

**BC Fruit Growers' Association  
128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Minutes  
February 2-3, 2017, Penticton, BC**

**Present:**

Chair of Session, Fred Steele, President, BCFGA  
Seven other BCFGA Executive members  
Fourteen delegates, representing two BCFGA Regions  
BCFGA members, approximately 250 growers and guests  
Recording Secretary: Glen Lucas and Bunvir Nijjer

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1. Introduction and Welcome

BCFGA President and Chair of the meeting, Fred Steele, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Delegates, members, guests, and media were welcomed.

Fred Steele introduced Penticton Mayor Andrew Jakubeit for the official welcome.

Penticton Mayor Andrew Jakubeit welcomed the attendees and congratulated BCFGA for its 128 years of serving the Tree Fruit Industry.

In appreciation of Mayor Andrew Jakubeit's attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of his choice was presented. Mayor Jakubeit selected South Okanagan Women In Need Society (SOWINS).

Remembrance: a moment of silence was held for members who passed away during the year.

Sukhdeep Brar Chaired.

2. Credentials Report

BCFGA General Manager, Glen Lucas, read the official notice of meeting.

The credential report was presented:

**South**

1. David Machial
2. Parm Dhaliwal
3. Denise MacDonald
4. Doug Nield
5. Rajinder Brar
6. Mehar Khaira

**North**

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. David Dobernigg
3. Amarjit Lalli
4. Jora Dhaliwal
5. Asif Mohammad
6. Jeet Dukhia
7. Joginder Dhand

**Moved/Seconded – Doug Nield/ Denise MacDonald**  
**That the Credential Report be approved.**  
**Carried.**

3. Adoption of Meeting Guidelines  
The agenda and meeting guidelines were reviewed.

**Moved/Seconded- David Machial/ David Dobernigg**  
**To approve the agenda.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ David Machial**  
**That the meeting guidelines be adopted as presented.**  
**Carried.**

4. Approval of Election Process  
The election process of the 2017 BCFGAs Executive was reviewed.

**Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/ Jeet Dukhia**  
**That the election process be approved as presented.**  
**Carried.**

5. Corporate Secretary Report

**Moved/Seconded – Parm Dhaliwal/Amarjit Lalli**  
**To receive the Corporate Secretary Report.**  
**Carried.**

6. Adoption of January 29-30, 2016 Minutes

**Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/ Asif Mohammad**  
**To approve the minutes of the 127th Annual Meeting, January 29-30, 2016, as**  
**circulated.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Asif Mohammad**  
**To receive the Status Report on the 2016 resolutions.**  
**Carried.**

Resolution A – Appreciation

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya**  
**Carried unanimously.**

Resolution B – Municipal Support for Tree fruit Industry Priorities

**Moved/Seconded – David Machial/Asif Mohammad**  
**Carried unanimously.**

7. BCFGA Companies Panel

Sean Beirnes, the new General Manager of Summerland Varieties Corp (SVC) presented updates on SVC.

**Moved/Seconded – Parm Dhaliwal/ Denise MacDonald**  
**To receive the SVC Report.**  
**Carried.**

Glen Lucas, BCFGAs General Manager, provided an update on projects administered under the other BCFGAs Company, BCFGAs Research and Development Orchard Ltd.

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/Amarjit**  
**To receive the BCFGAs R&D Orchard Ltd. Report.**  
**Carried.**

8. Financial Statements and Auditor

The auditor's opinion on the financial statements was presented by Mike Gilmore, BDO auditor. The financial statements were presented by Glen Lucas.

**Moved/Seconded – Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To approve the audited financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2016**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/David Dobernigg**  
**To appoint BDO as the auditor for the period ending October 31, 2017.**  
**Carried.**

9. General Manager's Report, Honorarium Committee Report and Budget

Glen Lucas presented the General Manager's report and the Honorarium Committee report.

**Moved/Seconded –David Dobernigg / David Machial**  
**To receive the General Manager's report.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Parm Dhaliwal**  
**To receive the Honorarium Committee report.**  
**Carried.**

The delegates reviewed the budget for 2017.

**Moved/Seconded – Tarsem Goraya/Amarjit Lalli**  
**To approve the 2017 Budget.**

**Carried.**

Pinder Dhaliwal Chaired.  
3:30pm.

10. Industry Updates Panel

Reg Ens, Executive Director of BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) provided an update.

Key roles of BCAC on TFWP include negotiating terms, processing SAWP LMIA application via WALI and working with the government and consulates to ensure proper housing is provided for the TFWs.

It was suggested that BCAC updates be provided to members on a monthly basis.

In appreciation of Reg Ens's attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of his choice was presented. Reg Ens selected Ag. In Classroom.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ David Machial  
To receive the BC Agriculture Council report.  
Carried.**

Rebecca Lee, Executive Director of Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) provided an update.

There was some discussion about the need to make changes to some unreasonable regulations on Food Safety currently being policed on tree fruits and in particular to apples.

It was mentioned that there are on-going discussions in regards to a national rejuvenation program.

In appreciation of Rebecca Lee's attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of his choice was presented. Rebecca Lee selected the Local Foodbank.

**Moved/Seconded- Tarsem Goraya/Asif Mohammad  
To receive the Canadian Horticultural Council report.  
Carried.**

11. Crop Protection, SIR

Peter Simonsen presented the Crop Protection report.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ David Machial  
To receive the Crop Protection Report.  
Carried.**

Melissa Tesche, General Manager of Sterile Insect Release (SIR) program provided an update.

**Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohommad**  
**To receive the SIR Report.**  
**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded – David Dobernigg/ Amarjit Lalli**  
**To adjourn the meeting to 9:00 am the next day.**  
**Carried.**

## 12. Reconvene

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by BCFGAs Executive Sukhdev Goraya.

It was reported that the following BCFGAs recognition awards were announced the previous evening:

- Ranbir Kambo, Life Member;
- Kenna MacKenzie from Summerland Research and Development Centre and Hank Markgraf, Award of Merit;
- Lyonel Doherty from the Oliver Chronicle, Press Award.

## 13. Credentials Report

BCFGAs Executive, Peter Simonsen read the official notice of meeting.

The credential report was presented for the second day of the meeting:

### **South**

1. David Machial
2. Parm Dhaliwal
3. Denise MacDonald
4. Doug Nield
5. Rajinder Brar
6. Mehar Khaira

### **North**

1. Tarsem Goraya
2. David Dobernigg
3. Amarjit Lalli
4. Jora Dhaliwal
5. Asif Mohammad
6. Jeet Dukhia
7. Joginder Dhand

**Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/ Tarsem Goraya**  
**That the Credential Report be approved.**  
**Carried.**

## 14. Executive Report

President Fred Steele presented the BCFGAs Executive report, highlighting the key priorities and on-going activities:

- Replant Program
- Cherry Production Insurance program
- Labour program

- Strategic Planning with the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative
- Columbia River Treaty
- funding for the Rejuvenation program.

**Moved/Seconded –Asif Mohommad/ David Dobernigg**

**To receive the President’s Report.**

**Carried.**

Jeet Dukhia mentioned that he appreciated receiving a call from Fred Steele congratulating him on being elected as the President of the BC Tree Fruits Ltd. Board and that he hopes to continue to work together with the BCFGAs. Mr. Dukhia announced his withdrawal as a candidate for President of the BCFGAs.

15. Agriculture Land Commission

Fred Steele introduced keynote speakers, Frank Leonard, Chair and Kim Grout, CEO of Agriculture Land Commission (ALC).

Frank Leonard addressed greetings to the membership

Kim Grout made a presentation and responded to member comments on ALR regulations.

In appreciation of Frank Leonard and Kim Grout’s attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of their choice was presented. They selected the local Foodbank.

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjti Lalli/Asif Mohommad**

**To receive the ALC Report.**

**Carried.**

Resolution 13- Support for the ALR

**Moved/Seconded- Denise MacDonald/Asif Mahommad**

**Carried.**

Resolution 9- On-Farm Tourist Accommodation- Benefits and Impacts

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

Resolution 13- Consistency of Agritourism opportunities for wineries and other agricultural operations

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/Amarjit Lalli**

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/Amarjit Lalli**

**To add “that the agritourism application be made directly to the Agricultural Land Commission.”**

**Carried.**

**The vote was recorded as 8 in favour, 3 opposed.**

**The amended resolution Carried.**

16. Labour Report

Pinder Dhaliwal presented the labour report. More female worker participation in the SAWP program was encouraged.

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/Amarjit Lalli  
To receive the Labour Report.  
Carried.**

Fred Steele chaired.  
11:10 am.

17. Provincial Greetings

MLA Dan Ashton introduced the Honorable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Norm Letnick addressed the meeting and responded to member comments on provincial programs.

In appreciation of Dan Ashton and Norm Letnick's attendance, a gift of \$200 to charity of their choice was presented. They selected the Penticton Foodbank.

17. BC Tree Fruit Cooperative Ltd.

Stan Swales, CEO of BCTF Cooperative provided an update to the members.

In appreciation of Stan Swales's attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of his choice was presented. He selected the Penticton Foodbank.

18. Federal Greetings

Fred Steele introduced Richard Cannings, MP, South Okanagan- West Kootenay.

Richard Cannings, MP for South Okanagan-West Kootenay addressed the membership and responded to member comments on programs.

In appreciation of Richard Cannings's attendance, a gift of \$100 to charity of his choice was presented. He selected the Penticton Foodbank.

19. Water and Environment Committee

Sukhdeep Brar presented the Water and Environment Committee report. Glen Lucas provided an update on Food Safety.

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/David Machial  
To receive the Water and Environment Report.**

**Carried.**

20. To Close Registration

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Joginder Dhand**

**To close the registration for voting.**

**Carried.**

21. Resolutions

The following resolutions were considered while preparations were made for the election.

Resolution 11- Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Regulatory consistency between municipalities

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/ Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

Resolution 12-Homesite Severance

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya**

**Defeated.**

Resolution 31- BC Agriculture Council Farmer Identity Card

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/ Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

Resolution 3- Transfer AgriStability Budget Savings to Other Programs

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli**

**Carried.**

Resolution 4-Increase AgriStability Margin Protection

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Jeet Dukhia**

**Carried.**

Resolution 6- Restore AgiInvest to the Previous Level

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/ Asif Mohommad**

**Carried.**

Resolution 14- CRA Farm Equipment Depreciation Rates

**Moved/Seconded - Parm Dhaliwal/ Denise MacDonald**

**Carried.**



Resolution 7- Avoiding Unreasonable, Unscientific Food Safety Requirements by Canadian Retailers

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Denise MacDonald  
Carried.**

Resolution 28- Cherry Breeder Scientist Position at Summerland Research and Development Centre

**Moved/Seconded - Asif Mohommad/ David Dobernigg  
Carried.**

Resolution 29- Weed Scientist Position at Summerland Research and Development Centre

**Moved/Seconded - Doug Nield/ David Machial  
Carried.**

Resolution 15- IPM Funding

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Joginder Dhand  
Carried.**

Resolution 16- Expand the Role of SIR

**Moved/Seconded - Doug Nield/ David Dobernigg  
Carried.**

Resolution 17- Invasive Pest Funding

**Moved/Seconded - David Machial/ Tarsem Goraya  
Carried.**

Resolution 18- Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program- Extra Spray Costs  
It was noted that by reintroducing a compliance grant it may cause acreage rates to go up.

**Moved/Seconded - Asif Mohommad/ Denise MacDonald  
Defeated.**

Resolution 19- Okanagan Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program- Efficiency and communication

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ David Dobernigg  
Carried.**

Resolution 20- Deer Cull

There was some dialogue that this is a provincial wildlife problem, and the role of municipalities.

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohommad  
Carried.**

Resolution 22- Research on the Impact of Climate Change

**Moved/Seconded - David Machial/ Amarjit Lalli  
Carried.**

22. Election Process

Glen Lucas chaired the election of the BCFGAs Executive.  
Glen Lucas explained the election process.

23. Appointment of Election Officers to count the votes

**Moved/Seconded - David Machial/ Parm Dhaliwal  
To appoint Graham Karner as election officer.  
Carried.**

In each position, where there was already a nomination, members were asked if they wished to open the floor for further nominations. If more than one candidate was nominated, the nominees were provided an opportunity to speak.

24. Election of BCFGAs President

Jeet Dukhia confirmed his withdrawal as a candidate for the president position. The floor was not opened to further nominations.

**Fred Steele was declared BCFGAs President by acclamation.**

Fred Steele thanked the membership, delegates and staff. Fred Steele listed priorities for the upcoming year.

25. Vice President

**Moved/Seconded- Parminder Sidhu/ Jora Dhaliwal  
To open the floor for further nominations.**

A ballot was held to open the floor.

26. Resolutions continued

While votes were tallied, the following resolutions were considered.

Resolution 5- Columbia River Treaty

**Moved/Seconded - Doug Nield/ David Machial  
Carried.**

Resolution 10- Request for Nuisance Deer Hunting Permits

**Moved/Seconded - David Machial/Parm Dhaliwal  
Carried.**

Resolution 23- Climate Change- Fund Weather Stations

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ David Dobernigg  
Carried.**

Resolution 24- Environmental Farm Plan Program- Increase Funding

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohommad  
Carried.**

Resolution 25-Environmental Farm Plan Program- Funding for Irrigation  
Improvements

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ David Dobernigg  
Carried.**

Resolution 26- Water for Irrigation

**Moved/Seconded - Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohommad  
Carried.**

Resolution 27- Water Turn-on and Turn-off Dates

**Moved/Seconded - Tarsem Goraya/ Asif Mohommad  
Carried.**

Resolution 30- Programs to Support the Introduction of New Varieties and the Success  
of Replanted Acreage

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/ Asif Mohommad  
Carried.**

Resolution 8- Keeping CanadaGAP Practical

**Moved/Seconded - Denise MacDonald/ Jora Dhaliwal  
Carried.**

27. Announcement of ballot results to open the floor for Vice-President Nominations

The results from the ballots to open the floor for further nominations for the Vice-President was

**Defeated.**

**Bhupinder Dhaliwal was declared BCFGAs Vice-President by acclamation.**

28. South District Council

There was no motion to open the floor to further nominations.

**Ravinder Bains, Sukhdeep Brar, and Peter Simonsen were declared members by acclamation.**

29. North District Council

There was no motion to open the floor to further nominations.

Karmjit Gill, Sukhdev Goraya, Surjit Nagra and Surjit Nagra were nominated.

A ballot was held.

**Sukhdev Goraya, Tony Nijjar and Surjit Nagra were declared members of the Executive.**

**Moved/Seconded- Jeet Dukhia/ Amarjit Lalli  
To destroy the ballots.  
Carried.**

30. Member Services and Public Relations

**Moved/Seconded - Denise MacDonald/ Parm Dhaliwal  
To receive the Member Services and Public Relations report.  
Carried.**

31. Late Resolutions.

Late Resolution #1- To merge the BCFGAs Executive and SVC Board of Directors

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/Asif Mohommad  
To raise the motion to the floor.  
Defeated.**

**The vote was recorded as 3 in favour, 8 opposed.**

Late Resolution #2- To limit the length of SVC's sub-lease of the Test Orchard

**Moved/Seconded - Jeet Dukhia/Asif Mohommad  
To raise the motion to the floor.  
Defeated.**

**The vote was recorded as 3 in favour, 7 opposed.**

Late Resolution #3- Wildlife management in South Okanagan Grasslands Park

**Moved/Seconded - David Dobernigg/ Amarjit Lalli  
To raise the motion to the floor  
Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded - David Dobernigg/ Amarjit Lalli**

**That the BCFGA ask the Provincial Government and/or Parks Canada to consider/address wildlife and farm conflicts during their negotiations.**

**Carried.**

Late Resolution #4-Changing International Trade Environment

**Moved/Seconded - Denise MacDonald/ Parm Dhaliwal**

**To raise the motion to the floor**

**Carried.**

**Moved/Seconded - Denise MacDonald/ Parm Dhaliwal**

**That the BCFGA work with the appropriate levels of government be ensure to tree fruit industry's interests are not negatively affected by changes in the trade policies.**

**Further be it resolved the BCFGA works with governments to protect the tree fruit industry from unfair trade policies.**

**Carried.**

32. Adjournment, 3:40 p.m.

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/David Dobernigg**

**That the 128th BCFGA Annual Convention be adjourned.**

**Carried.**