

Board of Directors Meeting (Draft Minutes)

Virtual meeting May 15, 2020 1:30 to 4:30

Present: Bruce Hatcher (Chair), Fred White (Secretary), Eliot Frosst (Registrar), Stan Johnson, Jim Foulds (Past Chair, Annamarie Hatcher, Jim Mac Donald, Gordon Kerr, Pierre La Rochelle, Tracy Marshall, Don Crosby

Regrets: Rod Beresford, Fonsie Farrell, Tom Johnson, Liz Mac Cormack, Brian MacDougall (Treasurer), Henry Muggah, Madeline Harvey, Maureen Cameron-MacMillan (Vice-Chair).

1. Chair calls meeting to order at 1:34 pm, welcomes all, identifies regrets from Board Members unable to attend.
2. Chair calls for agenda approval, no agenda changes needed. Moved by Gordon seconded by Fred, passed unanimously.
3. Chair calls for approval of **April 17th minutes**. Moved by Fred, seconded by Jim Foulds, Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Business arising:**
 - a. **CCA guidelines printing & distribution.** The chair suggests approx. 200 copies be printed, based on numbers asked for by the BLBRA Directors, the CEPI, the Forum Speakers, the Biosphere Reserves and the CBRA. He acknowledges that there would be some overlap in the numbers for each group. There was wide ranging discussion about who else should get a copy and how many were needed. Suggestions that Municipal councils might be given copies because of their financial contributions to the forum. Chair notes that councils will get copies through their reps on the Board. Stan suggests that all CEPI membership & Band Councils should get copies. After much discussion the number 250 seemed to be an agreed number that could be sufficient. Chair reported he approached 3 companies City Printers, Staples and Lynk Printing, and gave them specifications for print format & quality. The prices ranged between \$2,000. and \$3,000. Annamarie suggests we get a quote from Andrew Brooks from Baddeck, as he has been a great supporter of the BLBRA. Chair agrees to get a quote from Andrew and suggests that he go back to board members for an e-mail vote. Fred suggests in light of the COVID hit on small business, that we should do all we can to support local small business if possible. Pierre mentions that there may be other documents coming out of the forum that will require printing. Motion Gordon K. that we allocate \$ 2,500 for printing copies of report, and only come back to the Board if the quote exceeds that amount. Annamarie seconds, motion passed unanimously.

Fred reports on contact with Ray J. videographer regarding editing of video clips hot linked in the report. Ray J's equipment & raw video is in his office at Breton Education Center, and with schools locked down, he cannot access his office until the COVID-19 lockdown is relaxed. Ray will need from Scott Hatcher in points and out points to edit the video clips. Bruce has contacted Scott and has the appropriate information to pass on to Ray J. and Fred will get this information to Ray as soon as he has access to his office.
 - b. **Communications Committee:** Pierre reports no action was taken on the education committee. Education requirements will be identified in the strategic review.
 - c. **Museum committee:** Discussion of the Ecology books donation was deferred to the next meeting,

as Maureen was not present.

- d. AGM:** Chair reports that he spoke with a representative of the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies; it has not instituted a delay policy for Society reporting. They will be guided by what is listed in the Association's by-laws. The BLBRA by laws state that AGM will take place within 90 days of the end of fiscal year. The Registry says it would be useful to have a statement of the delay of the AGM in the minutes that was voted on that by the Directors. Jim F. moves seconded by Fred that we defer report 2019-2020 financial statements and they not be presented to the membership until such time as an AGM can be held in person, under Nova Scotia health regulations related to COVID-19. Discussion: Pierre asks if the budget allocations for committees is hampered by no AGM. The chair says his understanding is that this will not impact committee budgets. Motion passes 9 yeas with 1 abstaining.
- 5. Treasurers Report:** Treasurer provided a brief written report prior to the meeting, as he was not in attendance. Little business was conducted during the month, leaving an account balance of \$ 56,966.42. Motion: Annamarie moves and Jim Mac Donald seconds acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Passed unanimously.
- 6. CEPI:** Stan reports that at the latest meeting there was discussion of changing plans as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The project with Oceans North is ongoing. Travel costs for various projects may increase because of the requirement for social distancing while commuting. CEPI youth are doing work on species at risk. Dan Christmas wants to set up a Barrachois task team. Volunteers for the team were sought at the CEPI meeting. Stan asks for volunteers and Eliot volunteers. The Biosphere is designated as an area of significance, and there is an overlapping of jurisdictions in the lake. Bruce offers documentation on barrachois ponds within the lake. Stan says Mi' kmaw have stories about the lake. Bruce notes that Fred B. looked at satellite images and says there were 1,200 ponds in the lake. Bruce thinks there were 400 at last count.
- a. CBRA update:** Chair reports we have received formal notification of the periodic review. Deadline is September 2021 for submission but we must have it completed by June 2021. There was no ask for delay, and there will be further clarification from the CC-UNESCO regarding details in the Canadian context.
- At the recent CBRA directors meeting, 2020-21 work plans for the CBRA in were discussed in relation to the budget. Most of the current budget has been spent, and there is enough money to keep Kate Potter on until the end of June. A further three years of funding from Environment & Climate Change Canada is currently under negotiation. The request will be for the same amount of money as in the past. To the CBRA's knowledge, EC³ has received no reports that would negatively impact the funding request.
- A *Wiki* has been set up to show the relationships between Canadian & Global Biospheres. Gary Clarke is a co-leader of this initiative.
- b. Indigenous Circle:** No report, as Tom was not present.

7. Bras d' Or Watch:

- a.** Annamarie reports that Rod Beresford is assuming the chairmanship of the Bras d'Or Watch Project after this year's event. Funding of \$ 7,944 was received from the TD Bank, and they are aware of the difficulties of presenting a full slate of Bras d' Or Watch activities, given the COVID-19 restrictions. They are open to whatever we can present this year. Pierre reports that

he has met with Jen Cooper of ACAP, and they will support Bras d' Or Watch on the photo contest and submitting information to iNaturalist. Gratitude was expressed to Annamarie for her work on behalf of the Bras d' Or Watch. All agreed.

- b. **Communications committee:** The chair asks what is a *Wiki*? Pierre answers that it is an entry on a Wikipedia page. Chair asks Pierre to establish an authoritative voice on Wikipedia for BLBRA. Chair says we will have further discussion of this at the next meeting.
- c. **Museum report:** Chair shares letter from Madeline H. about what facilities Parks Canada is planning to open. Bell Museum is not on the planned opening list.

Eliot reports that he cannot access the Bell site, cannot even walk around the Bell building. This access is needed to take a photo of the window to have a see through graphic made for the Bell display. Elliot says Seven Signs and Vibe Creative can do the graphic. Pierre says the Advocate also does this work and Eliot asks for a contact number for them. Eliot says not much can be done until we get access to the site. Translation in English, French & Mi'kmaw has been completed for some of the display material, but not in Gaelic yet. The amount of text needs to be reduced to fit the page-space in all four languages. Chair says the hardware module for the digital display can be purchased, but we need to be ready with content for display. The Committee needs to present the Board with a work plan and budget for the Bell display as Business arising for the June meeting

- d. **Nominations committee:** Jim F. reports that the committee met and determined 7 of board members 3 or 6 year terms were expiring. A potential list of 10 board members has been developed and they hope to contact these individuals & have a slate of nominees by June. The committee will use the 2015 by laws, which allowed for longer than 2 three year terms. But try to adhere to the spirit of last years AGM that approved 2 three year terms as a maximum for board members to serve. Chair says the legality of the by laws is dependent on the AGM and not what is recorded at the Joint Registry. Jim says that all members who have a 3 year term that will be expiring will be contacted to see if they still prepared to serve. Brian MacDougall will be nominated for an official 3 year term at the AGM. Gordon K. reports there was some discussion about Municipal Appointees to the board but no decision was finalized. Chair reports that he spoke with 3 Municipal council clerks that appoint Board members CBRM appointee likely to remain. Victoria & Inverness recognize that their reps have not had good attendance. These 2 Municipalities will appoint new representatives but want a letter from BLBRA Board requesting new appointees. Gordon suggests to the chair that we send the same request to Richmond County. Chair asks if there was a designated Richmond County rep. Jim F. says Richmond did have a rep. but decided they did not want to financially support the member attending. Pierre says the Municipalities should be represented. Chair comments that Sebastian Groupol's only negative comments on his visit was: "We did not have close enough relations with our Municipalities." Fred asks about setting up technology to allow Municipal representatives to attend meetings virtually. Bruce says we would need an internet connection and a screen at meeting venues. But suggests audio video quality would be poor unless we had a special mike. Fred agreed to contact Ray J. to see what equipment would be needed and what it would cost.
- e. **Periodic review committee:** Jim Mac Donald showed an account with Google drive, similar to drop box where information on periodic review could be shared. He has set up a periodic

review folder on Google drive & will share files with leads for each section of the review. He did a brief demonstration of the technology for board members. Pierre said he has found Georgian Bay's review and he believes this would be a good model for us to follow. Jim offers to access the document and distribute it to all board members.

- f. Registrar's report:** Eliot reports we have 231 members as of May 15th, 125 of which are paid up memberships, with several gone out of date. Chair suggests an e-mail to the membership as a reminder for membership renewal. Chair will compose an e-mail, Eliot has a mailing list and document will be sent as a membership reminder.
- g. Report card:** No report.
- h. Trail committee:** No report.
- 8. Correspondence:** Chair reports a letter from Haverstock Funeral Home with a \$ 50 donation from Rita Murray IMO Luke. Chair asks registrar if Rita is a current member? Registrar reports she is not.
- 9. New Business:** Chair invites all board members to participate in the preparation of a position document on core areas within the lake. Chair will prepare a document and ask for any input from board members and he will reach out to external individuals for input. CBRA, Dave Williams at the Province, and Federal Fisheries and Oceans want this information.

Tracy says Ron Newcombe wishes to join trail committee. This is a decision for the chairperson(s) of that Committee.

- 10. Adjournment:** Moved by Fred, seconded by Annamarie. 4:37 p.m.