

**BC Fruit Growers' Association
132nd Annual Convention Minutes
February 25, 2021 via Zoom**

Present:

Chair of Session, Pinder Dhaliwal, President, BCFG
Six other BCFG Board members
Thirteen delegates, representing two BCFG Regions
BCFG members, approximately 70 growers and guests
Recording Secretary: Glen Lucas and Bunvir Nijjer

1. Introduction and Welcome

BCFG President and Chair of the meeting, Pinder Dhaliwal, called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Delegates, members, guests, and media were welcomed.

2. Zoom Meeting Procedure

The zoom meeting process was explained to the attendees.

3. Meeting Guidelines

The meeting guidelines were reviewed.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Steve Brown

That the meeting guidelines be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. Credentials Report

BCFG Vice- President Peter Simonsen, read the official notice of the meeting. The credential report was presented:

South

1. Annelise Simonsen
2. Allan Patton
3. Denise MacDonald
4. Mehar Khaira
5. Ranbir Kambo
6. Doug Nield

North

1. Madeleine van Roechoudt
2. Amarjit Lalli
3. Sam DiMaria
4. Tarsem Goraya
5. Mani Gill
6. Penny Gambell
7. Asif Mohammad

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Tarsem Goraya

That the Credential Report be approved.

Carried.

5. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

Moved/Seconded- Penny Gambell/ Amarjit Lalli

To approve the agenda.

Carried.

6. Resolution Committee Report

Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/ Doug Nield

To receive the Resolution Committee Report on the 2021 resolutions.

Carried.

Moved/Seconded – Annelise Simonson/ Madeleine van Roechoudt

To receive the Late Resolution Policy.

Carried.

7. Election Process

The election process of the 2021 BCFGAs Board was reviewed.

8. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded – Ranbir Kambo/ Asif Mohammad

To approve the minutes of the 131st Annual Meeting, February 11-12, 2020 and the minutes of the Special General Meeting, February 10, 2021 as circulated.

Carried.

The guests joining the AGM were acknowledged.

9. Board of Directors Report

President Pinder Dhaliwal presented the BCFGAs Board report, highlighting the key priorities and on-going activities.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Asif Mohammad

To receive the President's Report.

Carried.

10. Message from the BC Agriculture Minister, Hon. Lana Popham

A recorded greeting from the BC Agriculture Minister Hon. Lana Popham was presented.

11. BCMAFF Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Initiative, Georgina Beyers, Director Industry Development Branch

Georgina Beyers provided an update on the BCMAFF Tree Fruit Industry Stabilization Initiative and listed the participants.

12. Summerland Varieties Corp.

Sean Beirnes, the General Manager of Summerland Varieties Corp (SVC) provided an update to the members.

13. BC Tree Fruits Cooperative

Steve Brown, President and Warren Sarafinchan, the CEO provided an update of the BC Tree Fruit Cooperative.

Reconvened at 12:30 pm.

14. Golden Apple Award, presented by Adrian Arts, provincial Tree Fruit and Grape Specialist

Adrian Arts, the provincial Tree Fruit and Grape Specialist announced the Golden Apple Award recipient as Shayne Witzke.

15. Buraries

The recipients of the Joe Sardinha Memorial Bursary and Golden Jubilee Bursary were announced:

- 2020 Golden Jubilee bursary recipient is Bailey Burdett from Summerland;
- 2020 Joe Sardinha Memorial bursary recipient is Parmeet Brar from Keremeos.

16. Working lunch: Reports (available online), questions arising.

The following reports were available online for the members to review:

- Crop Protection/ Research
- Environment and Water
- Financial Program
- Labour
- Member Services

Resolution 2- Immediate Government action for the Apple Sector

Moved/Seconded – Penny/ Gambell/Tarsem Goraya

Carried.

Resolution 11- Subsidized Apple Imports

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya

Carried.

Resolution 6- Replant Program Renewal and Design

Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Allan Patton

Carried.

It was requested to explore some flexibility to accommodate smaller replant for smaller farmers and it was also noted that the replant grant goes right back into the economy as it is an investment.

Resolution 8- Strategic Plan for the Tree Fruit Industry

**Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/ Madeleine van Roehoudt
Carried.**

Resolution 9- Food Security/ Food Sovereignty

**Moved/Seconded – Ranbir Kambo/ Annelisa Simonsen
Carried.**

17. BC AgriStability Enhancement

Dalraj Boparai, AgriStability Specialist provided a presentation on the BC Agristability Enhancement program.

18. Financial Statement, General Manager's Report and Budget

Glen Lucas presented the Financial statements, the General Manager's report and the 2021 budget.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohammad

**To receive the audited financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2020.
Carried.**

Moved/Seconded – Doug Nield/ Denise MacDonald

**To approve the 2021 Budget.
Carried.**

2:30pm.

19. Recess to 7:30 pm

Election by drive-through ballot was held at the Growers Supply locations in Kelowna, Penticton and Creston. Members were encouraged to rejoin the meeting by using the same link at 7:30pm for election results and a prize draw.

20. Reconvene

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by BCFGAs President and Chair of the meeting, Pinder Dhaliwal.

21. Election Results

Jeet Dukhia was elected as the Vice-President of the BCFGAs.

Joginder Dhand and Mani Gill were elected as the Northern District Directors.

Ravinder Bains was declared the Southern District Director by acclamation.

Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Allon Patton

**To destroy the ballots.
Carried.**

22. Credentials Report

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

South

1. Denise MacDonald
2. Allan Patton
3. Mehar Khaira
4. Annelise Simonsen
5. Doug Nield
6. Ranbir Kambo

North

1. Madeleine van Roechoudt
2. Amarjit Lalli
3. Sam DiMaria
4. Tarsem Goraya
5. Mani Gill
6. Penny Gambell
7. Asif Mohommad

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Tarsem Goraya
That the Credential Report be approved.
Carried.**

23. General Manager's Report

Glen Lucas presented the General Manager's report.

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/Penny Gambell
To receive the General Manager's Report.
Carried.**

24. Resolutions

Resolution 7- Insurable Value

**Moved/Seconded – Denise MacDonald/ Madeleine van Roechoudt
Carried.**

Resolution 3- National Apple Research and Promotion Agency

**Moved/Seconded – Sam DiMaria/ Amarjit Lalli
Carried.**

Resolution 4- Farm Worker Housing and Regulations

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Sam DiMaria
Carried.**

Resolution 10- No Employment Insurance Clawback for Seasonal Farm Work

**Moved/Seconded – Sam DiMaria/ Ranbir Kambo
Carried.**

Resolution 5- Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) Pilot Project for Small Farms

**Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Denise MacDonald
Tabled to the BCFGa Board to discuss further with the CHC Apple Working Group.**

Resolution 1- Freeze Minimum Wage

**Moved/Seconded – Penny Gambell/ Asif Mohommad
Tabled to the BCFGa Board to resolve on an urgent basis.**

Resolution 12- Property Insurance for Seasonal Agricultural Worker
Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Madeleine van Roechoudt
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 13- Support for Managed, Centralized Campsites for Farm Workers
Moved/Seconded –Amarjit Lalli/ Madeleine van Roechoudt
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 14- Social Media to Promote Farm Jobs
Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Madeleine van Roechoudt
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 17- Provincial Regulation of Irrigation Rates
Moved/Seconded –Denise MacDonald/ Asif Mohommad
Tabled to the Board of Directors.

Resolution 18- Expand Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)
Moved/Seconded –Amarjit Lalli/ Penny Gambell
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 19- Public Relations Program
Moved/Seconded –Asif Mohommad/ Denise MacDonald
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 20- Membership Drive
Moved/Seconded –Asif Mohommad/ Denise MacDonald
Tabled to the BCFGALabour Committee.

Resolution 21- ICBC allow multiple drivers for farm vehicles, without restriction
Moved/Seconded –Asif Mohommad/ Penny Gambell
To add to Standing Policy
Carried.

Resolution 22- Food Safety Regulations- reduce cost and provide compensation
Moved/Seconded –Asif Mohommad/ Penny Gambell
To add to Standing Policy
Moved/Seconded- Amarjit Lalli/ Annelise Simonsen
Tabled.

Resolution 23- Retailer Code of Conduct
Moved/Seconded –Denise MacDonald/ Penny Gambell
To add to Standing Policy
Carried.

25. Adjournment, 9:37 pm.
Moved/Seconded – Amarjit Lalli/ Asif Mohammad
That the 132nd BCFGALabour Convention be adjourned.
Carried.