

North Regional Meeting

November 14, 2019

Ramada Hotel, Kelowna, BC

Tarsem Goraya, Chair

Pinder Dhaliwal, President

Peter Simonsen, Vice-President

14 BCFGA members

BCFGA Staff:

Glen Lucas

Guest, BC of Ministry:

Carl Withler

5:00 pm.

Tarsem Goraya, the chairman called the meeting to commence.

1. Agenda:

Motion: To approve the Agenda.

Moved / Seconded: Amarjit Lalli / Joginder Dhand

Carried.

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Motion: To approve the North Regional Meeting minutes of November 28, 2018.

Moved / Seconded: Amarjit Lalli / Sukhdev Goraya

Carried.

3. President's Report:

Pinder Dhaliwal presented the president's report. An update was provided on the following items:

- Noted the difficult (rainy) weather throughout the season, especially at cherry and apple harvest. Climate extremes of drought and cool rainy seasons indicate climate change is here.
- The Pest Management Regulatory Agency review of products is a problem, and finding new solutions to pests and invasive pests is a problem.
- Labour has been an area of continuing activity for the BCFGA
 - Main activities are resolving problems and making the system more responsive
 - Piece rates: government study had great cooperation from tree fruit growers and employees. Conclusion is that piece rates are important to the tree fruit sector.
 - Problems of delays and expense of annual housing inspections (for unchanged housing). National proposal for experienced farms in good standing, to ease program requirements.
 - BCFGA helped organize grower information sessions.
 - New for 2020 will be more fire department and building code attention to interconnected smokefire alarms, as a result of a worker housing fire in Abbotsford. The requirement is not new, but in anticipation of fire department audits, the systems are added to the housing inspection.
 - BCFGA is advocating common sense on housing inspections and forms.
 - Migrant Worker Support Network (MSWN) provides \$2.6 million to a 2 year (2018/19-2019/20) BC pilot project, involving immigrant resettlement groups, unions

and labour activists, government representatives, and employer representatives (if in place).

- SAWP is a strongly supported program, so MSWN is not as critical as in under-served programs such as restaurant, hotel, and nanny programs.
- SAWP housing deduction is a focus. Mexico consulate 'push-back' on an increase due to perceived concerns with housing quality. Plan to do an independent study and meet with Service Canada to take steps towards next year's SAWP review meetings.
- Tourist workers available for work. For Mexican youth attending on tourist visas, it is recommended to encourage Mexico students to apply for a work visa under the International Experience Canada program.
- The provincial government is introducing regulations that impact bonafide farmers: ALR Bill 52, Agriculture Environment Management - Code of Practice, Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, possible changes to the Work Camp Regulation, and the upcoming Temporary Foreign Worker Registry.

Glen Lucas provided an update on Replant and the Environmental Farm Program.

There was discussion about the ALR and that there needs to be a standard approach across municipalities and that bonafide growers should not be regulated as though they are not.

Growers present noted that AgriStability is broken and needs to be fixed.

Sam DiMaria noted the use of an airblast sprayer, with the sprayer cowling removed, and parked 50 feet from the burn pile. When used to blow air into the pile, the piles burn very quickly (not requiring much tending) and produce very little smoke. It was suggested that a fact sheet be prepared on disposal of prunings and trees orchard removal.

4. Election of Regional Executive

Nominations for regional executive were opened:

Chair: Tarsem Goraya

Vice Chair: Amarjit Lalli

Secretary: Mani Gill

Nominations were closed and the position declared filled as nominated.

5. Election of Delegates and Alternates:

Motion: These elected members be the first 3 of the 8 delegates from the North Region.

Moved Sam DiMaria

Seconded Sukhdev Goraya

Carried.

Election of North Region Delegates:

Delegates:

Tarsem Goraya (Regional Chair)

Amarjit Lalli (Regional Vice Chair)

Mani Gill (Regional Secretary)

Madeleine Van Roechoudt

Joginder Dhand

Alternate Delegates:

Gurinder Gill

Parmjit Patara

Jadvinder Nijjer

Steve Day

Kevin Day

Tahir Raza
Asif Mohammed
Penny Gambell

It was agreed by consensus to close the nominations for delegates and alternate delegates of the North Region.

6. Nominations for the Board of Directors:

Two positions are open for nominations at the North District Council this year: President and one Northern Director (incumbent is Karm Gill). Karm Gill noted that he is not running for election.

Nominations for BCFGAs Board of Directors for the 2020 election:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| President | Pinder Dhaliwal |
| 1 North Board Member to elect | Mani Gill |

It was agreed by consensus to close the nominations for the Board.

7. Resolutions

Resolutions were proposed to present for discussion and approval at the Annual General Meeting. The following topics were put forward as resolutions:

- that immediate funding be released for research projects to find effective ways to combat Apple Clearwing Moth.
- that the Provincial government maintain the current bi-annual time change or adopt year-round Standard Time to ensure that daylight on the shortest day of the year will be between 8am and 4pm and not 9am and 5pm.
- that changes to the BC Temporary Foreign Agriculture Worker Housing regulations be phased in over a 12-month period to provide employers appropriate warning and time to implement necessary changes.
- that the Pre-Harvest Interval for apples, peaches, nectarines, pears and prune plums be reduced from 40 days to 14 days.
- that the BCFGAs recognize and encourage the efforts of the SIR program to expand its scope to include necessary area-wide monitoring, control and enforcement practices of other insect pests, and that the SIR Board develop a policy on how to obtain grower support and cooperation when considering additional pests to the program.

8. Adjournment Moved: **Sukhdev Goraya 7:00 pm.**