

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**BLBRA Board of Directors Public Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 17, 2021, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**  
**Online – Google Meet**



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

Attendance:

DIRECTOR NAME (Exec) (Delegate)		DIRECTOR NAME (Exec) (Delegate)	
Allison McIsaac	Y	Pierre LaRochelle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	P
Brian MacDougall ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Y	Rodney Chaisson	Y
Eileen Crosby ( <b>Chair</b> )	Y	Stan Johnson (CEPI)	Y
Eliot Frosst		Steve Parsons (CBRM)	
Foncie Farrell	Y	Tracy Marshall	
Gordon Kerr	Y	Tyler Mattheis (CB Partnership)	Y
John MacLennan (Inverness County)		Vacant	
Kirsty Lock (NSCC)	Y	Vacant	
Maureen Cameron-MacMillan ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	Y	Vacant	
Perla MacLeod (Victoria County)			

*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. (Y= Present; R= Regrets sent)*

Observers/Guests: Ron Newcombe (CEPI), Chris King, Rosella Born, Candace Christiano.

Note:

1. Call to Order: At 1:35pm Chair Eileen Crosby who began the meeting by acknowledging that “all sites designated by UNESCO in Canada as Biosphere Reserves are located on Indigenous lands. The Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People.” Eileen reminded all Board members to review the original statement crafted by the BLBRA. [Pessamit Call for Reconciliation..](#)
2. Additions to the agenda: **No additions.**
3. Approval of the agenda: Motion to approve by Foncie, seconded by Maureen. Approved unanimously.
4. Correction to minutes from previous meeting: Corrections identified to the number of bylaws passed. Motion by Kirsty, seconded by Foncie. Change approved unanimously.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Motion by Pierre, seconded by Foncie. Motion approved unanimously.

Pierre made a motion to approve the minutes from May 13<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Foncie. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

5. Business arising from last meeting (not dealt with elsewhere):

i. Strategic Planning sessions: Eileen outlined that AEC needed to firm up the date of the first in-person meeting. AEC needs a full day in the period of Sept 11 18<sup>th</sup> or Sept 29 – Oct 10. Discussion identified that the first period conflicts with our Sept 16, 2021 fall start-up Directors meeting; for some weekdays are appropriate as part of the job; weekends fine for others. Eileen looking at venues, nourishment, COVID-19 regulations to determine the final venue. Bras d'Or Lakes Inn and Highlands Heights Inn mentioned. A shared folder will be created to provide pre-session studying materials including the 2021 Periodic Review submission. Rodney suggested using [Doodle](#) Poll to determine the best date of the first meeting.

**Action: Eileen** will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best date and continue looking at venues around the Lake.

ii. Bras d'Or Watch 2021 Administration: ACAP/BLBRA MOU: Allison and Eileen reviewed the negotiations and results of discussions with ACAP who will manage the 2021 cutback version with no public interface but which will include data collection among the sites; social media updates without livestreaming and perhaps an iNaturalist BioBlitz. The cost will be reduced from \$4,500 to a \$1,500 - \$2,000 range based on the final deliverables.

**Action: Eileen** will negotiate the final BW contract with ACAP.

iii. AGM: Jonathan Buffett is the scheduled speaker. Kelly Deveaux, Visitor Experience Manger, Parks Canada said meeting could be at the Alexander Graham bell National Historic Site.

iv. Lynn Baechler Memorial: Fred Baechler has chosen a location for the memorial kiosk at Irish Cove. Kirsty confirmed the structure and signage are both ready and BLBRA/NSCC will organize the placement of same sometime in the Fall.

6. Treasurer's Report

Financials: Brian gave a high-level review of the treasurer's report to end of May, month 2 of the fiscal year. Expenses around new rack cards, tote bags used by Bras d'Or Watch, Registry of Joint Stock Companies and Oyster Booklet preparation and printing. Revenues from memberships and donations.

Total Revenues: \$440.00

Total Expenses: \$2,752.00

Bank Balance: \$58,193.00

Budgeted Items: \$32, 515 excluding Forest Watch

Motion: It is moved by Brian and seconded by Pierre that the May 31, 2021 Treasurer's Report be approved.. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

Kirsty discussed some Forestry Watch equipment needs including conductivity meters. Can perhaps look for grants and sponsorships to committee budget ask.

Motion: It is moved by Kirsty and seconded by Brian that the Forest Watch Committee receive a budget allocation of \$4000 to support the priorities identified by the committee. Seconded by Gord. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

7. [CEPI](#) updates

- i. Explore the Bras d'Or: Ron Newcomb explained that the new website, Facebook and graphics were coming along well. Schedule is firming up for the two-week event which includes mostly events currently in place by communities and organizations. See <https://explorethebrasdor.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/explorethebrasdor>.

8. CBRA and/or UNESCO MaB updates:

Maureen stated the AGM is postponed until the Fall. Maureen noted that Clayoquot Biosphere is looking at establishing a Canadian Biosphere Regions Youth Group. See some background <https://clayoquotbiosphere.org/initiatives/empowering-youth> and the Youth Engagement in Canadian Biosphere Regions video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VYmaCc0M6Q>. For more information, please contact: <mailto:colin@clayoquotbiosphere.org>

9. Committee Chair Updates/Report Comments:

- i. Executive: Eileen explained that the Year End committee reports will be based on the Calendar Year versus the Fiscal Year. This is different from the Annual Reports pulled together for presentation at the AGM. The chair can only report on the period for which they have responsibility
- ii. Nomination Committee: Gord reminded everyone that the committee proposed Rosella Born, Elizabeth Campbell and Christopher King as nominees. Richmond County would like to be a member as well and asks that Amanda Mombourquette, Warden, be their appointed representative. This would result in a Board membership of 18 individuals: 7 appointees and 11 members at large. Also looking for the CEPI Youth nominee. CEPI hopes to have a nominee by June 25, 2021.  
Motion: It is moved by Gordon, Chair of the Nominations Committee that the slate of BoD candidates for the coming year be accepted for approval by the BoD for presentation at the AGM and any further nominations, including a youth member to be recommended by CEPI, brought forward before the AGM will be approved by the BoD by an online vote. Seconded by Maureen.  
Questions: Note appointees not restricted to six-year terms. Members at Large subject to 3-year interval terms. Vote called. Approved unanimously.
- iii. Periodic Review: No feedback received yet however Gord has asked for an update.
- iv. Trail Committee: The pricing for 25 copies was good – less than \$20 - \$15 per copy. Will scale down a copy for Explore the Bras d'Or. Will also posts in various buildings. Wondering where and how to sell the maps.

**Action: Candace, Eileen and Brian** will review placement for operations

Communications: Pierre reviewed the request for approximately \$1,700 to print a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration notice in the Cape Breton Post and The Reporter. Discussion resulted in adding The Inverness Oran and the estimate increased to approximately \$2,200.00.

Motion: It is moved by Pierre that the BLBRA promote the 10th anniversary of the Biosphere in the Cape Breton Post, Inverness Oran and The Reporter. Seconded by Brian. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action: Pierre** will place the advertisements in time for the June 29 anniversary.

- v. Bras d'Or Watch: 50 copies of the new Bird Book were produced. 10 kits for ACA and 35 for sale perhaps @\$14.00. New rack cards from 10,000 printing also available for distribution.

**Action: Pierre/Gord** offered to look at locations in St. Peter's and Area to sell books, distribute rack cards. **ALL** can contact Eileen with offers to help sell/distribute items..

- vi. Museum Committee: No update.

## 10. New Business

- i. Status of the Board Executive – Only the position of Vice Chair is open.

**Action:** ALL directors are invited to self-nominate for the position of Vice Chair.

- ii. Role of registrar to go to Vice-Chair. Discussion around moving the role of registrar to the Vice Chair position. Pierre reported, on Eliot's behalf, that Eliot would be pleased to continue as registrar.

Motion: It is moved by Brian and seconded by Gordon that the role of registrar be undertaken by the Vice Chair commencing with the next AGM. Questions. Vote called. Abstainers – Pierre and Elliot. Approved.

- iii. Acceptance of the slate of BoD candidates – See 9. ii.

- iv. Acceptance of CB Partnership Board appointment.

Motion: Given the importance of the BLBRA working in tandem with key organizations within the Biosphere, It is moved by Pierre that the appointment of Tyler Mattheis by Cape Breton Partnership to the Board be accepted as an ex officio Board member. Seconded by Rodney. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

- v. Fred Baechler Water Towers support and financial request. The board was able to read Fred's submission and request online before this meeting. 'In the context of hydrology, it (Water Towers) is used as a symbolic term for Mountains, as they supply a disproportional larger runoff from a higher elevation, compared to the adjacent lowland area ..... The contribution of mountains to total streamflow is about twice what would be expected on the basis of their surface area. As such these Water Towers can meet competition for water in providing ecosystem services, irrigation, potable water, hydropower, forestry, and recreation.' (Fred Baechler, 2021 06, CAPE BRETON'S "WATER TOWERS" – RELEVANCE TO THE UN BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE DRAFT POSITION PAPER ).

Maureen reviewed some of the ecosystems the Biosphere supports including the runoff contribution. Eileen explained how biologists are assigning value to lands. (note: <https://en.ccunesco.ca/-/media/Files/Unesco/Resources/2019/03/AssessingEcosystem.pdf> may provide more insights.).

'Support could potentially take the form of allowing the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere to be listed on the research applications as an interested, supportive party, to link the research to practical best management practices.' And/or 'Providing capital to the research – say \$10,000/year, to support the grant applications.' Fred was unavailable to attend this meeting.

Motion: Given the importance of ecosystem services provided by geologic water towers, eight of which sit partially or completely inside the Biosphere boundary, it is moved by Maureen that the BLBRA submit a letter of support for the research proposal on Water Towers in the Biosphere. Seconded by Pierre. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action:** XXX will write the letter of support.

Motion: Given the importance of this research proposal fulfilling the logistic support goal of the Biosphere provided by geologic water towers, eight of which sit inside the Biosphere boundary, it is moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the BLBRA contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards that research in its initial year of operation. **Motion Tabled**  
**Action: Eileen** will contact Fred to see if he can present more information on the financial request.

11. Correspondence – CCA Guidelines in Canada’s UNESCO Biospheres (p.36).

[https://issuu.com/advocateprinting/docs/bras\\_d\\_or\\_lakes\\_-\\_guidelines](https://issuu.com/advocateprinting/docs/bras_d_or_lakes_-_guidelines)

**Action: ALL** are asked to review the Concrete Steps section in the Conclusion.

12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Foncie. 4:00 pm

Please email any clarifications or omissions to: Pierre LaRochelle, [pierreprfamily@gmail.com](mailto:pierreprfamily@gmail.com)  
BLBRA Secretary  
Resident of the [Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve](#)