

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Delta Hotel and Conference Centre, St John's, Newfoundland

Friday, October 14, 2011

4:35 pm - 6:05 pm

Attendees:

Alessandro Alasia*, Bob Annis*, Dee Ann Benard, Luc Bisson, Curtis Burns, David Douglas*, Ivan Emke*, Lisa Erven, Judy Ferguson, Chris Fullerton*, Ryan Gibson*, Sharon Halfyard, Bruno Jean*, Brendan O'Keefe, Terri MacDonald, Craig MacKie, Irene Novaczek, Nancy Ralph, Bill Reimer*, Kelly Vodden*, Joy Vonk, Paul Watson, and Barbara Ledwell Watton.

CRRF members eligible to vote are noted with an asterisk.

1. *Call to Order* at 4:35 pm

The President noted that even though the AGM was being conducted in English, he welcomed any questions or discussion in French and would call upon some of his Board colleagues for assistance in this. The President also explained CRRF welcomed everyone's participation in the discussion of the AGM, however, only CRRF members would be eligible to vote. Board members Bob Annis and Kelly Vodden had a list of CRRF members available at the meeting.

2. *Review/Approval of Agenda*

No items were added to the agenda. Bob Annis put forward a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Chris Fullerton; motion carried.

3. *Approval of Minutes from Last AGM*

Minutes from the last AGM held in Brandon, October 16th 2010 were circulated for approval. Ryan Gibson put forward a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2010 AGM; seconded: by Kelly Vodden; motion carried.

4. *Report of President*

David Douglas (President) noted CRRF has been very active since the last AGM in Brandon. David highlighted two key initiatives of board activities: organizational developments and member engagement. Over the past year the board has been proactive in proposing revisions to the Foundation's constitution and continued

momentum with the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. David reported the board made forward progress with the strategic plan, which serves as a demanding road map for the organization. Second, David reported the board has been busy in the area of member engagement and communications. The CRRF website was re-launched at the beginning of the North Atlantic Conference after considerable work and consultation. CRRF has continued the E-Zine, a quarterly publication highlighting the achievements of CRRF, rural and regional development research, and upcoming events. The latest edition of the CRRF E-Zine is available on the website. Board members has also clarified the membership process, membership fees, and articulated clear benefits of CRRF membership.

Three new activities of CRRF in 2011 include the Rural Research Centres dialogue session, a partnership with The Co-operators Group, and the resurgence of the spring think tank. At the conclusion of the North Atlantic Forum conference Bill Reimer and Bill Ashton will facilitate a discussion aimed at connecting rural research centres across Canada. In 2011, CRRF partnered with The Co-operators Group to facilitate the participation of rural leaders and practitioners at the North Atlantic Forum. The financial arrangement permitted 7 rural leaders from across Canada to attend the conference. In May 2011, CRRF co-hosted the Rural Research Workshop with partners from across Canada. The workshop brought together rural researchers, government policy makers, and practitioners. CRRF will continue to play a lead role in the 2012 edition of the workshop.

David talked about the next steps of making CRRF more collaborative and inclusive in the future; to encourage youth, First Nations, new Canadians and more women into the network. The full President's report is available in the CRRF E-zine. David conclude the President's report by thanking his board colleagues, indicating it has been a remarkable past two years where many things were achieved.

Kelly Vodden expressed her gratitude to David for his leadership of the board for the past two years.

5. *Report of Treasurer*

Bill Reimer, filling in for CRRF Treasurer George Penfold, outlined the current state of CRRF finances. As of December 31, 2010 CRRF's assets were \$11,671.

6. *Approval of Audited Financial Statements*

The audited statement of CRRF's accounts, as prepared by Harris Ryan Chartered Accountants, was circulated to all in attendance. Bill Reimer reviewed in detail the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2010.

Bill Reimer put forward a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Chris Fullerton; motion carried.

Bill Reimer put forward a motion to appoint Harris Ryan Chartered Accountants of St John's, Newfoundland as the auditors for 2011; seconded by Bob Annis; motion carried.

7. Motion to Amend CRRF Constitution

Bob Annis explained a committee of CRRF board members consisting of Heather Clemenson, Bill Reimer, and George Penfold reviewed CRRF's current constitution, adopted at the AGM in 2002. Based on this review a number of minor revisions were put forth. Bob reviewed the changes in the proposed constitution: details on the size of the board (3 executive positions and up to 7 members), inclusion of ex officio board members, insertion of standing committees, and requirements for board member attendance. A motion to amend the constitution was circulated in advance of the AGM via email and the CRRF website.

Bob Annis put forward a motion to replace the current constitution (adopted in 2002), in its entirety, with the proposed constitution; seconded by Ryan Gibson. Through discussion of the proposed constitution Ryan Gibson brought forward an amendment. The amendment was to remove the position of "president-elect" on page 3 under the heading of Meetings. The amendment was seconded by Bill Reimer; amendment carried.

Bob Annis revised the original motion to replace the current constitution (adopted in 2002), in its entirety, with the amended proposed constitution; seconded by Ryan Gibson; motion carried.

8. *Committee Reports*

a. Membership

On behalf of Deatra Walsh, Ryan Gibson noted the Membership Committee has been busy during the past year. Membership fees were proposed in the proposed constitution at \$30 per year or \$100 for five years. A membership application form will be available for the 2012 year on the CRRF website shortly.

There was discussion regarding whether CRRF had explored creating a tiered membership fee structure that differentiated individuals from organizations. The response was that CRRF had indeed explored various membership categories and structures but decided to on the current fees based on simplicity and the limited human resources of the organization.

It was suggested CRRF explore mechanisms and avenues to enhance the profile of the organization among post-secondary students. In particular, students should understand the value and benefits they could receive from CRRF.

b. Strategic Plan Committee

David Douglas noted the board is still working from the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. This plan can be found on the CRRF website.

c. Partnerships and Strategic Alliances

On behalf of Mike Stolte, David Douglas reported progress is being made on partnerships and strategic alliances. A recent partnership was the CRRF-The Co-operators Group arrangements that David spoke about in the President's Report.

d. Communications (E-zine)

On behalf of Deatra Walsh, Ryan Gibson noted the latest CRRF E-Zine was released in September 2011 and included in all participant packages. Ryan thanked Deatra and Kate Hall for their work on the E-zine.

e. Website

Ryan Gibson explained the re-designed CRRF website was launched in conjunction with the North Atlantic Forum conference. Details on the functions of the re-designed website include: membership sign up form, inventory of rural research initiatives, reports, publications, upcoming events. Feedback and comments on the re-designed website are welcomed.

f. Annual Conference

David Douglas thanked the co-hosts for the *Culture, Place and Identity at the Heart of Regional Development* conference: the Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development, North Atlantic Forum, and the Small Islands Cultural Research Initiative. Details of the 2012 conference were announced by Dee Ann Benard of the Alberta Rural Development Network. The 2012 conference will be co-hosted by CRRF and the Alberta Rural Development Network in Olds, Alberta from October 11-13, 2012.

9. Nominations Committee Report

Kelly Vodden explained a board committee consisting of Mike Stolte, David Douglas, and herself met to encourage nominations to the board. At the same time, the Nominations Committee spoke with current board members regarding their desire to remain on the board. The Nominations Committee received the following names for consideration to the board: Matthew Brett, Kate Hall, and Nicole Vaugeois.

10. *Election of Board and Officers*

Ivan Emke served as the elections officer for the board election. Ivan explained the process, whereby elections for the position of President, Secretary, and Treasurer would be held first. Following the election of the executive positions elections would be held for the remaining board member positions.

President: Ivan indicated Bob Annis was nominated for the position President. Ivan called for nominations from the floor three times. No further names were put forth. Ivan declared Bob elected as President for a one-year term.

Secretary: Ivan indicated Heather Clemenson expressed an interest in the position of Secretary. Ivan called for additional nominations from the floor three times. No further names were put forth. Ivan declared Heather elected as Secretary for a one-year term.

Treasurer: Ivan indicated William (Bill) Ahston expressed an interest in the position of Treasurer. Ivan called for additional nominations from the floor three times. No further names were put forth. Ivan declared Bill elected as Treasurer for a one-year term.

Board Member Position: Ivan explained a minimum of three and a maximum of seven people may be elected to the board. The seven names received by the Nominations Committee were put forth as a slate, including Matthew Brett, Ryan Gibson, Kate Hall, Bruno Jean, George Penfold, Bill Reimer, and Nicole Vaugeois. Ivan called for additional nominations from the floor three times. No further names were put forth. Ivan declared these seven individuals elected for a one-year term.

The elected board members for 2011-2012 will be: Bob Annis (President), Heather Clemenson (Secretary), Bill Ashton (Treasurer), David Douglas (Past President, ex officio), Matthew Brett, Ryan Gibson, Kate Hall, Bruno Jean, George Penfold, Bill Reimer, and Nicole Vaugeois.

David Douglas thanked Ivan Emke for his role as elections officer.

11. *Other Business*

Bill Reimer reminded everyone of the Rural Research Centre session being held on October 15 at 5 pm (NDT) at the Delta Hotel.

Bill Reimer noted Australian researcher John Martin will be cycling across Canada this summer. CRRF is assisting John in connecting him to organizations and individuals throughout rural Canada. Check the CRRF website for further information.

The 2012 International Comparative Rural Policy Studies summer institute will be held in Québec. The planning is being lead by Bruno Jean and Bill Reimer, with CRRF as a partner. Further information on the summer institute can be found at <http://icrps2012.ca/>.

Bob Annis, newly elected CRRF President, congratulated David Douglas for his efforts and leadership over the past two years.

The next CRRF board meeting was announced for Tuesday, November 1 at 12 pm EDT.

11. *Adjournment*

Bill Reimer motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.