

Minutes for BCBC Board of Directors Zoom Call on May 11, 2021 from 9 to 11am.

Attendance: Jack Bates (Chair), Dalbir Benipal, Gurprit Brar, Bryce Guliker, Bar Hayre, Humraj Kallu, Ripan Malhi, Jason Smith, Harjot Toor, Carolyn Teasdale, Eva Wang, Anju Gill (staff), Clara Moran Sakalauskas (staff), Karen Carter (staff)

Guest: Reg Enns (joined 10 to 10:30)

1. **Call to order** – J. Bates called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. **Approval of the Agenda – Motion 21/05/11:01:** To “approve the agenda with the addition of WorkSafe BC information.” Carried. See 7.3.
3. **Approval of the March 2, 2021 meeting Minutes – Motion 21/05/11:02:** To approve the minutes of March 2, 2021.” Carried.
4. **Business arising from the Minutes**
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1. Chair – NABC has formed a post Global Safeguard Investigation committee, United Blueberry Task Force to “determine best opportunities to overcome industry issues that led to the 201 investigation.” BC’s representatives are myself [Jack Bates-country rep] and Ray Biln (industry stakeholder).
 - 5.2. ED – written report circulated and highlighted a few key points: First, US 201 GSI legal cost is approximately \$523K and the whole expense will be recorded in the 2021 fiscal year. Second, S. Korea fresh market access has been reinitiated this year, however it looks like only one supplier (processor/packer) has registered under the protocol through CFIA. This is concerning because inadequate shipments could again delay access or could lead to a whole new application, putting fresh market access years behind. Third, BuyBC application for funding (\$75K) awaits IAF approval (correction in written report); \$500K funding for AgriMarketing was submitted earlier this year for 2021-2023, we should have a decision in June.
 - 5.3. Promotions Committee. Written report circulated and C. Sakalauskas also provided an update on the grower app. GlueUp app could be an option. Also, two companies responded to our RFP, however the price tag is high (see. Memo)
In discussion, it was stated that a simple app function that allows growers to record the required for Food Safety certification will be helpful for the growers.
Action: C. Sakalauskas to look into other options (e.g., CanadaGap app). Also, D. Benipal to follow-up with another app developer.
 - 5.4. Research Committee – written report circulated
 - 5.5. Industry Relations – written report circulated. A. Gill stated that she is in touch with the lawyer on 201 GSI legal fee cost-share letters processor packers. As per the lawyer’s instructions, we have set up a separate account for accepting the processor-packers’ contribution toward 201 GSI expense.
 - 5.6. Nominations Committee – written report circulated

6. **Financial report (as circulated)** - The audited financial statement should be ready, at least the first draft, by end of May or early June. The deficit is likely around \$400K and exclusively due to the Global Safeguard Investigation, we are hoping that the contribution from the processor/packer (40% of \$523K) will reduce this amount.
7. **AGM and director election** –
 - 7.1. The AGM and Director election will be held June 19 from 11am to 1pm.
 - 7.2. The Director elections - **Motion 20/05/11:03:** To “have director election be administered by a third party (e.g., MNP)”. Carried [due to uncontested nominations for all 4 positions, the election will be by acclamation at the AGM]
 - 7.3. WorkSafe BC inspections – J. Smith relayed that grower should be aware that Pesticide Application safety inspection are underway and growers. It is required that the applicator should have access to “wash and shower facilities”. Also, if the applicator has facial hair, proper gear is required (e.g. respirators with a loose-fitting hood that extends down over the shoulders).
8. **Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Pollinator Health Chair** – This is a follow-up to the previous board meeting. WCVM requests \$50,000 over 5 years, \$10,000 to support research program focusing on pollinator health and sustainable agriculture practices.
Motion 20/05/11:04: To “fund WCVM Pollinator Health Chair for the next 5 years at \$10,000 per year”.
Note: WCVM is securing funding for this permanent, tenure-track faculty position that requires a total commitment of \$750,000 (\$150,000 per year) from external partners for the first five years. The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission has confirmed \$250,000 in support of the chair’s position, and the college is working to secure the remaining \$500,000.
9. **Bee supply** – shortage of beehives has been concerning this year. more needs to be done to ensure healthy supply, including perhaps importing from the USA.
Action: Anju G will be inviting Paul Westerdrop, Provincial apiculturist, to the next board meeting to shed light on the full scope of the issue and options.
10. Row numbers for growers– C. Sakalauskas provided/presented a written report; discussion followed but no affirmative decision was taken.
11. **BCAC/ ARDCorp** – R. Enns presented on BCAC’s advocacy role for the Ag industry. Also, he briefly presented on ARDCorp’s intentions on applying for funding, in partnership with IAF, under the Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative. More information to follow.
12. **In-camera-** staff left the meeting
13. **Next board meeting** -proposed – Tuesday, June 8 (9am-10am)