



**2016 Annual General Meeting /
l'Assemblée générale annuelle**

Minutes

**13 October 2015
4:00-6:00pm
Guelph, ON**

CRRF Members Present

Bill Ashton, Bruno Jean, Bill Reimer, Heather Mair, Valencia Gaspard, Bojan Furst, Sean Markey, Kathleen Kevany, Heather Hall, Terri MacDonald, Sarah Breen, Al Lauzon, Craig Pollet, Patrick Leveque, Joshua Barrett, Angela Pollak, Ruth Mealy, Marie Gallant, Carol Kenny, Laurie Brinklow, E. Dobnowsho(?), Kelly Vodden, John Devlin, David Douglas, Kyle Rich, Sarah Minnes, Merle Nassie

Guests

Michael Blatherwick, Wayne Kelly, Philip Loring, Brennan Lowery, Suzanne Ainley, Amanda Herbert, Brendan O'Keffe, Carolyn Hatch, Darcy Overland

1. Call to Order

Al thanked everyone for attending and provided an overview of the rules of the meeting

2. Review and approval of agenda

Al asked whether there were any additional items for the agenda. Hearing none he sought a motion to accept the agenda. Heather Hall moved that the agenda for October 13, 2016 be accepted; seconded by Valencia, and approved by all.

3. Review and approval of 2015 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes

Al explained that the 2015 AGM was held in Sunnyside, PEI on September 17, 2015. Al asked whether there were any changes for the 2015 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes. Hearing none he sought a motion to approve the minutes. Bojan moved that the 2014 CRRF/FCRR AGM Minutes be approved; seconded by Sean, and approved by all.

4. Report of President

Al expressed happiness for the activities undertaken by CRRF this year and thanked everyone for their efforts. The continued success of the State of Rural Canada, the Rural Routes podcast, and ongoing partnership with RPLC are examples of successes from this year. A round of applause was heard as a thank you to everyone.

There will be turnover on the board this year. Sarah B, Ruth, Heather, Sean, Terri, and Ramona all have terms ending this year. Only Ruth and Sarah can continue. Al wanted to thank the exiting board members for their hard work and we look forward to new people on the board.

5. Report of Treasurer



This will be Sean's last report and he is available to respond to any questions. The board remains solvent and there has been some growth in the accounts from the report from Prince George as a result of various things (State of Rural Canada and grants).

6. Approval of audited financial statement

Al sought a motion that we accept the most recent CRRF Audited Financial Statements report. Sean moved a motion that the Audited Financial Statements report be accepted; Seconded by Craig and approved by all.

7. Appointment of auditors for 2016-2017

We have a continued standing relation with Harris Ryan, who Sean believes to be comparable in terms of cost. We could consider a shift as current contract goes back a number of years (10+). Sean recommends we continue with Harris Ryan for this year. Sean made the motion, seconded by Ruth, approved by all.

It was noted that we should get 3 new quotes for other potential auditors for next year (a total for 4 – Harris Ryan + 3 new). A motion to get the 3 quotes was made by Sean, seconded by Valencia, and approved by all.

Sean thanked Bill A and his team at the Brandon RDI for their continued support.

8. Bylaw Revision Proposal

During a review of the bylaws there was a suggested revision made concerning the terms of office (page 4). Need to change the language to allow board members to be elected for two terms of two years each (a total of 6 years). New language was proposed but it was noted that the new language needed to be corrected. The bylaw will now read "*Directors shall be elected for a two year term. Directors may be re-elected for two additional two year terms and then must retire from the Board for at least one year before seeking re-election.*"

Ryan moved to accept the new language, seconded by Terri, 24 members voted in favor, 1 member opposed.

9. Committee reports

a. Membership

Heather provided a membership updated and thanked Ruth for her work. There are currently 84 CRRF members. 35 memberships expired in 2014, 15 expired in 2015, and 20 expire this December. There is a need for a new membership platform and incentives

b. Communications

Ryan provided a communications update. This continues to be a busy committee. The e-newsletter has now been active for five years. Work on social media and the website is ongoing. There has been increased traffic to the website as a result of the SORC. All new associated websites (e.g., conference websites) will continue to end with CRRF.ca.



c. Policy and Advocacy

Sean provided an update on this committee. The primary focus has been the distribution and use of the State of Rural Canada. There have been ongoing conversations of how to respond to requests from government to meet with them. We need further discussion on how to be opportunistic in making trips for meetings. For example, can we deputize CRRF members in order to speak on behalf of the board. Also need for discussion on how to better bring in CRRF members as committee members so that committees are not entirely made up of board members.

We have a mobilization fund. David Douglas generously donated a speaker feed to start this fund.

Thank you to the members of this committee.

d. Strategic Networks

Sarah M provided an update. We continue to work on a partnership with OPPI and CIP. We wish to get recognition/credit for planners for attending CRRF sessions in the future. This relationship is moving to a MOU. One challenge is that OPPI runs an event at the same time as CRRF so that is a challenge.

Continuing with talks with CFBC surrounding a partnership for the 2017 conference. A presentation to CFBC happened and we're optimistic here. There was a suggestion to contact Pan West CF (includes all the western CFs). The response was that there is an agreement to start first with CFBC. This will be followed by PanWest, then finally the Canada wide CF.

Thank you to Al and Sarah M for their work on this committee.

e. Charitable Status and Endowment

Question raised as to the need to explore what CRRF does with its charitable status. Ryan reminded us that we have a partnership with Canada Helps on our website which allows for general donations and support to be made. There is also a precedent for speaker fee donation/transfer.

We need to look into an endowment drive, this could be with the effort.

The opportunity was raised to take advantage of paycheck donation through employers (similar to payroll donations for the United Way).

10. Election of Board and Officers

a. Nominations Committee Report

Ryan spoke at length about owing people favors for nominating them. There are 6 positions on the board open. 2 current members, Sarah B & Ruth, with to continue, leaving 4 open. The nomination committee proposes Laurie Brinklow, Valencia Gaspard, and Carol Kenny for the board, leaving one space open for nominations from the floor. The nomination committee also recommends Sarah B for President, Valencia for secretary, and Ruth for treasurer.

b. Election of board and offices



Ryan motioned to appoint David Douglas to run the election. Heather Hall seconded. Approved by all.

David sought nominations from the floor. Three rounds are required. In round 1 Bill Reimer nominated Kathleen K. Ryan nominated Angela P. Both agreed to stand. This required a vote (some confusion ensued).

The results of the vote were that the following board members were voted in: Sarah B, Laurie B, Valencia G, Carol K, Ruth M, Angela P.

Moving to election of the officers, David called for any nominations from the floor for President, Secretary and Treasurer; He called a second time for nominations from the floor for President and Treasurer; He called a third time for nominations from the floor for President and Treasurer. Hearing none, David declared by acclamation Sarah B as president, Valencia G as secretary, and Ruth M as treasurer. Ryan motion to accept, seconded by Josh B, all were in favor.

Al thanked the 2015-2016 board for their service. Thanks to David.

11. Announcement of New Lifetime Members

Al announced the new lifetime member – Richard Rounds. Bill R, Bruno J, David Douglas, and Bill A all spoke about Richard and the various contributions he made.

12. Reflections on the 2016 Conference

Katherine K spoke about the amazing keynote speaker Saturday morning, and of the overall great science and passion that has come forward. Bill R echoed that he was thrilled to see the First Nations inclusion in the speakers and the tour, particularly as there have been difficulties with this in the past. Sarah B thanked all the organizers, which was echoed by Al and a round of applause.

13. Announcement of 2017 Annual Conference

Nelson BC will be the site of the 2017 conference, which will be hosted in conjunction with Selkirk College.

14. Adjournment

Heather moved a motion to adjourn.