

**Minutes** (Approved March 25 mtg)  
**Board of Directors Virtual Meeting**  
**Friday, February 26, 10:00 – 12:00 AM**

*We envision the Bras d'Or Lake as special place where communities are joined together in thoughtful promotion of environmental assets and responsible economic development.*

***The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.***

Present: Eileen Crosby, Stan Johnson, Gordon Kerr, Kirsty Lock, Tracey Marshall, Brian MacDougal, Fred Baechler, Jim Foulds, Pierre LaRochelle, Steve Parsons, Foncie Farrell  
Regrets: Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, Elliot Frosst, Rodney Chaisson. Observer Regrets:  
No regrets: Liz MacCormick, John MacLennan,  
***Had asked BoD to send regrets in advance.***

1. Call to Order at 10:05 am by Chair Eileen Crosby.  
Kirsty asked if we could record the meeting and Eileen said not without a paid subscription to Google Meet. There was a question if we had a quorum but more Directors joined. We were about to check the by-laws for but did not.

For clarification, the by-laws state: "vii) A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of 50% of the Executive Committee plus 2 non-executive Board members.

2. Additions to the agenda – No additions.
3. Approval of the agenda - Motion to approve by Gordon Kerr, seconded by Brian MacDougal. Approved unanimously.
4. Approval of the minutes from the Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting – Tracy and Kirsty name spelling corrections addressed. Motion to approve by Pierre LaRochelle, seconded by Gordon Kerr. Approved unanimously.
5. **Business arising from last meeting** (not dealt with elsewhere)
  - i. Garrett Bagnell's presentation summary from the Jan.29 BoD meeting. Garrett had indicated that sharing the power point presentation without text would not be meaningful so provided a public release statement instead. It was posted to the BLBRA Meeting file.
  - ii. Periodic Review submission (Feb. 5/21) – Eileen read the message from CCUNESCO identifying our expert reviewers. They are:
    1. Gerald Singh, member of the CCUNESCO Executive Committee and faculty member of the Department of Geography at Memorial University and
    2. Geneviève Poirier, staff person responsible for conservation and communication at Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve.

The Periodic Review Committee purchased gifts for two people that helped prepare our review, Shauna Barrington who provided editing and Laura Simms from CBU who provided demographic data analysis. Pierre suggested that we show the reviewers our online video of the display at the Bell Museum, perhaps even host the online review from there.

### iii. Distribution of CCA Guidelines

There are about 100 hard copies left from the 250 printed. Bruce has a list of what has been distributed and Eileen suggests a list to distribute the remainder. Kirsty had made suggestions including NSCC libraries, 4H youth groups or other youth groups and post offices. She suggested including a digital copy in the digital collections of libraries. Pierre suggested pushing out digital copies to those on Kirsty's list with an offer of a hard copy. Eileen suggested we send the digital copy to our MailChimp list as well. **ACTION:** Eileen, Pierre and Kirsty to proceed.

### iv. Citizen Science Project Initiative

Fred Baechler

Fred reviewed his proposal for Citizen Science and reviewed the work he and Lynn have done for the past 20 years in the watershed. He indicated that lake water research is covered by Bruce Hatcher's work (editor note: CEPI as well). The 'airshed' work is covered by Jonathan Buffett's Cape Breton Mesonet.

There was much discussion about the opportunity. Being a hydrogeologist, Fred said it was important to have Jim involved for the biology. Kirsty asked what would be the scope of biology data collection. Fred and Jim both indicated it could be wide open.

Fred made the case for him not being a scientist on this project because they paid for everything out of their own funds. Jim Foulds' comment is that Fred is a scientist and as such his work does not qualify as citizen science.

The Chair reminded everyone that the BLBRA is still obliged to monitor the trees we planted in April of 2018 at the abandoned Irish Cove Limestone quarry. That also constitutes citizen science as well.

Pierre mentioned the funding available through the Community Foundation of Canada.

**ACTION:** Fred, Jim Foulds and Kirsty Lock will fine tune the proposal with actionable goals.

### 6. Treasurer's report for Jan.31/21 + Comm. Budgets & Template

Brian

Brian presented the treasurer report and moved its approval, seconded by Pierre. It was approved unanimously.

Brian then requested an in person meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> to develop the budget for the upcoming year.

7. CEPI updates – Everything is going as usual. He is working with Pierre on the CBU Capstone tourism project. He did ask why our meeting was switched to the morning as he was double booked. Eileen is reviewing scheduling.

Stan

### 8. CEPI Youth – No new initiatives

Tracy

9. CBRA and/or UNESCO MaB updates - Maureen was unavailable  
Maureen

**10. Committee Chair – Up date Comments only**

- i. Executive Committee Chair
- ii. Periodic Review Committee  
Update provided above.  
**ACTION:** Gordon to coordinate the online review with CCUNESCO
- iii. Trail Committee Candace/Maureen  
The trail committee has discussed citizen science stations be included in trails as suggested by Fred.
- iv. Communications Committee Pierre  
Newsletter scheduled for March 20. Pierre asking for articles.  
Forest Watch Committee Kirsty  
Discussed citizen science as a part of forest watch
- v. Museum Committee Eliot  
There is not much happening due to Covid and Eliot did prepare a report. There will be no touch screens until approved by Parks Canada.
- vi. Bras d’Or Watch – A Committee chair is required – Eileen and Annamarie are preparing an update.

**New Business**

- i. Explore The Bras d’Or Susanna Fuller, Ocean’s North  
Susanna was in another meeting so no discussion happened. Tracy showed two samples of a possible logo.
- ii. Nova Stream Invoice – We discussed an unexpected website development invoice.  
**ACT ION:** Brian to send a note to the project manager asking for a copy project agreement, details of the bill and monthly invoice in future. No payment until we receive and review meaningful information.
- iii. Board Recruitment – Need a nomination committee. Eileen asked for volunteers with no response. Gordon suggested it is normally the past chair to lead the committee and suggested Bruce Hatcher be offered the right of first refusal. Gord offered to be on the committee.
- iv. Schedule of Meetings + AGM - The new schedule is on the shared Google drive. The corrected May 13<sup>th</sup> date is a Thursday.

11. Correspondence – Letter of Congratulations on Madeline Harvey’s retirement Chair  
Madeline was invited to join the board but is planning to take this first year off.

12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn from Gordon, seconded by Brian. 11:40 am.