \$550,000.
  - d. **Research Committee - Gurprit Brar.** Report as circulated.  
It was suggested that the BC Blueberry Council provide funding to support the WCVM Pollinator Health Research Chair – University of Saskatchewan. Further information will be sent to the board so they can make a decision at the next Board meeting.  
NW Berry Foundation (a non-profit organization) – would like continued funding for the small fruit update newsletter.

A request was made for support for a second year of weevil screening trials, to review new chemistries to try to develop weevil control products for the industry. E. Gerbrandt will send the report from last year's results to the board.

**Motion: 21/03/08:37** "to support the weevil screening trials project for the next year" Carried.

Two research projects were put before the board for BCBC funding.

**Motion: 21/03/08:38** "to approve the funding of the Genomics-based identification and development of diagnostic methods – Dr. Jim Mattsson, SFU." Carried.

**Motion: 21/03/08:39** "to approve funding of the winter and spring surveillance for Spotted Wing Drosophilla from Allyson Mittlestaedt E.S. Cropconsult Ltd." Carried.

e. **I/R Committee – Ripan Malhi** Report circulated.

Carissa Boynton from Smartsettle a facilitation/negotiation company, made a presentation to the board on what a possible plan would be to facilitate the issues between the growers and processor packers. The objective being to have formal guidelines for, and to bridge the communication gap, between BC Blueberry growers and processor/packers.

**Motion: 21/01/14:40** "to get 3 quotes to move forward and to retain a mediator to identify the issues between the growers/packers to come to a resolution." Carried. One of the quotes for a mediator should be a lawyer, the other two facilitator/mediator.

**6. Financial Reports & Invoice – Jason Smith.** A. Gill reviewed the current financial statement and new invoice processing policy, as circulated. She highlighted the extra expense this year for lawyers to represent BC Blueberries for USITC, and how that expense may be split over two years.

**7. 2021 AGM/Special General Meeting (budget approval).** It was agreed by the board members that the audited statements for 2020-21 and a draft budget for 2021-22 will be presented at an early June 2021 AGM. It was agreed to have a Zoom format for the AGM.

**8. RC recommendations and Northwest Berry Foundation members.** (discussed during Research Committee report)

**9. 201 GSI cost-share recommendation and update** (reviewed during Financial Reports)

**10. Processor-packer & Grower relations update** (reviewed during I/R Committee report)

**11. Promotions:** Open discussion.

**12. Potential new committee member appointment.**

There are some growers that would like to be on some of the committees. This will be brought forward to the next Board meeting.

It was suggested we need to have a Blueberry Rep Appointment on BCAC.

As well, a suggestion to have a farm-based app. for growers/members.

**13. Adjournment** – meeting adjourned at 12:00.

**14. In-camera.** Staff left meeting

**15. Next meeting** – TBA