

**2017 Annual General Meeting**  
Kamloops, B.C., November 4, 2017  
Minutes

**In attendance:** Dave Clarke, Garth Healey, Serena Black, Bill Awmack, Mike Witt, Rick Schmidt, Erin Durrell, John Church, Haley Rutherford, John W., Graeme Finn, K. Fennell

**Meeting called to order at 10:02.m.**

1. Welcome & Chair (Garth Healey)
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM
  - Sheri motioned to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by David. Carried.
3. Financial Report (Serena)
  - Financial Report (Jan. 1, 2017 through to Oct. 31, 2017) provided by Serena, on behalf of Bill.
    - o General Account: \$9,082.92
    - o Variety Account: \$37,163.46
  - Garth motioned to accept the financial report; seconded by Mike. Carried
4. Constitution (Serena)
  - Separated Constitution from By-Laws, as required by the New Society Act.
  - Move the “specific purpose” and “activities to meet purpose” to by-laws, to ensure we are under compliance with the new Act.
  - Bill motioned to accept the Constitution, with amendments; seconded by David. Carried.
5. Bylaws (Serena)
  - Additional amendments were made on several aspects of the By-Laws.
    - o Discussion about voting vs. non-voting directors, and the role of agri-business representatives. Many producers are also involved in agri-business services in some way. Having ties to industry is critical to the success of BCFC, but need to ensure it is a producer-led organization. Agreed that agri-businesses that are sponsors may have a voting position on the board, but must excuse themselves on any matters that would be a conflict of interest.
    - o Removal of the time restraint on the length of terms of office a member may serve for.

- Added a time restraint to which a director may serve in a single position on the Executive to a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
- Change to have annual financials approved by a Financial Reviewer; requirement to have an official Audit of the BCFC a minimum of once every 10 years, for transparency.
- Sheri motioned to approve the By-laws, with amendments; seconded by Bill and Rick. Carried.

## 6. Election of Directors and Officers

- Voting-Directors elected by acclamation:
  - Bill Awmack – Quality West Seeds
  - Garth Healey – Producer/CFGAs Rep – Fraser Valley
  - Sheri Schweb – Producer – North Cariboo
  - Corky Tucker – Producer – Cariboo
  - David Clarke – Producer – West Chilcotin
  - Dr. John Church – Thompson Rivers University
- Non-Voting Directors elected by acclamation:
  - Shabtai Bittman – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  - Derek Hunt – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## 7. 2017 Activity Update:

- a. CFGA Report – Update (Garth Healey)
  - Often find that CFGA provides information a little last minute; hard to keep up with what is happening on a National Scale.
  - Concerned that the new programs are more focused in helping central Canada
  - Sending Serena to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CFGA Conference in Guelph; she will return and provide more information on their programing, and determine the value of being associated with the CFGA
  - Increased membership this fee by \$250 this year
- b. 2017 Activities Summary (Sheri)
  - Finished the Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research; the Guides turned out great, and is a unique deliverable (there isn't an equivalent publication that currently exists, to our knowledge).
  - hosted a workshop in March, connected with the BC Cattlemen's AGM and Conference in Kamloops. Slow uptake initially because producers saw

“research” and though it wasn’t for them. Catherine presented about the guide, and then we received a much higher intake.

- Hoping to organize a workshop connected with the BC Cattlemen’s AGM and Conference in 2018 again, and build on that success.
- presented at the Cattlemen’s in Vanderhoof, and was well received. Would like to continue to contract Catherine for this; she connects well with producers and we’ve received lots of positive feedback.

#### 8. New Business:

- a. Weed Act- Enforcing/partnering (Dave Clarke)
  - currently not enforced; would like to see more action on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture
  - because of the fires this summer, there was very little weed work in those areas; other areas likely got more service than usual.
  - A need to strike a sub-committee to organize a province-wide effort; potentially partnering with other groups (e.g. Horse Association).
  - Need for more registered products that can be used to fight this issue.
  - Tabled for the next Director’s meeting to discuss further action.
- b. New Water Act (David Clarke)
  - the Act has resulted in creating extra costs for producers, and a lot of additional paperwork. More than 1,300 applications have been filed, yet only 106 have been approved to date. A frustrating process, and producers will be charged for water use starting February 2015.
  - Cattlemen’s have been doing some work focused around on-stream stock watering.
  - Unsure of action that can be taken.
- c. Cariboo Agriculture Research Alliance
  - New group that has started in the Cariboo; Serena is currently the interim coordinator, but the BCFC has been invited to sit on the Steering Committee.
  - Sheri agreed to represent BCFC on this group, with David Clarke agreeing to be the back-up rep, as needed.
- d. Manager Report – 2018 Activities
  - i. Communication Strategy
    - Need to create a brand of the BCFC, and increase the public awareness of the Council and the work that we do.
    - In order to do so, suggested to follow a model presented at the 2017 BC Association of Farmers’ Markets: develop a strong website that

houses all the relevant content, and use social media to direct people to the website.

- Serena requested to develop a new website, with a domain specific to the BC Forage Council. There are strong benefits to working with FarmWest, as it's well-known to producers, and we don't want to lose that relationship. Work to link the websites together, and build off of each other.
  - Garth motioned to approve Serena to purchase a new domain for the BC Forage Council, and develop the website; seconded by David. Carried.
- ii. Extension Strategy
- Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research Workshops – Build off of the success Sheri and Catherine have built. Aim to provide a minimum of 4 workshops on the Guide, throughout the province. Help raise membership as well.
  - Pilot a Pasture Walk/Research Group. This is a common activity in other provincial associations, with great success. To ensure that we don't take on too much, we would like to pilot the project in one area of the province, then slowly expand it.
  - New funding (Canadian Agricultural Partnership, April 2018) becoming available; a great opportunity to develop the BCFC's next large project. Would be great to develop a project with a provincial scope/reach. The Board encouraged Serena to develop such a proposal, working with contacts made through the CFGA Conference, UNBC, CARA, and/or the BCACARN.
- iii. Events
- CFGA Conference 2017 – Guelph ON. Focus on C-sequestration Protocol Project, and developing Export.
  - BC ACARN Workshop (Dec 2017) – BCFC invited to sit on the Panel for Industry and provide insight in how we develop research priorities for the forage industry.
  - CARA Workshop (Feb 2018) – another potential opportunity to highlight the Guide; event will likely not enough capacity to do a full workshop.

**Meeting Adjourned 12:18p.m.**