

**Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association
Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, March 20th, 2020
[1:30 pm – 4:30 pm]

Prior to the meeting, time was spent familiarizing Board members with remote meeting technology, as this was the first virtual meeting the Association had ever held.

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1334h AST using the Go-To-Meeting virtual meeting software on the Bras d'Or Institute computer platform at Cape Breton University. With approval of all present, the audio from the meeting was recorded by the *gotomeeting* computer software.

Participants in digital or audio attendance: R.Beresford, M.Cameron-MacMillan, D.Crosby, J.Foulds, A.Hatcher, G.Kerr, B.Hatcher, P. LaRochelle, E.MacCormick, J.MacDonald, B.MacDougall.

Regrets received from E.Frosst & F.White. Eight (8) Board members absent without regrets.

Meeting started with testimonies to Luke Batdorf, a strong and creative supporter of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere since its inception, who died recently at the age of 92years. Chair will **draft an expression of the Board's condolences**, and circulate it to Board members for edits prior to sending it to Teresa MacNeil.

Following several amendments to the draft Agenda, A.Hatcher moved to approve it (seconded by M. Cameron-MacMillan); motion carried unanimously. Subsequent revisions to the Agenda resulting from discussions of Business Arising (see below) were approved unanimously after a seconded, follow-up motion by the same two individuals.

M. Cameron-MacMillan moved to approve the draft Minutes of the Board meeting held on 21st February, 2020 (seconded by G.Kerr). Minor corrections and additions were agreed upon before a revised motion to approve the minutes as revised was carried unanimously.

Discussion of Business Arising from the February Minutes revealed that:

- a. Work on the Memorial structure for Lynn Baechler has halted because of death in the carpenter's family, and closure of the NSCC carpentry class workshop until September, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Preparation for the next round of Strategic Planning for 2021-2025 has not progressed beyond an exploratory conversation with ACOA: an application for funding will be considered by that agency. J.Foulds suggested start with RFP from the last planning exercise; ask for a list of approved consultants. **Good advice will be followed.**
- c. Schedule of Meetings revised to reflect loss of access to venues for at least the next two meetings, due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Agreed that the April & May meetings would be virtual digital. Communication Committee will ensure that Board Members and public **notified of the changes**. These meetings will not be open to public. Agreed to stick with the current arrangements for the AGM in June.

- d. Roster of Committee Members reviewed, revisions identified to the Vice-Chair. Loss of two members from the Education Committee highlights the need to make **decisions about its continued existence and priority mandate.**
- e. No new news on the co-signing of the AGB-NHS MoU.

No update on CEPI or Youth Council (representatives absent).

Update on the activities of the CBRA and the UNESCO MaB was received from B.Hatcher. Considerable discussion led by P. LaRochelle of range of projects across all of Canada's BRs compiled and circulated by the CBRA. In particular:

- a. Sustainable tourism a relevant development target for the BLBR: there are places in the BR that would certainly qualify as "Amazing Places". We should **investigate this potential** for the conservation economy.
- b. Several SDG's are seen as consistent with the goals of the BLBR: the Association may be able to contribute meaningfully to the GoC's Federal Sustainable Development Strategy and thereby develop valuable partnerships.
- c. Tree planting initiatives are significant and worthwhile ways to offset GGEs and engage people on habitat restoration. There is value and opportunity in facilitating such activities in the BLBR.
- d. We have good reconciliation stories to tell. Is there value in getting them "out there"?

No update on the Indigenous Circle (representative absent).

No Financial Report for February, as there were no financial transactions during the month.

Draft 2020-21 Budget reviewed by B. MacDougall. Contrasted workplans and proposed budgets (presented at February BoD Mtg) with the current assets and income estimates for the coming year. Discrepancy of approx. \$30.k identified between what is budgeted and what is available.

Committee chairs and project leaders elaborated and discussed budget elements and assumptions. Evaluation table built on-the-spot with rough estimates, to be used in a priority-setting exercise. Criteria were developed for ranking activities according to their priority for funding this year. A first draft of the table was prepared on a shared desktop (see Table 1).

In midst of this exercise, electricity failure at the University removed Chair (also tele-meeting manager) from the workspace. Remaining Board members continued discussion while he re-located. Uncertainties and knowledge gaps were identified that require further work before a ranking exercise is possible. Treasurer to **clarify the numbers and circulate to back to the Board.** Agreed that an **extraordinary meeting of the Board be held via the same technology in exactly one week's time**, with the sole purpose of finalizing the 2020-2021 budget.

Table 1: 2020-21 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget Evaluation (to be revised at special meeting on 27 March)

<u>ITEM/COMM/ PROJECT</u>	<u>Comt'd FUNDS</u>	<u>Projected INCOME</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2020- 21</u>	<u>CORE ASK</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>RELE- VANCE</u>	<u>TIME- LINESS</u>	<u>PRIOR- ITY</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Operating	\$0	\$600	\$2,100	\$1,500	\$1,500	inc'd member- ship cards			1	essential
Communications	\$0		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,820	incl'd higher web fees			1	essential
Baechler Mem.	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	deferred 'til Sept.				
BdOr Watch	\$5,500	\$8,000	\$13,500	\$0	\$0	confirmed with AIH				
CCAF wrap-up	\$9,000	\$0		\$0	\$0	surplus from Forum				
Museum Display	\$0	\$0	\$21,000	\$21,500	\$10,000	with vs . w/o table upgrade				
Periodic Review	\$0	\$3,800	\$17,600	\$13,800	\$8,500	combine with Strat. Plan				
Report Card	\$0	\$0	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700					
Trail Committee	\$1,925	\$0	\$1,925	\$0	\$0					
Strategic Plan	\$0	\$9,900	\$16,500	\$6,600	\$6,600	inc'd elements of PR work				
TOTALS:	\$18,425	\$22,300	\$79,325	\$48,100	\$31,120					
Uncommitted Cash:	\$39,000					can currently afford core ask				
Cash at 1/4/2020	\$57,425									

Correspondence received from office of Liberal MP M. Kelloway, in reply to invitation extended by BLBRA to meet with the Board and participate in a celebration of new road signs. Member is interested in participating, and has asked his office to work with us on the arrangements. No response yet from other Cape Breton MP that received an invitation letter. Should **fix date for this event** soon.

Status of the draft Guidelines for Adaptation to Climate Change arising from the Forum in June 2019 discussed at some length. Motion to approve the Guidelines for distribution (A.Hatcher, seconded by J. MacDonald), followed by discussion of revisions that would improve the impact and reach of the document. Friendly revision of motion identified three things that should be done prior to public release of the Guidelines:

- a. soften the prescriptiveness of the first sentence of the Executive Summary
- b. reformat the last sentence of the document to make it absolutely clear that this is a direct quotation of the words of Elder Albert Marshall
- c. have a graphic designer add "colour" to the document, formatting it so as to make it more accessible, interesting and to draw attention to the messages. This could involve changes to page layout, fonts and text organization, as well as the addition of graphic elements.

Revised Motion carried unanimously. Agreed that the **author will be asked to make the first two revisions**. A professional **graphic designer will be engaged to make the third revision**. Costs will be kept within the existing CCAF budget. Time is of the essence, but further, specific suggestions for revision from Board Members will be considered before the document goes out for formatting.

Meeting adjourned at 1642h.