



## Board of Directors Meeting

### St. Peter's Lions Club Hall, September 25th, 2020 (1:30 to 4:30 pm)

Present at venue: Bruce Hatcher (Chair), Fred White Secretary, Eliot Frosst, Gordon Kerr, Stan Johnson, Jim Foulds, Annamarie Hatcher, Pierre La Rochelle, Tracy Marshall, Rod Beresford, Foncie Farrell, Liz Mac Cormack, Brian MacDougall, Maureen Cameron-Mac Millan, Henry Muggah, Jim Mac Donald.

Regrets: D. Crosby, E. Crosby, M. Harvey, D. Williams, T. Johnson.

No virtual attendees.

1. Chair calls meeting to order at 1:43 pm, welcomes all, identifies regrets from Board Members unable to attend. Recognizes we are on the unceded ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq.
2. Chair call for any additional agenda items & agenda approval, Gordon adds Biosphere sign at Big Pond location to the agenda Chair indicates it will be dealt with as 10 c under new business. Motion to approve agenda. Moved by Maureen, seconded by Brian passed unanimously.
3. Chair calls for approval of June 26th minutes. Moved by Fred, seconded by Fonci . Passed unanimously.
4. **Business arising:**
  - a. **CCA Guidelines distribution.** Chair reports that 250 copies of the guidelines were received by late June, and are being distributed, 210 have been spoken for. Ninety have been distributed already. All conference participants, board members and observers will receive copies. Feedback was recently received by the chair from the N.S. Minister of Culture & Tourism and she is anxious to follow up. She indicated that her department has monies for pilot projects and if BLBRA was to apply, our application for funds for a pilot project would be looked on favourably. The chair also reported that the Minister sent a letter of support for our periodic review.  
**Lake core area survey:** Chair reports that BLBRA received \$ 2,000 from CBRA to conduct a study of the Lake core area. Bruce had sent a survey to board members to solicit feedback on study parameters. He has received 2 responses so far. Some board members say they did not receive the survey so Bruce agreed to send it again. Bruce will move ahead with various aspects of the core area survey not requiring board input. Eg. Species. Bruce has heard through CBRA that Fisheries & Oceans has developed criteria for a survey of the area, and funds might be available for a pilot project. Bruce will follow up on this in a webinar meeting with DFO in Ottawa.
  - c. **Deferred AGM:** Gordon gives an overview of the plans for the evening **AGM**. He outlines Covid compliant regulations for the meeting. M. P. Mike Kelloway will attend and deliver brief remarks. Various committee chairs will give an overview of their committees past work & future plans. Bruce will present a short overview of the periodic review process and tasks completed to date. Jim F. asks if there will be a meeting of the new board? Gordon confirms that there will be a short meeting of the new board. Pierre confirms that the guest speaker is Patricia Bradshaw from the Nova Scotia Council for non profits. Fred explained why Iona venue was not available

for the AGM and Lions hall in St Peters was available & booked. Time for AGM is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:00 and the hall capacity is approximately 50 under Covid restrictions or however many seats can be set up socially distanced 2 meters

**5. Treasurer's report:** Brian reports that as of August 31 the change in financial position sees total revenue of \$ 15,056, the largest item being TDFEF grant for Bras d' Or watch of \$ 7,994, HST rebate signage project \$3, 457, CBRA grant of \$ 2,000, and Donations of \$ 1,045. Total expenses of \$ 9,115. The largest expenses being Bras d'Or watch field day \$ 4,500, and Climate change adaption guidelines \$ 4,035.

The August 31 closing bank balance was \$ 64,042.34. Total budget allocations committed are \$ 50, 325. Brian moves adoption of the report Eliot seconds, passed unanimously. Fred asks about the profit split from the Climate Change forum. Brian says a decision has not been made because final expenses particularly report distribution costs are not finalized. The board will have to determine a split of the profits at some future date.

There was a brief review of the yearly financials to be presented at the AGM. These had been approved at the June board meeting.

**6. CEPI update:** Tracy presented an update on CEPI youth: Members have been busy, but not as much as desired because of Covid restrictions. The group was involved in Dalhousie project on Barrachois ponds with the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle. The youth forum planned for the fall 2020 is hoped to be held by November. They are looking for input from citizens for their project on species at risk. Annamarie asks about the Facebook contest for species at risk. Tracy reports lots of interest and the effort was a success. Bruce asks if the Natural Resource project at NSCC is being held and Fonsie says it is. Bruce requests that project suggestions for CEPI youth be funneled to Tracy.

Stan reports CEPI is working on a forest monitoring project with Oceans North. Monitoring will be done on a before & after basis on forestry activities around the lake to determine what impacts these have on the watershed. Ongoing work is being done on species at risk around the lake. A mainland Mi'kmaq conservation group is looking at trying to bring back habitat for lobsters in the lake. They are looking at shoreline erosion around the lake and methods to protect shorelines and restore eel grass in the lake. Recreational fishery is being looked at and developing a Barrachois pond video for educational purposes. The steering committee of CEPI will meet October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Senior council will meet the week after. Meetings will be held online.

**7. CBRA/ UNESCO Mab updates:** Indigenous circle: Tom was not in attendance at board meeting, but with Covid restrictions the group activity has been restricted.

## **8. Committee & project reports:**

**a. Nominations Committee:** Jim F. reported that the following 11 Board members are currently within their 3 year terms on the board. Ivan Doncaster, Paul Mac Neil, John Mac Lellan, Gordon Kerr, Maureen Cameron- MacMillan, Stan Johnson, Eliot Frosst, Foncie Farrell, Elizabeth Mac Cormick, Rod Beresford, and Tracy George.

The following 8 members have reached or exceeded the tenure limits for Directors, or have

decided not to re-offer: Jim Foulds, Bruce Hatcher, Fred White, Jim Mac Donald, Tom Johnson, Don Crosby, Henry Muggah, Annamarie Hatcher.

The Board of Directors unanimously at the June 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting approved the following slate of nominees as directors of the BLBRA: Kirsty Lock, Rodney Chaisson, Allison Mc Isaac, Brian Mac Dougall, Pierre La Rochelle, Eileen Crosby, and Annamarie Talbot. This slate of nominees will be presented to the AGM at the Annual meeting. This would result in a Board membership of 18 individuals: 5 appointees and 13 members at large.

- b. Registers report & membership:** Eliot reports there are 101 lifetime members, 8 family, 4 business and 0 associates. There is a total of 143 members of this total 23 still owe dues and this was delayed because of Covid. Jim F. asks what will the required quorum be for the AGM and the number is 21.
- c. Museum display:** Eliot reports the existing map table will be scrapped. BMP has developed a good vinyl wall map 5 X 7 that can be illuminated and wall mounted. Eliot lists the names of communities and features that will be printed on the map and asks for additional suggestions members might have. Rod asks if there are criteria for information that might be added to map & Bruce says there is no criteria.
- d. Bras d' Or Watch Committee:** Annamarie reported that additional funding had been secured from TD to develop a field guide kit for Bras d' Or Watch for distribution through ACAP. TD is happy with the progress on the project and 20 kits will be distributed through ACAP.

TD again provided funds for Watch 2020. Due to pandemic restrictions; field day activities were limited. Sampling was carried out by ACAP at four sites: St. Peter's, Iona, Ben Eoin and Whycomagh.

ACAP summer students were trained and visited these four sites and collected samples consistent with methods used in previous 6 years. Training for ACAP students also included use of iNaturalist so an ongoing inventory of organisms can be made available on this mobile phone App. Photo's were posted from each site to B. Watch Facebook page. In collaboration with the Highland Village a video posted from Iona site includes Gaelic names for samples. This video reached 4,578 people. ACAP, in its report recommended the purchase of some additional supplies for site kits including better mesh size sein nets. Media release for B. Watch was covered by: CBC information morning, C.B. Post, and Port Hawkesbury Reporter. Rod B. who is taking over B. Watch from Annamarie reported he received a well -oiled machine. The B. Watch planning committee will meet at a future date to plan for 2021.

- e. Communications Committee:** Pierre reported that the Quarterly Biosphere Highlights newsletter was distributed on September 21. He asked for authors for newspaper articles that are biosphere related. Maureen has completed moving website hosting over to Go Daddy, and e-mail addresses based on @blbra.ca are being created. The Bras d' Or Watch photo contest on face book did not have a lot of take up. The B. Watch BioBlitz on iNaturalist had great promotional material produced by Jen Cooper at ACAP. The use of instagram & twitter as methods of communication with the public will be reviewed by the Communications committee. In regard to our presence on Wikipedia there has been no progress on securing independent validation. Annamarie suggested to Pierre that Tracy Marshall be used as a resource to find newspaper articles that would appeal to youth.

- f. Trail committee:** Maureen reported that the trail committee had discussion about trail maps being produced and printed and sold as a fundraiser. She also reported that the committee saw value in purchasing a yearly membership in Hike Nova Scotia. Annual membership fee would cost \$200. Maureen moved & Henry Muggah seconded a motion that \$200 be allocated to purchase an annual membership. Passed unanimously.

The Trails committee is also developing a tool kit that community groups who are interested in developing trails in their areas can utilize. They have received good feedback from people on the ground on this toolkit.

- g. Report card committee:** Liz reported that she has been researching models online that could be used for this. Things are moving forward on this project.

- h. Periodic review:** Jim Mac D. reported that the computer drive has been set up and all leads now have access to information and can store, share & upload information to this site. Letters of support are being collected from external agencies. N.S. Department of Culture & Heritage letter received; Parks Canada & Fisheries & Oceans support letters are expected soon. In all 70 support letters will be sought. so far about 5% have been received. Jim will send a list around and asked board members to pick organization & follow up with them to secure the remainder of the support letters.

- 9. Correspondence:** Bruce reported that CBRA had sent a template of a letter and suggested that this letter be sent to our M. P. 's to request funding for Biosphere Reserves be included in the federal Budget. Bruce contacted Mike Kelloway with this request and Mike asked how he could help, he said he needed more background and asked what the BLBRA goals were going forward.

Bruce sent a survey around to the board members suggestions various areas that could be considered priorities going forward. Members responded and the priorities in ranked by response to the survey were 1. Climate change adaption; 2. Reconciliation with Indigenous People; 3. Youth inclusion & engagement; 4. Sustainable Tourism; 5. Renewable energy. Bruce prepared a letter for Mike Kelloway listing the priorities as ranked by the board members in the survey. Mike Kelloway had responded and indicated he would attend the AGM and make a brief presentation.

- 10.** Gordon reported on the request by some members of Big Pond Firehall that the Biosphere sign on their front lawn be moved. Fred gave a brief explanation of the request and it was agreed that since the fire department had previously given permission to erect the sign there and it seemed to be only one or a small number of the fire department members had issue with the location of the sign, no action to move the sign would be taken at this time.

**Adjournment:** Foncie moved to adjourn at 4:43.