

BCHGA Annual General Meeting Agenda 2023/2024

1. Call to Order
2. Establish Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of Previous Annual General Meeting Minutes – November 14th, 2023
5. Presidents Report
6. Membership Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Resolution #1 – Amendment to Bylaws
9. Nominations Report
10. Election of Directors
11. Presentation on Industry Production and Market Update
12. General Business
13. Adjournment

BC Hazelnut Growers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date: November 14th, 2023

Location: Ministry of Agriculture and Food & Online via Zoom

Chair: Zachary Fleming

Attendees:

In-person - 14 Members

Online - 6 Members

1. Call to Order

Zachary Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, followed by comments and introductions. Confirmed that the quorum was met as per bylaws (minimum three members present).

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda was presented by Cornel, seconded by Don. The agenda was unanimously adopted without further comments.

3. Adoption of AGM 2022 Notes

Motion to adopt the 2022 AGM notes was moved by Steve, seconded by Stuart. There were no comments on the 2022 minutes, and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. President's Report

Presented by Zachary Fleming, the report highlighted various initiatives and progress made by the association. It was noted that this was Zachary's first term as president, and he emphasized the association's success in hiring Sue Grubac as the program coordinator, the increase in membership engagement, improvements in communication, and the development of social media outreach. Significant developments included becoming a member of the BC Agriculture Council and participation in various agriculture and environmental projects.

5. Membership Report

The report highlighted a significant increase in the BCHGA membership numbers. From an all-time low of 20 members, the association has grown to 46 members, surpassing the previous highest recorded membership. The goal is to reach 100 members by 2025. The importance of sending out reminders for membership renewal was emphasized as a key strategy for continued growth and retention. Various discussions and suggestions were made regarding the membership structure and fees.

6. Treasurer's Report

Motion to adopt the 2021/2022 financial statement was moved by James and seconded by Peter. The report was adopted unanimously with no further discussion.

7. Proposed Budget

The proposed budget was presented and a motion for its acceptance was put forward by Dan, with Cornel seconding the motion. During the discussion, Art Breugem raised concerns about the association running a deficit for 4-5 years and emphasized the need for immediate solutions. Cornel Van Maren highlighted the importance of utilizing the funds effectively to benefit members. Haley Argen expressed her concerns regarding the increase in the membership fee to \$100, pointing out the potential hardships for small growers. In response, Zachary Fleming justified the fee increase by stating its alignment with industry standards and the goal of enhancing value for members. Peter Andres proposed the idea of a tiered or associate membership structure to accommodate different types of members. Neil Turner brought forth the suggestion of a lower membership fee for the first year as an incentive for new members. After thorough discussions, the budget was unanimously adopted by the members present.

8. Resolution

Zachary Fleming presented Resolution #1, which centered on establishing multiple membership types and defining the term 'hazelnut grower' for the purpose of full membership. Stuart moved to adopt the resolution and Charles seconded it. The discussion that ensued featured notable contributions. Haley Argen raised concerns about the inclusion

of nurseries in the membership, questioning whether they would qualify as full members. Addressing this, James Dick proposed an amendment to the resolution, suggesting the inclusion of the phrase “grows hazelnuts and/or hazelnut trees,” to ensure nurseries' inclusion. Greg seconded this amendment. The discussion concluded with the unanimous passing of both the amendment and the resolution itself, reflecting a collective agreement on the revised terms of membership.

9. Nominations Report

Nominations for the board were discussed. Zachary Fleming and Andre Grubac were stepping down. The remaining directors, Ray Pedersen, Cornel Van Maren, Heather Gilliland, Greg Reid, Steve Hope, Kevin Hooge, Aart Breugem, and Charles Dick, stood for re-election. Haley Argen was nominated to join the board. Peter moved to accept all nominations for the board of directors as presented. Cornel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

10. Presentation by Steve Hope

Steve discussed the association's efforts with Fraser Valley Hazelnuts and the importance of promoting BC hazelnuts. He presented trends in the hazelnut industry, noting a 46% increase in production despite the loss of several growers. He discussed the challenges and strategies in marketing and distributing BC hazelnuts, emphasizing the need for widespread promotion and the potential of the BuyBC program. Suggestions included spreading the word about BuyBC and asking for increased demand for BC hazelnuts. Karina mentioned the opportunity for growers to participate in the PNE annually.

11. General Business

James Dick highlighted the importance of growers promoting their products. The winner of the BCHGA photo contest, Cornel Van Maren, was announced and congratulated.

12. Adjournment

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting, concluding the AGM. Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 PM.

President's Report

2023/2024

Dear BCHGA members,

Since the restart of our industry a number of years ago, the association has focused its efforts on new planting, orchard management and restoring the industry to a level comparable to what it was pre-EFB emergence. As our industry continues to mature and our growers move into production, a big question in front of us is where are we going to sell our hazelnuts? Just as EFB decimated the orchards throughout the province, so too did it decimate the established supply chains and consumer awareness of locally grown BC hazelnuts. Our focus this past year has been to restore consumer awareness of locally grown BC hazelnuts in our local BC market, with the goal of increasing demand for them in BC. The association's significant cash reserves have put us in an excellent position to engage in various marketing strategies at a critical time when our industry is finally having a consistent product to sell. Here are a number of ways we executed on our goal:

- Hosted a booth in both the Pacific and Island AG shows
- Launched a marketing campaign with a social media marketing company that will run to the end of 2025
- Launched our consumer facing website bchazelnuts.ca
- Paid for new signage for our members to display near their orchards
- Applied for and received a grant from BuyBC to renew some of our marketing materials, as well as a marketing video
- Made merchandise available for sale from the association at cost

I also want to encourage our members to continue to be strong advocates for our industry. We can all do our part to increase demand for BC hazelnuts. We know they are best, let's let others know that too.

This past year we also supported our growers with our mainland and island field days, as well as a pruning workshop over winter. All three events were well attended and were a highlight for all involved.

As we look forward, our goal is much the same as this past year. We will continue to direct our efforts to marketing and consumer awareness. We know that our annual yields will continue to increase substantially over the next few years, and the best place for our product is in our local market. In that regard, we feel our financial resources are well spent in continued marketing efforts. We will also continue to support our growers with orchard management at our mainland and island field days as well as learning workshops during the year.

Moving into the role of president this past year, I have come to appreciate the strong community amongst our membership. Hazelnut farmers love sharing about what they are doing. What is going well and what challenges they are facing. They are eager to apply new learning and graciously don't hold it back from others. This is a strength of our industry and I hope to continue to encourage it and see our industry thrive through whatever challenges we will face in the years to come.

Thank you,

Charles Dick
President, BC Hazelnut Growers Association

Membership Report

2023/24

Membership to the BCHGA runs on an annual basis from the date of signup or renewal. Membership fees provide our baseline operating budget; members support us in supporting them. Our success depends upon your participation and support.

- In the 2023/24 fiscal year an online membership portal was created to automate the membership system
- In the 2023/24 fiscal year membership fees were set at \$100/year
- We have two types of members: Members In Good Standing and Members Not in Good Standing. Members Not in Good Standing cease to be members of the association after 12 consecutive months of outstanding dues.
- We have 48 Members In Good Standing (this is the highest membership recorded)
- We have 12 Members Not In Good Standing
- Our total membership is 60

BC HAZELNUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 TO OCTOBER 31, 2024

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 - BEGINNING CASH: \$ 94,266.45

FUNDS RECEIVED:

<i>BCHGA Memberships</i>	2,510.00	
<i>Event Fees</i>	230.00	
<i>Funding</i>	2,500.00	
<i>Field Day Sponsorship</i>	2,175.00	
<i>Knowledge Transfer Program</i>	-	
<i>Donations (Hats)</i>	625.00	
<i>Interest</i>	2,962.39	11,002.39

FUNDS PAID OUT:

<i>Ag Shows</i>	2,094.75	
<i>AGM & Field Day Expenses</i>	5,706.17	
<i>Signs</i>	1,052.80	
<i>BC Agriculture Council</i>	795.90	
<i>Research Trial</i>	3,875.00	
<i>Social Media Campaign</i>	7,875.00	
<i>Buy BC</i>	6,952.39	
<i>Advertising</i>	1,021.29	
<i>Insurance</i>	1,562.00	
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	684.30	
<i>Accounts Receivable</i>	453.60	
<i>Executive Director</i>	17,640.00	
<i>Freight</i>	123.20	
<i>Stripe Fees</i>	79.24	
<i>BCHGA Website</i>	2,641.99	(52,557.63)

ENDING CASH: **\$ 52,711.21**

SUMMARY OF BANK ACCOUNTS:

<i>Savings Cdn \$</i>	700.10	
<i>Chequing Cdn \$</i>	3,595.50	
<i>Equity Shares Cdn \$</i>	127.41	
<i>Savings US \$</i>	1,618.25	<i>Canadian Value</i>
<i>Term Deposit Cdn \$</i>	-	
<i>Term Deposit #2 Cdn \$</i>	46,669.95	
		\$ 52,711.21

BC HAZELNUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

	2023/2024
REVENUE	
Membership Income	
BCHGA Memberships	3,750.00
Levies	0.00
Total Membership Income	3,750.00
Interest & Other Income	
ACS Living Labs	2,500.00
KTT Funding	5,000.00
Buy BC Funding	5,000.00
Field Day Sponsorship	2,500.00
Interest	500.00
Total Interest & Other Income	15,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	19,250.00
EXPENSES	
General & Administrative Expenses	
Pacific Ag Show	1,350.00
Agri Fair/Island Ag Show	682.50
BCAC Dues	750.00
US Nut Growers Society	135.00
AGM/Field Day Expenses	6,000.00
Signs/advertising	7,150.00
Bank Service Charge	10.00
Bookkeeping	475.00
Wages	19,800.00
Insurance	800.00
Stripe Payment Processing	131.25
Miscellaneous	520.00
Website	485.00
Total General & Administrative Expenses	38,288.75
Research & Project Expenses	
ACS Living Labs	3,875.00
Other Research Opportunities	1,125.00
Total Research & Project Expenses	5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	43,288.75
NET INCOME	(24,038.75)

RESOLUTION #1 - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, the BC Hazelnut Growers Association recognizes the need to establish multiple membership types, including Full Members, Associate Members and Corporate Members, to better serve the diverse stakeholders in the hazelnut industry;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BC Hazelnut Growers Association hereby amends its Part 2 — Membership Bylaws as follows:

Part 2 — Membership

3. The members of the society are the applicants for incorporation of the society, and those persons who subsequently become members, in accordance with these bylaws, and, in either case, have not ceased to be members. The members of the society include Full Members, Associate Members, and Corporate Members (as hereinafter defined. Each of which shall have the rights and obligations attached to their respective class of membership. Unless otherwise specifically stated herein, the term "member" shall collectively refer to Full Members, Associate Members and Corporate Members of the society.
4. (1) Full Member: A person that grows hazelnuts or hazelnut trees on a commercial basis, either for that party's or parties' own use in processing hazelnuts or for sale to third parties, may apply to the directors for membership in the society as a Full Member. On payment of any dues set by the society, they are entitled to be Full Members and shall remain so unless they otherwise elect or cease to be Full Members pursuant to clause 9 of these bylaws.

(2) Associate Member: Any person or partnership of persons, corporation, or joint venture that is not a hazelnut grower nor a hazelnut tree grower but has a vested interest in the hazelnut industry of British Columbia by reason of their involvement with the industry, as determined by the directors, may apply to become an Associate Member. Upon payment of any dues set by the society, they become Associate Members and shall remain so unless they otherwise elect or cease to be Associate Members pursuant to clause 9 of these bylaws.

(3) Corporate Member: Any partnership of persons, corporation, or joint venture that grows hazelnuts or hazelnut trees on a commercial basis, either for that party's or parties' own use in processing hazelnuts or for sale to third parties may apply to become to the directors for membership in the society as a Corporate Member. Corporate Members are entitled to three (3) votes.
5. Full Members and Corporate Members shall have the right to stand for election as officers or directors, vote in any election for officers or directors, and vote on any

matters including money bylaws or budgets to be approved by the members of the society.

6. Associate Members shall enjoy all benefits of the society, except for those rights described in clause 5.
7. Every member, whether a Full Member, Associate Member or Corporate Member, must uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.
8. The amount of the first annual membership dues for Full Members, Associate Members and Corporate Members must be determined by the directors, and after that, the annual membership dues for Full Members, Associate Members and for Corporate Members must be determined at the annual general meeting of the society.
9. A person, whether a Full Member, Associate Member or a Corporate Member, ceases to be a member of the society:
 - a. by delivering their resignation in writing to the secretary of the society or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the society,
 - b. on their death, or, in the case of a corporation, on dissolution,
 - c. on being expelled,
 - d. on having been a member not in good standing with respect to payment of dues to the society for 12 consecutive months,
 - e. in the case of a Full Member or Corporate Member, on ceasing to be a hazelnut grower on a commercial basis, and
 - f. in the case of an Associate Member, on ceasing to have a vested interest in the hazelnut industry of British Columbia by reason of their involvement with that industry, as determined by the directors.
10. (1) A member, whether a Full Member, Associate Member or a Corporate Member, may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a general meeting.

(2) The notice of the special resolution for expulsion must be accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed expulsion.

(3) The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.
11. All members, whether Full Members, Associate Members or Corporate Members, are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay their current annual membership fee or any other subscription or debt due and owing by the member to the society, and the member is not in good standing as long as the debt remains unpaid.