



Canadian Forum for Biological Control

Forum Canadien pour la Lutte Biologique

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Canadian Forum for Biological Control Sunday, June 13, 2004

The Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel
101 Lyon St. Ottawa, Ontario

- 1) **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 12.30 pm., with approximately 46 members present.
- 2) **President's Report.** The President's report (see Appendix I) was presented by Rose De Clerck-Floate. *Moved:* Odile Carisse. *Seconded:* Jean-Louis Schwartz
- 3) **Minutes from Last Year.** The minutes of the 2003 AGM were presented to members. *Moved:* Sue Boyetchko. *Seconded:* Jean-Louis Schwartz
- 4) **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer's report (see Appendix II) was presented by Rose De Clerck-Floate for Bruce Broadbent. *Moved:* Martin Erlandson. *Seconded:* Gary Peng.
- 5) **Update on the Biocontrol Network.** Jean-Louis Schwartz updated the meeting on the Biocontrol Network. He began with some background on its formation, funding and objectives. He then provided details of two regional meetings held over the past year, one in Trois-Rivières, Quebec (attended by 90 people) and one in Windsor, Ontario attended by 120. The next regional meeting is planned for September in either Saskatchewan or Alberta. The Windsor meeting also provided the venue for the Network's first summer school, attended by 45 students; and the AGM. The next AGM for the Biocontrol Network will be in November, 2005, in Victoria, BC, held in conjunction with the International Pacific Rim Conference on *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

There is a major biocontrol meeting planned for Quebec in early May 2005. This meeting celebrates the 50th anniversary of the International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC) and is a joint meeting between the global body and the Nearctic Regional Section (NRS - North American section). The Biocontrol Network will be actively involved and plans to hold its second summer school to coincide with the meeting. The summer school will be open to the whole community (not just those who are part of the Network), and will focus on horizontal and vertical interactions in biocontrol.

The Network's website (www.biocontrol.ca) has been improved and is now easier to find and use. It includes an open discussion forum to allow greater interaction between members. The Network would like to invite CFBC to join this forum.

The issue was also raised that the Network is getting interested in the Canadian public's acceptance (or otherwise) of biological control. As such, it is planning to put together a study on the public perception of biocontrol in Canada. A questionnaire is currently being developed for a survey to take place in the next 3-4 months.

- 6) **Draft OECD Guidelines on Regulation of Biocontrol Agents.** Peter Mason presented a brief update (see Appendix III) on the issue of regulation/registration of biocontrol agents by PMRA that was discussed in detail at last year's AGM. The discussion at that time resulted in the establishment of a subcommittee to draft a CFBC position paper on the issue.
- 7) **CFBC Website.** Martin Erlandson provided an update on the progress of the CFBC website. An offer by the Biocontrol Network to host the site (through a link on its home page) was accepted. Although the CFBC is grateful to the Network for hosting its site, it is felt that we should investigate some alternative arrangements for the long term; perhaps using the Network's server, but without being so closely linked. Jean-Louis Schwartz offered to investigate with their webmaster, the possibility of the CFBC getting their own URL and what that would cost.

There was a suggestion made as to whether the presentations from this year's symposium could be posted on the web site. It was agreed that speakers would be asked for permission to post their Powerpoint presentations.

- 8) **New Executive.** A new Vice-President is needed. A call will be posted for nominations, and if necessary an election will be held. An interim Secretary is needed for the next year with Kevin Floate being in Australia for that time. Graeme Murphy agreed to fill in as a very temporary secretary.
- 9) **2005 Meeting.** A number of suggestions were made concerning the venue for the next meeting and future meetings.
 - Alternating between the C. Ent. Soc. and CPS meetings to maintain interest from both entomologists and pathologists
 - Alternating between east and west, with the western meeting coinciding with the Western Forum on Pest Management
 - Having the next meeting in conjunction with the Biocontrol Network meeting in Victoria in Nov., 2005
 - A stand alone meeting? The point was made that for AAFC members, it would be hard to get everyone there.

It was decided that the Executive would make a decision based on the above ideas.

- 10) **Adjournment.** *Moved:* Odile Carisse *Seconded:* Sue Boyetchko

Appendix I

CFBC President's Report for 2004:

Delivered in Ottawa, June 13, 2004, at the 12th Annual meeting of the Canadian Forum for Biological Control.

Although we have not come a full year since our last annual symposium and general meeting (i.e., October 30, 2003 in Kelowna, BC), I am pleased to say that our Executive and Board have been busy with CFBC activities. Not least among them, was organization of today's symposium on "Efficacy and implementation of biological control agents" by our Past-president, Sue Boyetchko and President-elect, Odile Carisse, and meeting arrangements by Treasurer, Bruce Broadbent.

We have held many previous CFBC meetings in conjunction with annual meetings of the Entomological Society of Canada. This year, however, the Executive decided that it was time to tie in with a pathology meeting to attract and recruit more members from the pathology sphere of biocontrol research and interests. Welcome pathologists! I sincerely hope that the new members enlisted today will remain with our society. Let us know what can be done to keep you interested and interacting within the CFBC on biocontrol issues of relevance to your work.

Over the past few years, the CFBC has made steady progress in broadening membership across fields of study and beyond an initial base of AAFC researchers (e.g., university, provincial and industry). We currently have 85 members listed, 55 of which have paid their dues within the last 3 years. Last year's meeting brought in 49 registrants (both new and renewed memberships); an awesome turn out from a truly broad spectrum of groups and interests including federal and university researchers, provincial field workers involved in biocontrol implementation, industry, biocontrol agent producers, federal regulators and research managers. The post-symposium discussion on the barriers and challenges in the delivery and implementation of biocontrol within IPM systems was lively and engaging. It also produced unanticipated, cross-disciplinary collaborations in biocontrol research. In a story recently related to our Executive by one of the Symposium speakers, Jennifer Otani (AAFC Entomologist, Beaverlodge, AB), her presentation on the need for weed control in turf crops in the Peace River area of Alberta, and the ensuing group discussion, put her in touch with a plant pathologist in the audience (Karen Bailey) and a provincial weed biocontrol entomologist, (Alec McClay) who publicly offered their help with pathogen and insect agents. The resultant collaboration then spun off another collaborative project between Karen and a member of the logging industry from the Peace area interested in the use of biocontrol in tree seedling production.

This is a beautiful example of how the CFBC is meeting its original objectives as set out in our By-laws of 1994, of studying, advancing and promoting biological control in Canada. It also illustrates the relevance and importance of a society with an independent voice on biocontrol issues, whose members share a common interest in biocontrol development and delivery in this country. We need to strive to keep our society as open in membership and interests as possible, and to encourage cross-group and cross-disciplinary interactions at our meetings. In this way, we can continue to communicate biocontrol results and needs, generate important discussion and avenues for research, and facilitate the process of getting biocontrol from the bench to the field.

As we enter the 12th year of our existence as the CFBC, and as biocontrol gains attention and support in Canada, we continue to define and differentiate ourselves and our role in biocontrol. One of last year's action items for the Executive was to prepare a renewed mandate that clarifies the distinction between the CFBC and similar organizations. As mentioned, I feel that we have been holding true to our original objectives of "study, advancement and promotion of biocontrol in Canada". However, I suggest the addition of facilitation and advocacy of biocontrol to this list. With our membership's expertise, and connections between research and regulation, we have facilitated and offered advice in the development of regulations that aid, not hinder, biocontrol in Canada. Last year, the CFBC passed motions to endorse continued regulation of arthropod biocontrol agents by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (i.e., versus the Pest Management Regulatory Agency), and to strike a subcommittee, chaired by Peter Mason (AAFC, ECORC, Ottawa), to develop a position paper with other partners with regard to the concerns over draft OECD Guidelines for Regulation of Invertebrates as Biological Control Agents. Peter Mason has provided a report on this activity, which has been initiated. The Association of Natural Biocontrol Producers is one of the partners that has been added to the sub-committee, and with much to gain through CFBC's advocacy on this issue.

(Note: At this stage, we welcome open membership discussion and debate on the issue of the CFBC's mandate, and will post a draft mandate on our new website for feedback).

Another way in which we can fulfill our mandate and gain broader and sustained membership is through better communication within and beyond our society. Toward this goal, we have initiated a website. Thanks to the efforts of Martin Erlandson (AAFC, Saskatoon), basic information on the CFBC will be available on our site. I think it will be important now to make sure we have a webmaster appointed to further develop and maintain the site, including the posting of news and research information to help biocontrol advancement in Canada.

Before handing the duty of President to Odile Carisse, I want to thank a terrific Executive and Board for their enthusiasm and dedication. I really believe our society has much to offer, mainly due to the passion of the people who study and implement biocontrol in this country.

Rosemarie De Clerck-Floate
President, CFBC (2003-2004)

Appendix II

CANADIAN FORUM FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Financial Statement for October 30, 2003 - June 13, 2004

[AGM, Kelowna] [AGM, Ottawa]

	Income	Expenditures	Balance
Income and Expenditures			
Balance carried forward Oct.30, 2003			2566.02
Membership (48) dues (@\$15) for 2003-04	720.00		
AGM Kelowna expenses [Room \$223.16, 2 coffee breaks \$265.49]		488.65	
Industry Canada Filing fee 2004 [June 1/04]		30.00	
Totals	720.00	518.65	2767.37
	Assets	Liabilities	Net Worth
Assets and Liabilities at June 13, 2004			
Current assets			
Bank balance at Bank of Montreal, London [<i>no fee "community" chequing account</i>] with interest included	2768.17		
Interest earned [Nov. 2003 - June 04]	[0.80]		
Current liabilities		0	
Net Worth			2768.17

NB: Membership dues (@ \$15/person) for 2004-05 not yet included.

Projected expenses for 2004 Ottawa Meeting not yet included: Coffee break and lunch = \$474.86 and no room charge thanks to CPS Meeting

Respectfully submitted on June 13, 2004
by Bruce Broadbent, Treasurer, CFBC

Appendix III

Oversight of Regulation of Biological Control Agents Ad Hoc Committee Report to Canadian Forum for Biological Control June 13, 2004

Background:

Since 1992, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), formerly the Pesticides Directorate of Agriculture Canada, has stated its intention to regulate all organisms used for biological control of pests. In 2002, a new Pest Control Products Act, Bill C-8 (PCPA) was passed in Canada. The new PCPA uses a broad definition of a pest control product, any “product, device, organism, substance or thing that is manufactured, represented, sold or used as a means for directly or indirectly controlling, preventing, destroying, mitigating, attracting or repelling a pest”. Because of this definition all biological control agents will potentially be regulated under the new PCPA by the PMRA. In addition, the PMRA led an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) initiative to develop guidelines for regulating invertebrate biological control agents. The ‘guidelines’ were approved by OECD in 2003 and it was suggested by PMRA that these ‘guidelines’ will be used by PMRA to evaluate in its oversight. The biological control community, both private and public, has expressed concern about the impact of the actions by PMRA on biological control using invertebrates.

Issue:

The concern within the biological control community stems from: 1) a lack of consultation with the Canadian Biological Control community by the PMRA; 2) arthropod biological control agents are already being regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the Plant Protection Act (PPA), the evaluation system in place (Biological Control Review Committee) is functioning well and regulatory requirements & oversight are parallel with that in the US and Mexico; 3) that guidelines developed by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) will be ignored and less realistic assessment criteria will be used such as those outlined in the OECD “Guidance for Regulation of Invertebrates as Biological Control Agents (IBCAs)”; and 4) the assessment, registration and regulation of arthropod biological control agents requires highly specialized knowledge for each crop system, pest, non-target group and agent. This expertise is not available within PMRA.

Action:

At the 2003 annual meeting it was determined that the CFBC should develop a position paper on regulatory oversight of arthropod biocontrol agents. The position paper will include recommendations to advise the PMRA and the CFIA about preferred regulatory procedures that will ensure proper regulatory oversight without impeding use of invertebrate biological control agents in pest management. P. Mason was tasked with setting up an ad hoc sub-committee to pursue this action.

Progress:

- 1) The ad hoc committee is being put together. So far, the Association of Natural Biocontrol Producers (ANBP) and several public biocontrol scientists have agreed to participate in developing the recommendations.
- 2) The CFIA has been asked to define their policy on regulation of biological control agents.