

**Minutes of Meeting (DRAFT)**  
**BLBRA Board of Directors Public Meeting**  
**Thursday, Oct 21, 2021, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**  
**East Bay Firehall**



*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:

<b>DIRECTORS (Member at Large)</b>		<b>DIRECTORS (Ex Officio)</b>	
Allison McIsaac	Y	Amanda Mombourquette (Richmond)	R
Brian MacDougall ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Y	Barbara Longva (Victoria)	Y
Chris King	Y	John MacLennan (Inverness)	
Eileen Crosby ( <b>Chair</b> )	Y	Kirsty Lock (NSCC)	Y
Liz Campbell	R	Steve Parsons (CBRM)	Y
Foncie Farrell	Y	Tyler Mattheis (CB Partnership)	
Pierre LaRochelle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Y		
Rodney Chaisson	R		
Rosella Born ( <b>Vice-chair Delegate</b> )	Y		
Stan Johnson	Y		
Tracy Marshall (Youth Coordinator)			

*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: Fred Baechler, Ron Newonbe, Gord Kerr

**1. Call to Order:**

At 1:30 pm Chair Eileen Crosby 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.

**2. Additions to the agenda:**

- i. Meeting schedule**
- ii. Possible location(s) for BLBRA office and/or storage**

**3. Approval of the agenda:**

Motion to approve by Eileen; seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting:**

Motion to approve by Pierre; seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

### **i. Strategic Planning sessions (Eileen)**

Eileen stated that there are 12 attendees expected at the initial October 26 meeting. Recommended that participants review the [Periodic Review document](#) and the included Reviewers Report found on page 4. Eileen also reviewed the [UNESCO Biosphere Basics](#) PowerPoint presentation including the four pillars of sustainable development - social, economic, culture and environment and the associated 17 actionable goals.

**Action: ALL Strategic Planning invitees** - review documentation in the BLBRA Strategic Planning shared folder.

### **ii. Webinar report on the Circular Economy (Chris)**

Chris attended the online UNESCO conference of some 100 countries and 6,000 participants. Major take-aways were consider reduction and reuse and don't consider end-of-life. A Canadian example would be in mining of lead and battery recycling of lead/acid and plastic components. Consider a location where all automobiles are broken down and recycled. Food hubs can be another example of a circular economy. See <https://unevoc.unesco.org/home/Skills+for+the+circular+economy>. Eileen also mentioned the idea of -up-cycle products. (*Note: Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value.*)

### **iii. ECCC Contribution Agreement Project (related to water towers) and OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measure (Allison/Fred))**

Eileen explained that she had spoken to CBRA about the project and advised that it was mostly an 'in-kind' contribution agreement with little real expenditures.

Allison, with additional insights from Fred, spoke of the opportunity for the Eskasoni Fish & Wildlife Commission (EFC) to oversee the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Contribution Agreements and that monies were available if the BLBRA wished to proceed. This would be a 10 step process starting with an expression of interest. Will be developed in conjunction with CBRA and addresses biodiversity and hydrological monitoring, recharge rates and climate change impacts of buffer areas including the Eskasoni area. Viable benefits for sustainable environment and economic development planning. Involves budgeting, sessions, member inclusion and public sessions. Year 1 is \$122k, similar for Yr 2 & 3. Years 4 & 5 may change. In-kind consultant work could be in \$150-\$200/hr. EFC would do quarterly reassessments regarding participants, communication and work plan progress.

**Action: All prepare for further discussion at the next meeting. Review this meeting's folder.**

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Brian reported \$5,755 in revenues. Per the meeting folder received from Memberships and donations, Trail map sales, Bird book sales, HST rebates and Destination CB grant for Explore the Bras d'Or.

Brian also reported \$8,261 in expenses. Per the meeting folder due to advertising the BLBRA's tenth anniversary, production of Bras d'Or Biosphere maps, production of rack cards to be used in promoting the BLBRA, tote bags used by Bras d'Or Watch, Oyster Booklet production (Bras d'Or Watch), Board operations incl. Board recognition gifts, the AGM and the printing and shipping of the periodic review report.

Brian identified the need to develop a forecast of expenditures linked to the budget. Budget status included in the meeting folder. The museum work is on hold. Communications budget being reviewed.

Motion to approve by Brian; seconded by Foncie. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **CEPI's Role in the Biosphere (Stan)**

Stan spoke of the [collaborative work regarding the Bras d'Or Lake](#) that CEPI carries out with all partners in the Biosphere. They operate in conjunction with a Senior Council, Management Committee and the [Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources \(UINR\)](#) who has the Secretariat role. They are not affiliated with the [The Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission \(EFWC\)](#).

CEPI establishes Spring and Fall plans consisting of projects having various levels of impact on the environment. Looking at the Coastal protection Act which is coming, Land Use Development Standards Report & Best Practices & Spirit of the Lakes Speaks. Looking at the Building Code . Also looking to study Forestry before, during and after cutting. CEPI Youth working on setting something up regarding Climate Change. Forming a Tourism Task Committee.

**Action: All** - CEPI is looking for Tourism Task Committee members.

8. **EFWC's Role in the Biosphere (Tom Johnson not available. Deferred to next meeting)**

9. **CEPI Youth - Tracy unavailable.**

10. **CBRA/UNESCO MaB (Eileen)**

Eileen spoke of [CANADIAN CONSERVATION CORPS resource placement opportunity](#) for persons 18-30 years of age in areas of three distinct stages of learning: Wilderness Adventure, Immersive Field Learning and Outreach & Service. There are two placement periods - Feb 27 - May 20 and April 10 - July 2. Details are in the meeting folder.

**Action: ALL** consider the opportunity.

11. **Committee Reports - Chair Updates/Comments:**

i. **Forest Watch Committee - Lynn Baechler memorial (Irish Cove):** Kirsty reported that the plaque for the Lynn Baechler Memorial will be placed at Irish Cove November 4, 2021 at 10 am.

ii. **Bras d'Or Watch:** Eileen proposed that the committee structure will be reviewed after the Strategic Planning sessions are complete. This committee, like others, can recruit BLBRA members to participate in addition to Directors.

12. **New Business**

i. **A Possible Project for the Biosphere - Kirsty** spoke about a possible project to make the Irish Cove quarry a Biosphere Citizen Science Learning Park as suggested by Fred Baechler 29/09/21. Details in the meeting folder. May contact the DNR to help restore the site.

**Action: ALL** consider the opportunity.

ii. **Meeting Schedule:** Eileen suggested the December meeting may be a combined online and Face-to-Face meeting to help improve attendance.

**Action: Eileen** to review.

iii. **Possible location(s) for BLBRA office and/or storage**

Rosella suggested that there may be space available in a Baddeck 'Incubator' building.

**Action: Rosella** to review.

iv. **Marine Protected Areas**

**Action: Eileen** tabled the topic to the next meeting.

**13. Correspondence** - None

**14. Biosphere Events:** None

**15. Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn by Fonce. Approximately 4:00 pm

Please email any corrections, clarifications or omissions to: Pierre LaRochelle % [secretary@blbra.ca](mailto:secretary@blbra.ca)