

BIONews

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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As our President, like many of you, is in the field at this time of the year, it is a pleasure to provide this report for BioNews. Last year, I compared the early summer as the end of the Legislative 'field season' for and a time to review the successes and failures for the passing of the *Biologists Act*. At our Annual General Meeting, Bruce Morgan gave a presentation on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks on the administrative process needed to have the *Act* introduced into the Legislature. Much work has been done to make the *Act* "House" ready, with the many of the technical aspects nearing completion. A round of consultative sessions with affected groups will take place over the next few months to round off these administrative aspects of the *Act*.

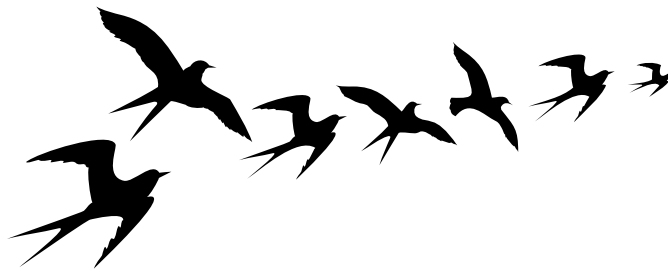
The other key requirement is the "political" endorsement to ensure the *Act* gets introduced and passes once it reaches the House. As you will read in this issue of BioNews, there appears to be support from both the NDP and the Liberals, as the *Act* was introduced by the Opposition, and supported by the Government. However, we feel like an athlete, who after countless hours and years of training, practices and honing their skills finally gets the tap on the shoulder from the coach to step out onto the field, only to have the buzzer sound to end the game. Who knows which Coach will be there at the start of the next game, but it is good to know that we are "game ready", and have support on both sides. By being allowed to step out onto the field, it should be easier to be in the next game. But being close does not give you the game winning ring. Be assured, by having a small taste of success makes the motivation to win it next time even stronger. Thanks Linda for being our 'personal trainer' and 'agent' in getting us this far. To the rest of you, have a good field season.

Mel Kotyk, RPBio.



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THE BIOLOGISTS ACT

So close and yet so far...

The *Biologists Act* was introduced in the legislature by Murray Coell, Liberal Environment Critic, and given first reading on July 6, 2000. The *Act* itself is the same one as has been displayed on our web site (<http://www.apbbc.bc.ca>) for some time, and includes the more narrow definition of practice that was requested by the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. The definition narrows the focus of the act to the resource sector, and still contains the proviso that it does not pertain to other practitioners who are members of professional associations. As it is presently configured, the *Biologists Act* establishes a management framework for the practice of professional biology in British Columbia that will ensure that information and advice on species populations, habitats, and ecosystems is provided by qualified individuals who are accountable to their peers and to the public of BC. In introducing the *Act*, Mr. Coell made it very clear that this was being introduced as a show of support by the Liberals for this initiative, and to call for the start of the consultation process.

Unfortunately, because the house was adjourned later that day, the *Act* dies on the table and we will have to start again.

It is my hope that this will show everyone who has worked on this *Act* that their contributions are respected and have helped to produce an *Act* that appears to have the support of both parties – something that has not happened very often in the last few years. If we truly have the political support of both sides of the house, we should be in a strong position to be able to bring this forward in the next session.

Linda Michaluk, RPBio.
Executive Director

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MAY 3, 2000 – DUNSMUIR LODGE – NORTH SAANICH, BC

Present: Chris Clement (Chair), Rick Crozier, Mark Fraker, Lindsay Jones, Maureen Ketcheson, Mel Kotyk, Carol Lamont, Andy MacKinnon, Don McLennan, Linda Stordeur, Bill Schouwenburg, Linda Michaluk

Discussions at the May meeting focused on the *Regulatory Impact Statement Background Report, Proposed Biologists Act* as completed by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. **Bruce Morgan** reviewed the report with the Board. Following lengthy deliberations, the Board endorsed the report with certain amendments. Bruce will now take the next steps in developing the legislative proposal, which will involve focus testing/consultation and eventual recommendations by the Deputies Committee to Caucus Committee.

The Nominating Committee reported that the successful candidates for election to the 2000–2001 Board of Directors are **Ed Britton, Joyce Boon, Chris Clement, Mel Kotyk and Carol Lamont.**

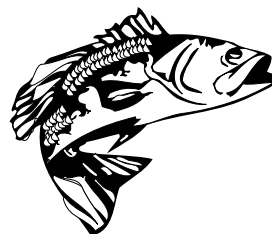
After serving many years as Chair of the Board of Examiners, **Bill Schouwenburg** advised his intention to step down in Spring 2001. The recommendation was made to advertise the position in BioNEWS.

Following in camera discussion, the Board directed the Ethics committee to undertake a review of the *APBBC Code of Ethics* to determine whether a member employed by the BC public service could be in contravention of the *Code of Ethics* by following government policy regarding professionals commenting publicly on government policy/actions.

The Board also agreed to send a letter to the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks offering assistance in developing an appropriate policy regarding disagreement by professionals in public service with government policy/actions.

Next meeting of the Board will be held June 29, APB offices, Victoria.

Lindsay Jones, RPBio.



PAPERS AND POLICY

In response to a number of inquiries from our members on a paper produced by a government employee regarding a particular ministry policy, the APBBC has offered to assist the government in the development of a policy that would provide all BC Government Professional Biologists, and possibly other professionals, with a clear process for peer review of controversial scientific studies or reports. The APBBC accepts the need for an employer to set rules of conduct as regards the publication of professional opinion and the Association also respects that debate within the scientific community, while distressing to some, is essential to ensure that ideas are well developed and options explored.

The APBBC is of the view that it is in the interest of the profession and employers to have a well defined process to provide for peer review of controversial technical papers and reports. There are examples in other government jurisdictions (i.e., Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and US Fish and Wildlife Service) of standing peer review committees (in some cases augmented by external experts when required) that are in place to review controversial technical papers and to make recommendations on their public release.

In the interim, the APBBC Ethics Committee will be undertaking a review of government policy pertaining to professionals commenting publicly on government policy/actions and the APBBC *Code of Ethics* to determine whether an APBBC member could be in a contravention of the *Code of Ethics* by following government policy.

The results of both initiatives will be printed in an upcoming issue of BioNEWS.

Linda Michaluk, RPBio.
Executive Director

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I would like to correct some information in your March, 2000 (Vol. 10, No. 1) BioNews. In the reported recent Angus Reid poll a significant majority of British Columbians – 64 percent – believe professional foresters are doing a good job managing BC’s forest resources.

I would appreciate it if you could run a correction in your next issue.

Dwight Yochim, RPF
Manager, Forestry and Communications

Hello,

After reading the last BioNews a few thoughts crossed my mind...

I was glad to see the article “Focus on Continuing Education” as well as the information North West Field School.

A few thoughts on this (feel free to pass on to the appropriate people):

- strongly support the idea of APBBC promoting biologists to do “professional development.” Many other professionals spend thousands of dollars a year on it and simply feel its the cost of doing business.
- recognize that biology does not have a formal approach to this whereas other professions have programs specifically for them that grant certificates which result in higher wages (a great motivating factor). As biology is not set up in this way (yet?) and as most of us will never get rich as a biologist, I think the APBBC must be careful in setting up any ‘rules’ governing what qualifies as con’t education.
- with the above in mind, I would first like to see a ‘suggested guidelines for professional development’ to ease in this idea before any mandatory reporting

begins. Lets encourage RPBios to do this (or continue to), and then maybe set guidelines in a year or two to see if biologists are taking it upon themselves to do professional development. I do agree that some sort of ‘monitoring’ probably needs to be put in place in order to ensure RPBio credentials are being maintained.

- I am hoping that all of the following would be included in “continuing education”
- working in the field (what better education could one get?)
- formal (university etc.) and informal courses
- self-study
- volunteering
- etc.
- My only other concern is what about those people who become parents and so stop working or only do minimal contracts for a few years? Obviously professional development at this stage of life will be at a minimum, and I do not think a RPBio status should be threatened because of a break in work/training.

Leah Westereng
RPBio.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

1. Included with this newsletter is a copy of the updated *Code of Ethics – Part 3* of the Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the membership in a Resolution ballot. **Please replace the current pages with these new pages.**
2. **Section 12** also amended by Resolution ballot should now read:
Registered or enrolled members of the Association who wish to withdraw temporarily from the Association must make written application to the Registrar giving reasons satisfactory to the Registrar. The annual fee during a period of withdrawal will be equivalent to a Biologist In Training. Notification of temporary withdrawal from the Association must be accepted by the Registrar before becoming effective. Within five years (5) from the initial withdrawal, any member in good standing will be reinstated upon written application to the Registrar and payment of a reinstatement fee fixed by the Directors.

CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

With the year 2000 came the need to redo the APBBC membership database. While this project was not without its headaches, the final result has afforded some flexibility that was previously not available. Over the next while, we will be canvassing members to see which format they would like to receive BioNEWS and other official communiqués from the APBBC in – electronic only, print only, or both. One of the things that has become apparent in transferring the information from the old membership database program to the new one is that many members have not provided a proper email address. If you are considering receiving your information electronically, please ensure that the office has your correct email address. Your address can be emailed to the APBBC office at apbbc@apbbc.bc.ca. You might take this opportunity to check your membership directory to see what other information needs to be updated.

APBBC OFFICIAL PIN

In recognition of the twentieth anniversary of the APBBC, all members will receive an official APBBC lapel pin. Those members who have performed a service for the Association, such as serving on the Board of Directors, or who have been members in good standing for twenty years, will receive a gold coloured pin. All other members will receive a pin which is gold and blue. These pins, unlike the mugs, will not be made available to non-members. Please wear your pin proudly to show your membership in and support of the practice of biology in a professional and accountable manner.

KOOTENAY REGION APB MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2000

The APB is holding a Regional Meeting in Nelson, Saturday October 21, 2000. The theme of this meeting is “Green Certification and the Role of the Professional Biologist in British Columbia.” This should prove to be an interesting day of presentations and discussion. For more information contact Maureen Ketcheson, 354-4913.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Association wishes to welcome and congratulate the following new members:

Newly Registered Professional Biologists

James W. Cuell	RPBio. 1249	Duncan Hendricks	RPBio. 1260	Allan Edie	RPBio. 1272
Kathryn Campbell	RPBio. 1250	Markko Kostamo	RPBio. 1261	Darren W. Hebert	RPBio. 1273
Samantha Flynn	RPBio. 1251	Margaret Mcdougall	RPBio. 1262	Bevin Wigmore	RPBio. 1274
Donald Gamble	RPBio. 1252	James Moore	RPBio. 1263		
Kenneth Brooks	RPBio. 1253	Christopher Teichreb	RPBio. 1264	Biologists In Training	
Margaret Birch	RPBio. 1254	Jean Pierre Thonney	RPBio. 1265	Lynn Campbell	Rod Shead
Richard Bussanich	RPBio. 1255	Nancy Elliott	RPBio. 1266	Elaine Fisher	Jacqueline
Robert Redden	RPBio. 1256	Justus Benckhuysen	RPBio. 1267	David Hayward	Sorenson
Patrick Williston	RPBio. 1257	Pier Van Dishoek	RPBio. 1268	Susan Nikoluk	John Van Berkel
Tania Tripp	RPBio. 1258	Craig Mistal	RPBio. 1269	Donald Reid	Chad Unser
Shawn Burke	RPBio. 1259	Bruce Thompson	RPBio. 1271	Janet Rygnestad-	
				Stahl	

RIC UPDATE

Please note the following article which appeared in the RIC's FAST FAX FACTS issue #36. If you have information to contribute, please do so without delay.

Time To Assess Compliance With Ric Standards

“At this point, with over 100 inventory standards developed and approved, supported by 25 training programs, and with change management procedures in place, it is appropriate for RIC and the custodians to quantify the degree of compliance with these standards across the province,” said RIC co-chair Dave Gilbert (dave.gilbert@gems9.gov.bc.ca, 250-387-6722) at the June meeting.

Anecdotal evidence presented at the meeting suggests RIC-approved standards are rigorously followed for some inventory types, while adherence is decidedly less for other types of data gathering and reporting. Members stressed that data quality is necessary in all instances because of integration of data.

Custodians will gather information over the summer to identify specific issues with specific standards. In September RIC will review the information and select the appropriate course of action for each standard from the following list:

- change the standards where required;
- create a toolbox of options within a standard to provide flexibility to meet business needs;
- improve the education and training; and
- improve contract enforcement of the standard.

Members of the inventory community across the province are encouraged to present information, suggestions, and concerns to the appropriate inventory custodians within ministries this summer.

Linda Michaluk, RPBio.
Executive Director

FUND RAISER FOR STEPHEN WOODS

Stephen Woods, the son of long-time APB member Guy Woods, was paralysed in a skiing accident early this year. Friends of the family recently held a fund raiser which contributed substantially to equipment and modifications necessary to the Wood's house. Stephen hopes to return to Nelson and complete grade 12 this year.

The APB contributed a print and two books to the silent auction held in conjunction with a dance in Nelson on June 10th. Many thanks to APB members who contributed to the fund raising effort!! We wish the best for Guy and his family!!

SALARY SURVEY

At the Annual General Meeting a salary survey was handed out to each attendee. This survey was initiated in response to questions from new members, especially those just entering the work force. Twenty-four surveys were returned and the following is a summary of the results.

1. Daily Rates¹

Below is a summary table which broke down daily rates by category. There were only 5 female respondents so caution should be used when interpreting the results by gender.

Education	Mean	Highest	Lowest
B.Sc.	222	265	159
M.Sc.	286	612	175
Ph.D.	362	525	210
Gender			
Female	203	265	159
Male	307	612	175
Combined	285	612	159
Employer			
Government	209	273	159
Industry	217	217	217
Private company	339	612	182
Self-employed	406	578	227
Level of Experience			
0-5	178	197	159
6-10			
11-15	266	182	350
16-20	220	280	175
> 20	332	612	175

¹ Seven-hour day

2. Finding Work

In addition information was collected on finding work. The table below illustrates the results.

How Do The Respondents Find Work²

Source	Percent
They call me	50.0
Word of mouth	45.8
Advertisements	29.2
Other	20.8
Web sites	12.5
Marketing	8.4
Proposals	4.2
Footwork	4.2

² There may have been more than one response per survey.

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20TH ANNIVERSARY AGM

The Association of Professional Biologists of BC's 20th anniversary and year 2000 Annual General Meeting was held Thursday May 4 at Dunsmuir Lodge in Sidney BC. The theme for our 2000 AGM was "Conservation and recreation: incompatible goals for protected areas?" Speakers included representatives from Federal, Provincial Parks and Regional Parks, as well as representatives from Parks Legacy Projects, Marine protected areas, environmental non-government organizations and University of Victoria. Summaries of speakers presentations will be published in Bioline later this year.

A field tour was held on Friday May 5th, lead by Regional Parks personnel where issues of conservation versus recreation were illustrated and discussed.

The meeting was attended by about 70 members.

BIONews NEWSLETTER

BIONews has a new look. Design and production of our newsletter has been passed into the capable hands at TM Communications who will be preparing future issues as a service to APBBC.

Special thanks to our office coordinator, Pat McLellan for pulling together each of the past issues.

TM COMMUNICATIONS has provided communication services for the natural sciences for more than 13 years and appreciates the business and ongoing relationships with many APBBC members. We are pleased to provide this service to the association.

Tim Mock
President



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