

BRITISH COLUMBIA PLANT PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (BCPPAC)

1.0 BACKGROUND

The concept of a Plant Protection Advisory Council in British Columbia originated at a meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society held in Vancouver in 1972. The initial step toward the formation of this body was taken in March 1973 at a meeting attended by personnel from Agriculture Canada (Research and Plant Protection Divisions), Canadian Forest Service, BC Forest Service and BC Department of Agriculture. The areas of concern during this meeting were plant quarantine, pest surveys, eradication measures and periodical reviews of regulations governing the movement of plant material.

Thereafter the newly-formed Council operated very much on an *ad hoc* basis as the need arose. The purpose of meetings was to clarify the positions of provincial and federal agencies involved with particular pest problems and to foster communication between those agencies and members of agricultural or forestry industries that were or would be affected by changes in either legislation, quarantines, or other practices of agencies. Technical committees were formed to address specific pest concerns such as gypsy moth and pear trellis rust. Committee meetings were held often on short notice to respond to immediate needs.

The Council initially held one annual general meeting. Reports of the activities and major recommendations of committees were submitted. These meetings allowed communication between persons in research, extension and regulatory agencies, industry organizations and academic institutions.

In the 1980's, the technical committees were strengthened as their leadership role for the management of specific issues was recognized and developed. The committees were comprised of representatives from agencies, organizations and institutions with technical expertise relevant to the situation. In most cases, recommendations were arrived at by consensus of committee members. Action plans formulated by the committees were carried out in a co-operative manner by the respective member agencies and organizations. General Council meetings were held in the spring and fall.

To facilitate the coordination of inter-agency response to plant pest emergencies, the Critical Plant Pest Management Committee (CPPMC)¹ was formed in 2009. The CPPMC is a committee of senior officials from provincial and federal government agencies, established to deal with issues of Critical Plant Pests² and to establish a Critical Plant Pest Response Plan for British Columbia in keeping with the legislative mandates of the participants.¹ In late 2009, the following Terms of Reference for BCPPAC were revised in order to describe the complementary roles of BCPPAC and CPPMC.

2.0 MISSION

To provide a forum to address plant health and plant quarantine issues of concern to British Columbia.

3.0 BC PLANT PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

3.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To assess actual or potential hazards to British Columbia agriculture and forestry from insects, plant diseases, weeds, or other biotic agents by providing a broad provincial forum for discussion of such issues. To establish technical committees, as needed, to investigate specific pests of concern to agriculture or forestry.

¹ CPPMC Memorandum of Understanding

² Defined in Appendix 2 of CPPMC Memorandum of Understanding

2. To work collaboratively with the CPPMC to deal with critical plant pest issues in British Columbia.
3. To study and evaluate contingency procedures for non-indigenous pests that may be introduced or become established in British Columbia. Through these activities, and via the initiation of Technical Advisory Committees (TAC), BCPPAC will advise member agencies and the CPPMC in their development of a Critical Plant Pest Response Plan.
4. To recommend actions to member agencies, municipalities, industry organizations and the CPPMC when pests of concern to the BCPPAC appear, and will indicate when remedial procedures taken by those agencies or organizations are deemed inadequate or result in unforeseen problems.
5. To advise and counsel federal and provincial agencies and the CPPMC in the preparation of news releases, legislation, or policies on pests in British Columbia. The release of information to the public is at the discretion of member agencies.
6. To review reports submitted by members from attendance at meetings relevant to the concerns of BCPPAC. For example, but not limited to: North American Plant Protection Organization, Western Plant Board and National Plant Protection Advisory Committee.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP

The number and composition of voting members will vary depending upon the issue before the Council. If necessary, voting members on each issue and the agency or organization they represent will be identified by the Chair. Voting members who abstain from voting for any reason may request that their abstention be identified in the minutes.

3.2.1 Government Agencies

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Canadian Forest Service
- Health Canada

3.2.2 Industry Organizations

- Agriculture industry organizations including but not limited to: BC Fruit Growers' Association, BC Grape Growers' Association, BC Landscape & Nursery Association, BC Greenhouse Growers Association
- Forest industry organizations including but not limited to: Canada Wood

3.2.3 Academic Institutions

Academic institutions provide scientific advice to the Council and its technical committees, as required. They

include but are not limited to the following:

- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Simon Fraser University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria

3.2.4 Regional Governments

- Regional Governments including but not limited to: Vancouver Parks, City of Victoria

3.3 GOVERNANCE

To elect a Chair from a member agency or industry organization who will hold office for a two year period. The Chair will also function as such for the Executive Committee. The Chair will appoint a Secretary to serve both the Council and the Executive Committee.

4.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is composed of one representative of each of the five government agencies, one representative from an agriculture industry organization and one representative from a forest industry organization. The Chair and Secretary shall be members of the Executive Committee.

4.1 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE

1. To determine the direction and coordination of activities on behalf of the Council.
2. To maintain communication among member agencies and organizations, and academic institutions as to the actions or recommendations of the Council.
3. To appoint committee chairs as required to address issues before the Council.
4. To hold at least two executive committee meetings per year.
5. To report to the Council on the operation and progress of committee assignments and other matters before the Executive

4.2 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

1. To maintain a current membership list.
2. To prepare an agenda for general Council meetings and notify members of upcoming Council meetings.
3. To prepare minutes of both Council and Executive Committee meetings and circulate minutes to all participants and others as deemed appropriate by the Chair.

5.0 COMMITTEES

Technical committees are advisory in nature but may become action committees under certain conditions as directed by the Executive Committee and authorized by agencies or organizations involved.

5.1 DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

1. Committee chairs shall invite committee members with the approval of the Executive to carry out the purposes of the committee.
2. Where a committee becomes an action committee or appoints an action group, the committee chair shall maintain close liaison with the activity and provide progress reports to the Executive on a regular basis.
3. Committee chairs shall provide a summary of topics discussed, recommendations, plans or other consequences of meetings along with a list of participants to committee members and to the Council chair. Notice of any action or recommended action is to be brought before the Executive Committee and should be consistent with the mandate of the agencies involved.
4. Committees will assess the severity of potential or actual pest impact, recommend a plan of action to member agencies and perform other advisory duties as requested by the Executive.
5. The Council chair may disband a committee when its original purpose no longer exists.

6.0 MEETINGS

To hold two general meetings per year, in January and June. Specific dates and locations are established at the prior meeting and announced to the general membership of the Council and the CPPMC by one month after the prior meeting.

7.0 FUNDING

Expenses incurred by any voting members or other participants in BCPPAC activities will be the responsibility of the agencies, organizations or institutions they represent. The Council has no budget or source of funds.

8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

While all members agree to promote the common interests of BCPPAC as members of the Council, the Executive and technical committees, they are responsible for ensuring that their actions are consistent with the mandates of their respective agencies or organizations.

Dated: 27 May 2010