

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Hotel Pur, Quebec City, Quebec
Saturday, October 17, 2009
17:00-18:00

Attendees:

Bob Annis; Bill Ashton; Heather Clemenson; Chantal Dali; David Douglas; Andy Flanagan; Rob Greenwood; Ryan Gibson; Gary Hall; Colin Hudson; Bruno Jean; Tom Johnson; John Martin; George Penfold; Bill Reimer; Nelson Rogers; Alvin Simms; Sheila Smail; Mike Stolte; Kelly Vodden; Deatra Walsh.

1. *Call to Order at 17:00*
2. *Review/Approval of Agenda*

Committee Reports were moved to item 4 to enable presentation of reports by members who had to leave the AGM early.

3. *Approval of Minutes from Last AGM*

As the Minutes were not available a motion was put forward **to defer approval of the minutes**: *Motion: Deatra Walsh; Seconded: George Penfold; Motion carried.*

4. *Committee Reports*

Research Committee: Bill Reimer reported on the ongoing work of the rural/urban research project; he also noted that the research centre collaboration that was explored with Bob Annis (RDI) is still ongoing with Bill Ashton (RDI). Bill acknowledged the important work undertaken by Alessandro Alasia to launch the CRRN blogspace. Bill also reported on the success of the June 2008 Inuvik Conference on Boom and Bust Economies; his own personal learning from the event was the importance of social infrastructure as well as physical infrastructure in contributing to community resilience at times of "bust". The full report of the event is available on the RDI website (<http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2008english.asp>)

Strategy and Partnership Development Committee: David Douglas noted that with the collaboration of his Committee members Shirley Dawe, Craig Pollett and Sarah Crowe, a document has been prepared that explores CRRF's vision and core activities and

provides a SWOT analysis of CRRF as well as a draft of six goals for CRRF. From this start the objectives and an operational plan for CRRF will be flushed out, followed by a communications and promotion document. David envisaged that a draft Strategic Plan for CRRF would be put together over the next two months.

FCM & Cdn. Urban Institute Alliance Committee: Rob Greenwood noted that the CRRF/FCM alliance was still a commitment for CRRF. While CRRF and the FCM are active in the rural/urban research, the “alliance” component needs to be re-examined. The partnership agreement was for a period of two years and might have expired. Rob suggested that one of the new Board positions for 2009-2010 could be to take on partnership negotiations with the FCM; perhaps to lobby for a rural/urban session in an upcoming FCM conference.

Communications & Education Committee: Deatra Walsh noted that she is working with Alessandro on the CRRN blog and with Bill Reimer on the CRRF website. She noted that we need to consider how best to communicate with CRRF members in the future.

5. *Report of President*

Mike Stolte gave highlights of his year as President of CRRF. He noted that we had not yet heard from the Rural Secretariat for financing the Workshop and that finances had been a major issue during the year. He thanked George Penfold for his work in rectifying CRRF’s confusing finances. He talked about the fall 2008 planning session of the Board and the decision to delay going for further long term funding until the organization has a good strategic plan and its future directions are clear.

Other highlights: The FCM alliance has borne fruit through the rural/urban project; the Twillingate Conference publication: “Remote Control: Governance Lessons for and from Small, Insular and Remote Regions”, is now in print; CRRF has launched the new blogspot CRRN this year; NRRN has now gone as a CRRF entity; the decision to hold the CRRF Workshop as a follow-on from the OECD event was initially conceived in the hope to have greater synergy between the two events; in the end the direct benefit for CRRF were the OECD delegates who stayed for our Workshop. Finally, Mike noted that David Douglas has agreed take on the role of CRRF President.

Regarding future CRRF events; our role is still to be determined in the Statistics Canada meeting in April 2010 (partner or participant); the fall 2010 conference location is to be finalized, whether Halifax or Manitoba; the 2011 conference is set to be coincidental with the North Atlantic Forum “Culture and Development in Small Islands” to be held on the Avalon Peninsula, possibly in St. John’s Newfoundland.

6. *Report of Treasurer*

George Penfold told the story of the sad state of CRRF's finances over the past two years. When he first took on the Treasurer's position CRRF was one and a half years behind in reporting to the Rural Secretariat (RS) for NRRN funding and CRRF lost the use of between \$50,000 to \$60,000 as an outcome, and the Rural Secretariat still has a \$4,200 hold back that is being negotiated.

CRRF's charitable status was cancelled as the organization had not filed for two years. We are renegotiating charitable status but it is not yet approved.

Financial statements for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 were reviewed. The conclusion was that at this point, CRRF is not generating any revenue and the organization is in income stress, especially if we do not obtain RS funding for the Workshop.

George stated that he was willing to stay on as Treasurer for another year.

Rob Greenwood noted that there might be some re-funding through GST that has yet to be determined for the Rural/Urban project. He also noted that institutional partnerships, through the various regional centres across Canada, are already providing and could provide future funding help for CRRF.

A discussion on the financial stability of the organization ensued; in particular concerns were raised by future Board members as to their liability in the event of the failure to receive RS support for the workshop. It was also suggested that CRRF seek future funding from the provinces.

7. *Approval of Audited Financial Statements*

The motion was put forward "**to accept the financial statements as presented**";
Motion: George Penfold; Seconded: David Douglas, Motion carried.

8. *Nominations Committee Reports*

Heather Clemenson indicated that three 2008-2009 Board members positions were made available following the resignation of Sue Welke (Secretary), the resignation of Rob Greenwood (Past President) and the anticipated resignation of Serge Gagnon given his new position and responsibilities. It was also noted that the CRRF constitution does not limit the number of Directors on the Board.

Board Members who were willing to stay on for 2009-2010 were listed:

David Douglas, (President), replacing Mike Stolte
Mike Stolte (Past President)
George Penfold (Treasurer)

Heather Clemenson (Secretary)
Deatra Walsh (Director)
Bruno Jean (Director)
Bill Reimer (Director)

Nominations that had been received prior to the meeting were:

Bill Ashton
Bob Annis
Ryan Gibson
Kelly Vodden

Mike Stolte asked the members present, three times, if there were further nominations. Nominations were closed.

9. *Election of Board & Officer*

As there were no further nominations, the motion was put forward that **“the slate of eleven members put forward be accepted by the membership as the new Board of Directors for 2009-2010”**. *Motion: Bruno Jean; Seconded: Deatra Walsh; Motion carried.*

An employee of the Rural Secretariat expressed interest in either being on the Board, being a non-voting member, or being invited to attend Board meetings. There was considerable discussion around the subject with the result being a motion from the floor. It was moved that **“the CRRF Board establish a sub-committee to review the pros and cons of having ex-officio position(s), to examine the CRRF by-laws on this issue; and if required, to bring the results to the membership at the next AGM”**. *Motion: Rob Greenwood; Seconded; Kelly Vodden; Motion carried.*

10. *Other Business*

Rob Greenwood thanked Mike Stolte for the work that he has done over the past year as President of CRRF. David Douglas also thanked Mike and spoke briefly to his objectives for the coming year as the new President, including: the funding issue; the membership issue, especially recruiting young members for CRRF for the future of the organization; the need for a working board with each member having a portfolio of responsibilities; constitution and records management; and maintaining the momentum of the organization.

11. *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Stolte.