

**Minutes of Meeting DRAFT**  
**BLBRA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2022, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**  
**Crane Cove 4115 Shore Rd., Eskasoni, NS**



*Our mission is to improve balance in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere by encouraging community capacity building, conservation efforts, and sustainable development.*

Attendance:

DIRECTORS (Member at Large)		DIRECTORS (Ex Officio)	
Allison McIsaac ( <b>Chair</b> )	Y	Amanda Mombourquette (Richmond)	
Doug Foster	Y	Barbara Longva (Victoria)	Y
Chris King	Y	Steve Parsons (CBRM)	
Eileen Crosby ( <b>Past Chair</b> )	Y	Kirsty Lock (NSCC)	Y
Liz Campbell		Kirsten Campbell	
Veronika Breski	Y	Megan MacInnis ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Y
Rodney Chaisson ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Y	Kathleen Aitkens (Acap)	Y
Stan Johnson (CEPI)	Y	<a href="#">Terri Shobbrook</a> ( <b>Vice-chair</b> )	
Tracy Marshall (Youth Coordinator)			
Tyler Mattheis (CB Partnership)	Y		

*A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board shall consist of 50% of the Executive Comm. plus 6 non-executive Board members. (Y= Present; R= Regrets sent; N= none)*

Observers/Guests:

**1. Call to Order:**

At 1:30 pm Chair Alisson MacIsaac began the meeting by acknowledging that the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. Noted regrets.

**2. Additions to the agenda:**

None

**3. Approval of the agenda:**

**Motion** to approve made by Veronika, seconded Doug. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Review of previous meeting differed:**

Notes not received from Pierre at time of meeting. Reviewed agenda from meeting before AGM

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

### I. ECCC update.

Project on track. Hydrological surveys sent to dal for review. Work plans are being reviewed about 30,000 to date on plan to spend all allocation by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Eskasoni installed valve on water pump at their own expense. Sites that are sampled monthly by Dal are updated on drive. Samples showing surface water running into ground water requiring more protection. Seasonally updated to band. A weather station will be installed to be shared by the mesonet.

### II. 2022 Strategic Plan

Alison expressed potential for new position assistant or communication person through ECCC. Discuss at next meeting/change in budget. Requested to include info graphic on all previous meetings, attach to drive.

### III. Marketing Plan Update

Eileen went over Vibe creative group plan/demonstrations, discussed how to make people proud of the designations. Templates for stationary, video, sweaters, and other promotional material. Whole package not complete yet. Point brought forward by Kristy about inclusivity and changing design to “our” from “your”. Look into how to presents in different languages. Copies of both to be sent out and voted on by board. Pierre to continue doing the newsletter.

### IV. Board Meeting Schedule

Rodney sent out full meeting schedule for gmail calendar. Jan 19 meeting moved to Jan 12 due to conflict in schedule for Doug. Discussed coverage for mileage for those not already being compensated. To be paid at federal mileage rate. Money in ECCC budget to cover expense. Motion by Rodney to reimburse board members travel based expenses based on federal rate for meetings that don't receive money from their employer. Seconded by Chris. Motion passed unanimously

### V. Explore the Bras D'or

No follow up (Eileen). Event on Kidston Island went well good attendance. Over 30 people participated going by boat or canoe. Nicholson Trail event opening of new trail (Kristy) also went well with good attendance.

## 6. New Business

### i. New membership

Doug discussed having a more streamline spreadsheet by eliminating some fields and well as deceased members. The new list will be invoiced annually for 20\$ by email sent in March. Potential to send out bi-folds in taxes to citizens. Add a deadline to remove people from list if not by paid set time to clean spreadsheet. Expressed a need to be more organized and have better communication with membership. Currently 159 members annually, as well as, 100 lifetime members 22 of those who have no emails listed. Added there should be a communication committee to better inform and manage membership. Board agrees nominations should be put forward for officers and director a head of AGM. Election of officers – Motion Rodney, seconded by Veronika. Membership committee motion Kathleen, seconded by Doug. Motion passed unanimously

### ii. Financial policy

Moved till next meeting. Motion Eileen, seconded Veronika. Motion passed unanimously.

### **iii. Governance workshop**

Eileen brought up the need for a governance workshop. Proposed dates OCT 3,5,6 or Nov 25. Disused potential locations ie. Iona, Crane Cove, Baddeck. Availability to be checked. Iona as tentative location. Lunches to be provided. A poll will be sent out to determine which dates work for the group. 28-3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov.

### **iv. Treasurer's Report**

Rodney reviewed reports with the current budget. (posted on BLBRA google doc.) Board voted to approve the budget. Motion to accept Rodney, seconded by Tyler. Motion passed unanimously

## **7. CEPI**

Stan updated on projects going on throughout the region. Elder youth planning being managed by Tracey Marshall. Ongoing sampling being done by Garrett Bagnell with the UINR. A new position has become available for water sampling at barachois ponds survey/research.

## **8. Cape Breton Partnership**

Tyler expressed the need for more community involvement. CBRM forward work being done. Upcoming agricultural conference, float oyster harvesting. Discussed potential for offshore wind energy that's not visible from land. As well as more onshore wind energy to power peroxide/ammonia energy production. Interest from China on sustainable agriculture/aquaculture in the area.

## **9. NSCC**

Kirsty. New oceans program to be offered at NSCC in Sydney looking for someone to discuss planning of course layout.

## **10. Committee Updates**

### **i. Forest Watch (Kirsty)**

New signage posted at Nicholson trail. In the future QR codes are going to be to the signs to link to more information on website (cultural value, ecological value, indigenous value etc.) Week long camp for teachers offered for more outdoor education. Made (type?)kits that were distributed to teachers at the camp for in class use.

### **ii. Bras D'or Watch (Kathleen)**

Reported that back to inperson sessions in St Peters, Eskasoni, Grand Narrows, and Whycomomagh. Over 150 people participated throughout. Over 5000 observation were made using iNaturalist website including species at risk. Proposed reducing number of sites from 4 to 2 easier to maintain.

### **iii. CBU student community research project (Chris)**

Discussed shoreline erosion in Baddeck. Kidston island beach camera set up in lighthouse to take photos every 30 mins during hurricane to track beach erosion.

### **iv. Baddeck Waterfront Committee (Veronika)**

Expressed a need to install walls to stop waves from damaging beach. A portion of the board walk is caving in; bringing in someone from Dalhousie to look at living shoreline potential. Establishing beach access to public should be a priority.

**11. Correspondence**

CBRA is looking for a biosphere to host this year's national meeting (not volunteers).

**Adjournment - Motion** to adjourn by Allison at approximately 4:20 pm

Next meeting: November 17 @ 1:30pm

Minutes by Megan. Please email any corrections, clarifications or omissions to me via [secretary@blbra.ca](mailto:secretary@blbra.ca)