

**Minutes of Meeting - DRAFT COPY**  
**BLBRA Board of Directors Public Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 13, 1:30 - 4:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting**



*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> )	Y
Brian MacDougall ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Y	Rodney Chaisson	Y
Eileen Crosby ( <b>Chair</b> )	Y	Stan Johnson (CEPI)	Y
Eliot Frosst	Y	Steve Parsons (CBRM)	
Foncie Farrell	Y	Tracy Marshall	Y
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: Rosella Born, Liz Campbell, Ron Newcombe (CEPI), Gerald Singh (Periodic Review Reviewer from CCUNESCO), Genevieve Poirier (Periodic Review Reviewer from Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere).

Note: Chris King sent regrets.

1. Call to Order: At 1:30pm 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.” ([Pessamit Call for Reconciliation](#)).

2. Additions to the agenda: **No additions.**

3. Approval of the agenda: Motion to approve by Brian, seconded by Pierre. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting: Pierre made a motion to approve the minutes from March 25<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Foncie. Question. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

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

i. **AGM:** Eileen led the discussion about having a short online meeting June 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> to finalize any last-minute items before the planned June 17th AGM which will likely be online.

**Note:** At the end of the meeting during further discussion around the nominee slate and Rodney reviewing the 90-day AGM delay allowed due to COVID-19 and the NS RJS directive, it was decided to postpone the AGM until fall. June 17, 2021 will be an afternoon Zoom call.

**Action:** Eileen will determine the date of the fall AGM meeting.

ii. **Strategic Planning Grant:** A CCF grant was applied for. Covers 75% of costs. Approved by them by email May 12/21. Motion to accept the grant of \$9,693.75 towards AEC facilitation costs made by Gordon, seconded by Maureen. Question. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action:** Eileen will write a letter of acceptance to AEC.

iii. **Director Attendance at Board Meetings:** This motion was part of the list shared prior to the BoD meeting by the Executive Committee. To ensure Board effectiveness, all Board members are expected to actively participate in Board committees and Board meetings. Moved by Brian that should Board members unable to attend 50 percent of Board meetings without notice in any year, (AGM to AGM) their seat on the Board will be declared vacant. Seconded by Maureen. Tyler enquired about background. Eileen confirmed Rodney's point that the changes to bylaws approved by the Board at this meeting will need to be approved at the AGM. Questions. Vote called. Approved with one objection.

**Action:** Eileen will add by-law change to AGM agenda.

iv. **Amendments to Jan. 29 motion to drop the R in BLBR, BLBRA and instead change Reserve to Region.** These two motions were part of the list shared prior to the meeting.

1. Brian moved that 'to avoid issues of dropping the "R" from the "BLBR" acronym related to recognition of the term, I propose that we substitute the term "Region" for "Reserve". Seconded by Stan. Questions. Questions. Vote called. Approved with one objection.
2. Brian moved that 'to avoid issues of dropping the "R" from the "BLBRA" acronym for "Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association" related to recognition of the term, I propose that we substitute the term "Region" for "Reserve". Seconded by Stan. Questions. Vote called. Approved with one objection.

**Action:** The executive team will write a letter to UNESCO requesting the change of Reserve to Region if approved by the membership at the AGM..

v. **Amendments to by-laws.** These four motions were part of the list shared prior to the meeting and presented by Brian as one motion. Changes are noted as ~~old~~ new.

1. **IV (i)** The Board shall elect annually, a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and whatever other officers the Board may determine. Officers shall be elected at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting. Tenure for Officers supersedes By-Law III i.a. and may extend to six consecutive ~~terms~~ **years**. The Board may specify the duties of any officer.
2. **IV (v)** The immediate Past Chair shall continue to be on the Board for ~~three~~ **one** year, or when replaced in that position by the next Past-Chair, and shall be a director of the Association.
3. **V (vii)** A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of 50% of the Executive Committee plus ~~2~~ **6** non-executive Board members.

4. ~~VII (ii) The corporate seal of the Association shall be in the custody of the Secretary and may be affixed to any document upon resolution of the Board of Directors. (Delete entirely as there is no seal.)~~

Motion to approve the by-law changes made by Foncie and seconded by Kirsty. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action:** Eileen will add by-law changes to AGM agenda.

vi. **Bras d'Or Watch 2021 Administration:** Eileen discussed that with no current chair of Bras d'Or Watch and a reduced scope she will negotiate a new 2021 contract with the new lead of The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Cape Breton. The following motion was part of the list shared prior to the meeting

Motion by Allison that 'given that there has been no replacement for the Chair of the Bras d'Or Watch committee and that there is a likely possibility for continued Public Health restrictions into mid-July, I move that ACAP be hired to look after the event as they did last year. Last year the cost was \$4,500.00. This year the price will be the same with the possibility of a slight decrease.' Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action:** Eileen will negotiate new contract with Bras d'Or Watch contract with ACAP.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Brian gave a high-level review of the treasurer's report previously shared online and identified that there are eight major items currently making it up: the Baechler Memorial, Bras d'Or Watch, Communications, Museum Project, Trail Committee, Operations, Strategic Planning and the Periodic Review.

- i. **Financial Statements:** Brian stated that 'In seeking approval of the FY21 financial statements, he moved the adoption of the FY21 financial statements as contained in the May 13th Board package'. Seconded by Pierre. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.
- ii. **Budget Allocations:** Brian stated that 'In seeking confirmation of FY22 Budget allocations, he moved the adoption of the FY22 budget allocations as contained in the April 30 Treasurer's Report.' Seconded by Pierre. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

Note: See more on the Museum Project budget below.

7. [CEPI](#) updates – Stan reported the CEPI offices are having a soft opening but many still working from home. Still doing presentations to communities.

- iii. **Explore the Bras d'Or:** This is a partnership between the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI), The Bras D'or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Association (BLBRA), and Oceans North. They have hired an Event coordinator, Denis Thibeault who brings good experience with him and is making connections. Contact - [explorethebrasdor@gmail.com](mailto:explorethebrasdor@gmail.com) . Note: The new Facebook page is launched: <https://www.facebook.com/explorethebrasdor>. Ron also encouraged participation.

7. [CEPI Youth](#) – Tracy reported that she is planning many events around the lake with Oceans North and CEPI youth. Working at including more educators in the Species at Risk initiative. Planning microplastics workshops and another Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) event for underwater exploration.

**8. CBRA and/or UNESCO MaB updates:** Maureen had nothing to report.

## 9. Committee Chair Updates/Report Comments:

- i. **Forest Watch:** Tree planting and other initiatives may still go on.  
**Action:** Kirsty will send a new 2021 budget to Brian.
- ii. **Periodic Review:** Eileen introduced Gerald Singh, Professor of Geology from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Genevieve Poirier from Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Nature Centre who are the two reviewers assigned by CCUNESCO to provide guidance and feedback on our 2021 redesignation submission. They used this occasion to allow the Directors to clarify or expand on various subjects covered in our submission. (sample responses)

As an example, questions were posed on the growth of the Biosphere zones (positive provincial initiatives);



increased awareness of the ecology (promotion of stewardship); development of partnerships (collaboration with communities and organizations); major issues (erosion); monitoring initiatives (water, air, land, happiness, SDG’); governance (CEPI is a significant forum to present ideas to government, associations and others); and resources (lack of funding and no staff; volunteer and continuity issues).; successes ( highway signage, media attention, youth engagement, climate change forum, educational materials, trails initiative, membership tracking, and group diversity).

The responses, where applicable, will be included in Gerald’s and Genevieve’s written feedback to the periodic Review Committee chaired by Gord.

- iii. Trail Committee: Maureen reported that maps were available for fundraising.
- iv. Nomination Committee: No changes.
- v. Communications Committee: Pierre repeated the call for contributors to a monthly newspaper column.

Pierre moved that the BLBRA engage NovaStream for the FY22 blbra.ca website maintenance and minor development at the rate of \$75/hour, billed in 15 minute increments, tracked and reported monthly. The approved FY22 budget will be 20 hours for \$1,500 before taxes. Seconded by Maureen. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

vii. BLBR Display (Museum) Committee: Eliot reviewed that with the renovations at AGBNHS the BLBR display upgrades are on hold. and the new wall map is the only work completed at a cost of \$2,000. Eileen confirmed that touch screens will no longer be allowed in the AGBNHS, not only because of COVID-19. Motion by Gordon to transfer all but \$2,000 from the Museum Project allocation to unallocated funds. Seconded by Maureen. Questions. Vote called. Approved unanimously.

**Action: Brian** will transfer all except for \$2,000 of Museum project funds to unallocated.

**10.** Correspondence – None presented.

**11.** 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](#)