

Present: Eileen Crosby, Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, Stan Johnson, Rodney Chaisson, Kirsty Lock, Tracy Marshall, Brian MacDougal, Foncie Farrell, Pierre LaRochelle, Perla MacLeod

Regrets: Eliot Frosst, Steve Parsons, Teresa MacNeil

Observers/Guests: 0

1. Call to Order (1:45 pm) by Chair, Eileen Crosby.
2. Additions to the Agenda: All were reminded that the agendas, committee reports and minutes were circulated before the meeting for consideration.
  - a) DCBA External Marketing Mtg - Pierre
3. Approval of Agenda  
Motion: by Brian to approve agenda with one addition. Seconded by Rod. Motion carried. Unanimous.
4. Approval of Minutes  
Motion: by Brian to approve minutes of the meeting of 29/11/2020. Seconded by Maureen. Motion carried. Unanimous
5. **Business arising from Minutes**
  - i. Board Manual: Eileen reported that the manual is now completed and will be available on Google Docs. Six hardcopies were printed and given to the new directors. These will be recycled as new directors come on board.  
**Action Item:** All are asked to review '[A Cooperation Plan for the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere](#)' found on pages 203-215 of the BIBRA 2010 Submission. **Action Item:** Eileen will distribute a 1-page summary of The Cooperation Plan to all Directors following the meeting.
  - ii. Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines: Eileen reported that there are some 100 copies currently remaining at CBU for distribution. They will be picked up once CBU reopens. Some will be distributed to Counties, key departments, community libraries, etc.  
**Action Item:** All are asked to email suggestion(s) of groups or individuals to Eileen for distribution of Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines.
  - iii. Vision & Mission statement usage: Maureen is reviewing where these statements should be placed on the website. Eileen discussed using the statement(s) on email signature line or end of documents for example.  
**Action Item:** All are asked to consider individual usage of Vision and Mission statements and email suggestion to Maureen for website placement.  
**Action Item:** Maureen will insert an 'a' to correct the Vision statement online.

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6. Treasurer's Report: Brian's report covered the months of November and December 2020 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. Summary:

Revenues at 9 Months:	\$16,111.
<u>Expenses at 9 Months:</u>	<u>-\$11,866.</u>
Net (+/-)	+\$ 4,245.
October 31, 2020 closing bank balance:	\$63,154.
Revenues:	+\$ 270.
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>-\$ 952.</u>
December 31, 2020 closing bank balance:	\$62,010.

Motion: Brain moved that the report as circulated be approved. Seconded by Foncie. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Brian discussed that the to date COVID-19 has effectively reduced the amount spent on 2020 operations and by committees. It was suggested and generally agreed that budgets should not just be rolled over to the next year but that zero-based budgeting should be considered for implementation. Kristy, committee chair, Forest Watch Committee, asked about the budget and invited interested parties to join her. Maureen enrolled.

**Action Item:** Brian will issue a budgeting template to **All Committee Chairs** to complete their April 2021 – March 2022 budgeting by the March board meeting.

7. CEPI Updates (Management & Steering Committees)

Stan Johnson reported that both CEPI's Steering Committee and Senior Councils had recently met. Workplans and budgets were reviewed. Projects include:

- i. Forestry Project: Project Manager Garrett Bagnell will give presentation (see below)
- ii. Species at Risk study: [Government of Canada and project lead UINR](#) doing 4-year project. Tristan Simon and others working on this.
- iii. Recreational Fishery: Growing the Sport Fishing Industry in the Bras d'Or Lakes: Sebrina Wothers made a presentation to the CEPI Steering Committee on this possibility.
- iv. Explore the Bras d'Or: Looking at ways to coordinate participation of communities around the lake. First Nations have been holding separate events for some time. Volunteers welcome. Request for Proposal sent out to engage a consultant to study the potential. Hope to have an event at the last week of July and the first week of August. Possible synergy with the 3 golf courses.
- v. Barachois Task Team starting up again. It was noted that the Big Pond ice wall of 2019 had shifted the bottom 10 m such that the preplanned routes for underwater units encountered the obstruction early.
- vi. Shore Erosion: Carried over from last minutes. Not discussed today.

Action item: CEPI and the BLBRA will look at approaches to move shore erosion control around the Bras d'Or to the forefront of public and private interests.

8. CEPI Youth Updates: Tracy described:

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- i. A successful initiative in Potlotek to relocate a garbage dumpster site from close to the lake shore area to behind the Potlotek Esso Expedition Gas & Convenience highway site.
- ii. Plans to educate youth on Land Based Learning and Community Stewardship – all about reconnecting with the land – why it is important.
- iii. Use of social media as a key channel to get to the youth.
- iv. Looking at redoing a survey similar to the largest survey of youth carried out in 2016 and presented at the ["The People of the Lakes Speak" CEPI Sustainability Practices Conference 2016](#). Also see the [Final Report](#).
- v. There will be a Microplastic Workshop held in Eskasoni (date?)

**CEPI Forest Monitoring Project PowerPoint presentation:** Project Manager Garrett Bagnell, working with CEPI, started on the Monitoring Project to Support Sustainable Forestry Management project Feb 3, 2020. He is pleased to have resources from UINR, Port Hawkesbury Paper and CEPI available as well as access to traditional Two-eyed seeing. Working at two sites selected with consultation from PHP and Lands and Forestry. One is in the Highlands and one in Irish Cove offering distinct differences on drainage. Looking at possible monitoring stations in nature reserve.

Major objectives: Understanding the impact of forest harvesting management; monitoring the effects that current practices have on species at risk and of cultural significance to the Mi'kmaq communities and introduction of forest hydrology research at two sites as well as canvas of world knowledge to date. This means working on groundwater and marine water interactions. The initiative also incorporates Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV's) and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's) looking at downstream issues from that new viewpoint. Field days included opportunities to engage mechanical engineers, biologists, programmers and CEPI youth.

Allison and Kirsty are interested in opportunities to incorporate these projects with Citizen Science initiatives in the Biosphere. Eileen asked Garrett if we could get a copy of the presentation - yes.

**Action item:** Eileen will share Garrett's PowerPoint presentation after it is received from him.

### 9. CBRA and/or UNESCO MaB updates

- i. Maureen reported that the Canadian government has plans to create an Atlantic Climate Hub and is looking [for a group to manage the initiative](#). Although it is not something that BR's in NS can lead it is something that the BLBRA could participate in with other BR's in the region.
- ii. Maureen reported that the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society has submitted their [application](#) to become the 19<sup>th</sup> Canadian Biosphere.

### 10. Committee & Project (Questions, Motions, Action Items)

- i. **Executive Committee:** Eileen received no questions and moved onto Motions.

Motion by Brian: Given the negative connotation of the term 'reserve' in Canada and in view of the Pessamit Agreement that the BLBRA Board approved in 2018, I move that the term be removed so that the Biosphere is known simply as the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere. Seconded by Foncie. Motion carried. Unanimous.

**Action item:** Eileen will carry the motion to rename the biosphere to **Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere** forward to the next AGM for membership approval.

Motion by Brian: Given the negative connotation of the term 'reserve' in Canada and in view of the Pessamit Agreement that the BLBRA Board approved in 2018, I move that the term 'reserve' be removed so that the Biosphere association is known simply as the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Association. Seconded by Foncie. Motion carried. Unanimous.

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**Action item:** Eileen will carry the motion to rename the biosphere society to **Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Association** forward to the next AGM for membership approval.

- ii. **Periodic Review Committee:** Pierre reported in Gord's absence that the Periodic Review was in final editing and formatting by Mike Hunter with review already completed by Shauna Barrington. Planned to be sent out by February 5th – a one week extension. Gord and the whole team were recognized for their efforts. Gord's schedule was reviewed for verify budgeting and timetable. We expect to have critique back by May and will respond to feedback by June.

**Action item:** Pierre and Eileen to facilitate completion and mailing out of PDF links to CBRA and CC-UNESCO.

- iii. **Trail Committee:** Maureen reported that the trail maps are ready and looking at selling some for fundraising. Brian stated that selling the maps as volunteers would be acceptable even as a not-for-profit charity. Rodney advised that the general public are not big map purchasers. Maureen plans on only a small initial run.

**Action item carryover:** Maureen will get the current large format maps laminated for use at Bras d'Or Watch and other public displays.

- iv. **Communications Committee:** Pierre reiterated that he is still looking for articles for the newspaper. Also mentioned that as a member of the DCBA External Marketing subcommittee he is ensuring that they are aware of indigenous, cultural and heritage aspects of the BLBR.

- v. **Forest Watch Committee:** Kirsty reported she is resurrecting the Forest Watch Committee and looking for volunteers. Maureen and Foncie indicated their interest. Members in addition to directors are welcome.

**Action item:** ALL are asked to seek/identify possible Forest Watch Committee members.

- vi. **Museum Committee:** Elliot was not in attendance to take questions.

- vii. **Coordination of Board Activities:** Eileen discussed that there were several initiatives that were successfully launched and now need to be put back on track such as:

**Climate Change Adaptation Forum.** Suggested it would be good to have a resource person looking at Climate Change initiatives in the Biosphere. Eric Leviten-Reid's name came up as a contact Pierre made while doing the Periodic Review and Eileen had reached out to.

**Action item:** Eileen will contact Eric Leviten-Reid regarding Climate Change initiative tracking.

**The Bras d'Or Watch:** Given that public health measures may limit Bras d'Or participation as it did last summer, it is suggested that the St. Peter's group which held the event in 2020 along with Shelly Denys who has been taking care of the Ben Eoin Beach RV Campground location hopefully will continue to do so. Allison MacIsaac has agreed to work with the group. Stan suggested that we take a look at the state of Maine for ideas which has initiated a [Lake Monitoring program](#).

**Education Committee:** Now defunct however four inquiry based curriculum units which are already written and approved by the Department of Education should be better utilized. Given that Bras d'Or Watch is a one day event, these units would allow youngsters to continue learning about the Biosphere through classroom and lakeshore activities. Good to implement citizen science and material in several schools located close to the lakeshore.

**Action item:** Eileen will check with Anna Marie Hatcher to check out the best approach for implementation in two pilot schools.

Viii **Citizen Science Proposal Initiative (CSPI)** : This proposal was originally given to the Bras d'or Watch Committee back in November but with the resignation of that Committee Chair, the proposal was presented to the whole Board for their consideration. There were a number of questions that needed to be answered before any approval could be given.

**Action item:** Eileen will invite Fred Baechler to speak at the February Board meeting about his water monitoring initiative(s).

11. New Business

Brian

- i. Annual Reports: Need to restart the process and get 2019 and 2020 reports created.  
**Action item:** The Secretary (Pierre) will review past minutes to generate 2019 and 2020 reports and start a process to capture the main points continuously through the year for the Chair to put a preamble to.
- ii. Fundraising: Brian proposed that we look at other Biospheres; grow endorsements by having a Strategic Plan, establish development functions and show full board support of the same.  
**Action item carryover:** Brian will send out a funding summary overview.  
**Action item carryover:** Brian will report back on donors receiving gifts.
- iii. Capstone Project with CBU: Eileen reported that she has initiated a Tourism focused project with CBU students through Norm Hubbert, Assistant Professor, CBU Shannon School of Business. The initiative will look at creating a Bras d'Or Lake wide Biosphere brand with partnerships with the counties and First Nation communities. Pierre will be the BLBRA contact.  
**Action item:** Pierre will include Stan in the project
- iv. Biosphere Boundary Mapping: Eileen reported that Councillor John MacLennan, Municipality of the County of Inverness says signage is creating an interest in the actual boundary of the biosphere.  
**Action item:** Eileen/Maureen will look at distributing maps through giftshops, Post Offices, giftshops and other locations easily accessible to the general and travelling public. Could be on placemats.
- v. Registration:  
**Action item carryover:** The Executive will look into plans for increasing membership.
- vi. Eco-tourism in the Biosphere  
**Action item carryover:** Rodney will review current assets such as the Biosphere Atlas and start planning on these initiatives.

12. Correspondence: Rod Beresford resigned from the Board of Directors and as Bras d'Or Watch committee

13. Next Meeting: February 26, 2021. ONLINE

**Action item:** Maureen will send out GoogleMeet invitation

14. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn by Fonce  
Meeting Adjourned @ 3:30 PM