



# TERMS OF REFERENCE WATER COMMITTEE

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**DIVISION:** COMMITTEES

**SUBSECTION:** WATER COMMITTEE

**APPROVED BY:** BCAC BOARD

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**REVISED:** MAY 4, 2022

## 1. BACKGROUND

The evolving impacts of climate change and legislation on water security for crop and livestock production is an increasing concern for farmers. A secure supply of safe water for agriculture is seen by BCAC and others as being critical for continued and successful production of B.C. agriculture products. The Water Sustainability Act and Regulations continue to be implemented in B.C. The Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper was released in January 2022. These, and other water management initiatives by government, require coordinated agriculture industry input.

## 2. PURPOSE, SCOPE & TERM

The Water Committee will facilitate industry input directed to relevant stakeholders. The BCAC Board has directed the Water Committee to engage in the following:

The Committee will:

- 1) Seek ways to improve implementation of, or amend, the Water Sustainability Act and Regulations (groundwater licensing, priority water use for livestock and food production equipment, dugout licencing, etc.) and provide recommendations to the BCAC Board for specific issues that need to be raised with the respective Ministers.
- 2) Provide input into development of livestock watering regulations.
- 3) Pursue development of agricultural water reserves as per details on water reservation in the Water Sustainability Act.
- 4) Promote Group EFPs in water supply priority areas.
- 5) Review existing Water Use Plans and determine if they result in detrimental impacts to agriculture.
- 6) Ensure that agriculture needs are considered, and the industry is involved as a stakeholder in the development of new Water Use Plans.
- 7) Pursue government funding for multi-year, regional water projects including enhanced water storage to support agricultural water priorities.
- 8) Encourage linking access to water with access to crown land, possibly proportional to forage production capacity (AUM's).
- 9) Resolve issues around groundwater licensing and surface water rights.
- 10) Promote updating streamflow assessments for decision support.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee will be reviewed annually by BCAC Board of Directors.

### 3. AUTHORITY

This is an operational committee formed by and accountable to the BCAC Board of Directors.

### 4. MEMBERSHIP

Committee members will be appointed by the BCAC Board of Directors with input from BCAC members. Membership will attempt to reflect the diversity of BCAC membership, while limiting the overall size of the Committee. Membership will target members most impacted by the subject of the Committee and will consist of producers. Board representation on the Committee will include at least one but no more than two BCAC Board members.

The Committee will initially be comprised of representatives from any interested member groups. To ensure the effectiveness of the Committee, it should not have less than five members and have no more than ten members.

The BCAC President or designate from the Board will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Additional participants may be invited to participate in meetings by the Chair or on the Committee by the BCAC Board of Directors as deemed appropriate.

### 5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMITMENT

Committee members commit to:

- Making all reasonable efforts to attend meetings and conference calls as scheduled by the Chair,
- Attend at least 50% of meetings in a 12-month period and be adequately prepared to participate,
- Reviewing discussion materials in advance of meetings,
- Submitting all travel claims to the Committee secretariat within 30 days of the meeting,
- Being familiar with and adhering to the **BCAC Code of Conduct for Directors, Committee Members, and Staff**,
- Abiding by the decision of the majority.

### 6. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

#### 1) Perspective

- Committee members are expected to bring the perspective of their representative organization, or sector, to discussions.
- Decisions should be made in the spirit of supporting the short and long-term sustainability of B.C. farmers and ranchers.

#### 2) Meetings

- Annual: in-person or conference call meetings depending on the location of Committee members and meeting agenda.
- Additional meetings: as required and at the discretion of the Chair.
- In-person meetings with expenses require pre-approval by the BCAC Executive Director.

#### 3) Committee Chair

- Will be appointed by BCAC Board of Directors, and the Chair will be reaffirmed annually.
- Is responsible for calling and chairing meetings.

- Will work with the BCAC Policy Director to:
  - Set agendas,
  - Ensure materials are prepared and distributed, and
  - Report to the BCAC Board.

#### 4) Secretariat

- BCAC staff will provide secretariat services for the Committee.
- Meeting notes will be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Committee for review and approval.

#### 5) Decision Making

- If possible, decisions will be made on a consensus basis. Where votes are required, each member will have one vote. A simple majority is needed for a vote to pass.
- Quorum for a meeting will be 2/3 of the members.

#### 6) Communication

- Primary communications with BCAC Board and member organizations will be through BCAC staff (the secretariat).
- Committee members are expected to consult with their industry groups to ensure that the interests of all parts of the agri-food system are considered during Committee discussions.

### 7. RENUMERATION & EXPENSES

No per diems will be paid by BCAC for committee members.

Costs of attending meetings will be reimbursed to members in accordance with the BCAC Expense Policies.