

Minutes of Meeting DRAFT
BLBRA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 22, 2023, 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 (Chair) | Y | Amanda Mombourquette (Richmond) | R |
| Liz Campbell | N | Barbara Longva (Victoria) | Y |
| Tony Sylliboy | Y | Representative (CBRM) | N |
| Parker Donham | Y | Kirsty Lock (NSCC) | R |
| Veronika Brzeski | Y | Stan Johnson (CEPI) | Y |
| Rodney Chaisson (Treasurer) | Y | Kathleen Aitkens (Acap) | Y |
| Bethsheila Kent | R | Tyler Mattheis (CB Partnership) | R |
| Terri Shobbrook(Vice-chair) | Y | Representative (Inverness) | N |
| Breah Sampson-MacDonald | N | | |
| Wendy MacKinnon | Y | | |
| Kirsten Campbell | R | | |
| Megan MacInnis (Secretary) | 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: Doug Foster (**Manager**), Zoe Nicholas (**BLBRA Admin Assist**) and Pierre LaRochelle (**Chair Comm**)

1. Call to Order:

At 1:39 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. Quick introduction of all who attended.

2. Additions to the agenda:

Pitu'paq (a committee made up of 4 wardens, mayor and the 5 first nations chiefs) is interested in having a MOU with the BLBRA board. Doug Foster wants to discuss the display at Alexander Graham Bell Museum.

3. Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Terri Shobbrook and seconded by Allison MacIsaac. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of previous meeting differed:

Allison acknowledged that the AGM did happen and thanked the planning committee, Terri S. and Veronika B. Adventure Lab is ongoing. Trails committee to partner with Ceal Committee for the signage in the Nicholson trail (waiting for website to be up and running) with QR codes. Membership committee up to date. Pierre LaRochelle is not scheduled until 2pm, he can talk more about some of the action items. Motion to approve minutes from May 11, 2023 as amended by Kathleen Aikens, and seconded by Megan MacInnis - motion approved.

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

- 5.1.** Recap of Annual General Meeting
- 5.2.** Review of Board meeting schedule
- 5.3.** Two-eyed seeing conference
- 5.4.** Pitu'paq

5.1 Recap of Annual General Meeting

Terri Shobbrook stated that BLBRAs AGM for 2023 was held at the Alexander Graham Bell museum on June 15, 2023. Veronica Brzeski was in charge of the PowerPoint presentation - she did an amazing job. It was a paperless AGM - also used real cups (that were hand washed when it was time to tidy up). Anyone who would enjoy a hard copy of the PPP can request one. Staff from the AGB museum reached out to say they were happy with us cleaning up after the AGM - although we put all the chairs away (they needed them out). AGM might have been too long - might extend the time by starting at 7 instead of 730. Potted plants and etched wine glasses for retirees, Eileen Crosby and Chris King, and etched wine glasses for guest speaker - Catherine Hart of Engage NS. Parker Donham suggested not making the AGM longer - instead distribute documents beforehand. Concerns over the length of the AGM.

Action item: AGM committee to review process of AGM to include documents distributed early for review before AGM to cut down on time and have questions and concerns answered.

5.2 Review of Board meeting schedule

Allison MacIsaac stated September 21 will be the next board meeting. Usually the third Thursday of the month. Highland Village will be the November board meeting spot. Zoe Nicholas will send calendar invites roughly 10 days in advance of the meetings. Pierre will update the website with the future board meeting minutes. AGM confirmed to be located at the Highland Village in 2024. Everyone in attendance at the BOD meeting agreed.

Action item: Zoe to send out google calendar invites to BOD members 10 days prior to meetings.

5.3 Two-eyed Seeing conference

The two eyed seeing conference is going to happen in November at the Membertou Trade and Convention center in November 2023. They are seeking a conference coordinator and received a few applications. They applied for funding from MK (Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey) and partners from the senior council. Allison M. suggested to Stan Johnson if they could combine BLBRA's regional conference with the Two-Eyed Seeing conference. Communication about combining conferences will continue.

Action item: Allison MacIsaac to continue conversations about combining the regional conference with the Two Eyed Seeing conference.

5.4 Pitu'paq

Doug Foster stated that Paul Schwartz approached him to ask if BLBRA will sign a MOU (Memorandum of understanding) with Pitu'paq. Doug Foster stated that we are partners with UINR, CEPI, Pitu'paq, five municipalities, 5 First Nations. Allison asked what was Paul's rationale for wanting a MOU and Doug was not sure. Allison asked Stan if CEPI and Pitu'paq have a MOU and Stan J. replied saying he did not think it was needed. It was decided to table the MOU for the next board meeting to have more discussions on it.

Action item: BLBRA Board of Directors to discuss Paul Schwartz MOU with Pitu'paq.

5.5 Alexander Graham Bell Museum BLBRA Display

Doug F. went up before the AGM started to see the BLBRA display and talk to the workers about it. Doug stated that the display is "ancient" and in need of looking into, and Parks Canada is suggesting that a different location within the AGBM would be better - 2nd level. The outdoor display is more costly than the indoor display. Pierre spoke about signage for the BLBRA that him, and Eileen Crosby have discussed in the past. Terri Shobbrook, Pierre LaRochelle, Doug Foster and Veronika Brzeski are going to make a committee for the BLBRA display at AGB Museum. Doug has meetings planned with Matt Cook and Parks Canada's Derek Mombourquette.

Action item: Doug F., Terri Shobbrook, Pierre LaRochelle, Veronika Brzeski to create a committee together to figure out the BLBRA display at the AGBM.

Action item: Doug F. meetings with Matt Cook and Derek Mombourquette about the BLBRA display at AGBM.

6. Reports

6.1 Treasurer - Rodney Chaisson

Rodney uploaded the excel spreadsheet containing the financial information - last year financial, this year financial and a working budget. Parker Donham vocalized his concerns of having the word "Profit/Loss" and to replace it to "surplus" on the financial statement. Parker D. has also voiced his concern over the "negative" number on the financials - Rodney C. explained there was no actual negative number on the statement that invoices were not in at the time. Doug brought up the RJSC needs to be updated with the new board. Pierre to look into credit from Vibe and Breton Print. Allison suggested a Funds Committee and Fundraising Committee - recruit people who are good at proposal/grant writing and researching.

Action item: the RJSC needs to be updated with the new board.

Action item: Pierre to look in the credit situation with Vibe and Breton Print.

Action item: Create a Funds committee and Fundraising committee to address these issues.

6.2 Manager - Doug Foster

Get a list of bylaw changes that we need, find a data storage that's permanent, additional themes for the Biospheres GIS, and continue the demographic population analysis for Unama'ki. Continue to look for funding.

Action item: Doug to create a list of by-law changes

Action item: Doug F. to find more permanent data storage for GIS information and continue the demographic analysis for Unama'ki.

Action item: Doug to continue to look for funding.

6.3 Trail Committee - Ron Newcombe

Ron Newcombe was not able to make it - but the board just had an update on the trails committee at the AGM a week before this meeting. Pierre reiterated that the signs for the trails should be the same using our BLBRA colors.

6.4 Communications Committee - Pierre LaRochelle

No additional information could be given since the AGM a week prior. Pierre stated that the New Website Launch will be sent to the 800 subscribers. Explore the Bras d'Or will use our branding.

6.5 Community Engagement & Learning Committee - Kirsty Locke

Kirsty Locke could not make it. Kirsty facilitated a workshop just before the AGM to show and teach people how to use the Teaching kits from BLBRA. We had a person from Baddeck reach out to Zoe to borrow a kit. Bras d'Or Watch is happening at the same time at Explore the Bras d'Or. Veronika stated that Baddeck started their Explore the Bras d'Or today and wants to talk about housing data with BLBRA.

6.6 Membership Committee - Kathleen Aikens

Kathleen said the AGM went very well and we had a setup for people to be able to pay and sign up at the AGM. We had 7 people renew their membership and 1 completely new member. Need to find a process for e transfers and Kathleen has a finalized list of members. 146 active members including lifetime members 43 current annual members. Should create an annual membership drive trying to recruit new members.

Action item: Kathleen Aikens to find a better process for e-transfer - communicating with all involved.

Action item: Kathleen to create an annual membership drive to recruit new members.

7. Ex-Officio / Partner Updates

7.1 CEPI - Stan Johnson

Steering committee meeting on July 5th for CEPI - given quarterly.

7.2 Richmond County - Amanda Mombourquette

Sends her regrets

7.3 Victoria County - Barbara Longva

Working on a strategic plan for zoning - June or July. Replacing water meters and treatment plan in Ingonish because of the development of the Ski Lodge.

7.4 Inverness County -

No member

7.5 CBRM -

No member

7.6 Cape Breton Partnership - Tyler Mattheis

Sends regrets.

7.7 NSCC - Kirsty Locke

Sends regrets

7.8 Port Hawkesbury Paper - Megan MacInnis

PHP wind - working on installing 30 windmills in Guysborough take up 40% of our energy demand - got the environment approval.

8. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Terri Shobbrook made at approximately 3:50 pm

Next meeting: September 21 @ 1:30pm - Ross Ferry Fire Hall

Minutes by Zoe Nicholas verified by Megan MacInnis. Please email any corrections, clarifications or omissions to Megan MacInnis by email secretary@blbra.ca .