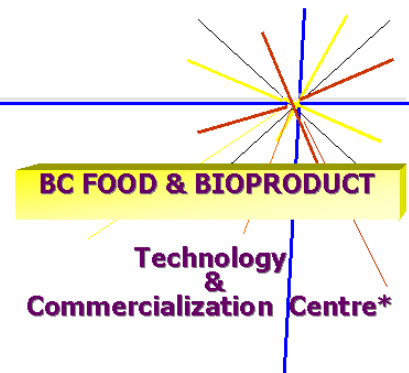


**British Columbia Food and  
BioProducts Technology  
& Commercialization Network**

Minutes  
**Resource Database Sub-  
Committee  
Meeting #1**  
April 2, 2009

11:00am – 12:00pm



**Attendees**

Andy Dolberg (AD) - BCMAL  
Rebecca Robertson (RR) – UBC, Chair  
Richard Hallman (RH)- BCIC, Life sciences  
Greg Edgelow (GE) - WCFN  
Nelson Barsi (NB) – SSFPA  
Paula Brown (PB) – BCIT  
Debbie Hellbach (DH)- BCMAL– minutes  
Ron Wasik (RW) - RJW Consulting

**Guests**

Mario Anda - (MA) BCMAL Arlene Fernandez (AF) BCIC

**Introductions**

Debbie Hellbach – Food processing specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands. Government, industry, small business experience. Food science background.

Nelson Barsi – Food processor, past president of Small Scale Food Processing Association. SSFPA will be assigning another director to sub-committees.

Greg Edgelow, Executive Director, Western Canadian Functional Food Network. Association management background.

Paula Brown – Director of Applied Research, BioSciences BCIT. Natural Health Products. International regulation experience. Analytical background.

Richard Hallman – Director of Lifesciences, BC Innovation Council. Provincial government background - association and innovation initiative development.

Arlene Fernandez – Coordinator, Commercialization Agricultural Technology (CAT) competition, Lifesciences, BCIC. Molecular Biologist background.  
Ron Wasik, RJW Consulting Canada Limited. Formerly Research Scientist, Director of Quality Assurance for Tricon Canada, Lots of industry experience.

Mario Anda, BCMAL Database development, developing one-stop web portal for Ag Sector in BC. Ag Economics and Ag Engineering background.

Andy Dohlberg, Ex Director, BC Agriculture Council Agricultural commodity, provincial, and national farm organization and provincial gov't experience.

Rebecca Robertson, Manager of Food Info Service What's Next UBC, BCIT. Consultant product development, commercialization, HACCP plans. Microbiology background.

### **Database "vision"**

**The purpose of this exercise is to record each committee member's vision for the resource database.**

Nelson Barsi

Need 1 stop shop for information. Lots of bits and pieces of info out there but uncoordinated and hard to find. Needs comprehensive search capability. Good example is [www.iherb.com](http://www.iherb.com). Need to be able to use generic words for searching. Categorization important. Consolidation of existing databases must be done, ie. a database that is able to point to other databases

Greg Edgelow

Database that is managed internally, also web integrated. Accessibility and protection must be considered, how it integrates with the web very important. What will the process be and who will have access to it must be determined. Must be current. User defined fields; they must be relevant to all the users. Find out what types of items are required by users. 2010 Business Directory provided as a good example. Include access to business information. Mentioned Goldmine & Maximizer software.

Paula Brown

User friendly interface, adaptable not technologically onerous, consider & plan for required level of maintenance up front. Consolidate with other databases but watch for overlap. Do not consolidate by asking other organizations to reconfigure their database so it fits into the Network's portal. Instead, the Network's database should point to other databases to prevent redundancy. Need to do inventory of what kind of portals are available and find what is going to best for our use. Check into Nutranet Canada – DH to follow up with Ann Eastman, BCMAL.

Arlene Fernandez – deferred

Richard Hallman

Interactive process, open platform that can be fed by people by the industry – user input. Will need a gatekeeper and not rely on "top down" data entry. Wikipedia type platform.

Ron Wasik

Target audience = food processors – all scales, distributors. To find out who is available within the province that can solve my problems, where can I go to get funding, regulatory assistance. Needs to be practical, provide solutions, minimize referrals and/or "passing the buck"

Mario Anda

Working on new platform. Password access could provide opportunities for different levels of access, possibly fee for service and/or membership fees allowing different levels of information/service. Need to minimize work for Gatekeeper, ie. set up system where info that needs to be looked at by Gatekeeper is forwarded directly to him/her.

Andy Dohlberg  
Avoid duplication, hook into what is already out there.

Rebecca Robertson  
Centre itself would be main user of database. Parts would be available for customers to access, free or fee or through membership. Link to functional spokes, ie. spokes would enter info regarding services that they offer, education, equipment that they have.

**General discussion**

Potential Users

General public would have single window web access for general enquiries.

NB indicated that all advisory committee members would be both spokes and users.

Needs Assessment for a BC Agri-Food Knowledge Mobilisation Web Platform. RH advised that the needs assessment project is on hold. Is broader than food processing but incorporates food processing.

To do for next meeting: (submit info to Rebecca)

1. Committee members to submit types of info that would be housed in the database including:  
  
Co-packers  
Consultants  
Pilot plant capabilities  
Research capabilities
2. Committee members to submit names and/or web addresses databases of databases that they are familiar with and currently use and indicate pros and cons. (GE suggested that once we have a list of databases we should get recommendations from db owners as to how to manage the Network database)

For example:

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Name	Web address	Pros	Cons
BC Food Processors Directory	<a href="http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/foodprocessing/documents/bcfp_directory/bcfp_directory.htm">http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/foodprocessing/documents/bcfp_directory/bcfp_directory.htm</a>	Fairly comprehensive Full listing of BC processors	Hard to find Not searchable Out of date

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3. DH to contact Ann Eastman to talk to her about Nutrinet and their database

**Next meeting**

11 am Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Teleconference Coordinates  
1-866-596-5277  
Conference ID 7293483