



**2017 Annual General Meeting
Minutes**

21 September 2017

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

*Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Centre
Nelson, BC*

1. Call to order
 - a. Sarah B calls to order 4:43PM
2. Review and approval of agenda
 - a. Valencia motions to accept the agenda as is, Ruth seconds, carried
3. Review and approval of 2016 CRRF AGM minutes
 - a. Craig motions to accept last years' minutes as is, Bojan seconds, carried
4. Report of President
 - a. Sarah B presents annual report
 - b. Sarah B motions to approve the report, Sarah M seconds, carried
5. Report of Treasurer
 - a. Net assets of \$31, 055, does not include funds from last years' Guelph conference
6. Approval of audited financial statements
 - a. Ruth moves that the treasure report is adopted, seconded by Heather, carried
7. Appointment of auditors for 2017-2018
 - a. Four quotes acquired, auditor out of St John's Newfoundland (Harris Ryan) has been used for a number of years
 - b. Some quotes are time sensitive, range from \$1400-3500
 - c. Recommendation from Ruth that we continue with Harris Ryan
 - d. Bill motions to accept quote from Harris Ryan, seconded by Ryan Gibson, carried
8. Membership discussion
 - a. Fees, member needs
 - i. Membership committee investigation
 - ii. There is interest in sending a membership survey via the newsletter, that will happen this fall
 - iii.
9. CRRF logo renewal
 - a. CRRF logo renewal
 - b. Communications committee, interested in investigating what this looks like, what it could look like
 - c. Opportunity is not around change, looking to look at it, investigate it
 - d. Technical issues with the logo, may be simply updating in order to get a high-quality version
 - e. Anticipated cost – none at the moment, would be committee based
 - f. Valencia motions to investigate the logo and report back next year at the AGM, present some options and have discuss
 - g. Seconded by Sarah B, carried
10. Committee reports
 - a. Membership
 - i. 117 members, up from 87
 - ii. Exploring different membership groups which way be interested in becoming members
 - b. Communications
 - i. Logo renewal
 - ii. Newsletter going strong, as is social media



- iii. Continue to build the communications
 - iv. Continue to move outward
 - v. Big items: 2700 people on e-newsletter, social media, linked in -- currently very unidirectional.
 - vi. Need to make a better pitch for participation, benefits to members, ability to poll members
 - vii. Addition of ask an expert button to the newsletters
 - c. Policy and Advocacy
 - i. Working on creating a framework
 - ii. This committee helped on the report which went to the Senate
 - d. Strategic Networks and Partnerships
 - i. Strategic partnership with FCM, connecting CRRF to external organizations
 - ii. Connect Canada150 with SORCV2 report
 - iii. Share information on newsletters
 - iv. Ask an Expert has potential outside of the tool, do we have a mechanism for finding out what happens after the question is asked
 - 1. RPLC CRRF Network can talk about tracing performance around member contributions, could be built under CRRF
 - v. FCM has a new network for municipal innovation, RDI is looking to make connections
 - vi. What are the big policy issues in rural that we could offer up to the Rural Caucus, as it stands Northern is separate from rural
 - vii. Can CRRF prepare material now on the future of rural Canada in preparation for the 2019 Federal Election
 - viii. In lieu of text FCM and CRRF can exchange logo/contact information in newsletters
 - ix. SORCV2 coming out, Craig is working on FCM pushing it out as a press release
 - x. Interest in the name of SORCV2
 - e. Charitable Status and Endowment
 - i. Thanks to Ryan and Bill Reimer, there is an in
 - ii. CRRF is registered under legislation in Alberta, there is new national legislation and CRRF is investigating being registered under that status
11. Motion to accept all committee reports, Sarah M – seconded by Laurie, carried
12. Resolution
- a. Statement of support for the revival of federal Rural Secretariat
 - b. Circulated through the web and newsletter
 - c. Valencia read out last paragraph for benefit of everyone
 - d. Public comments
 - i. Value in talking about rural and northern
 - ii. Documents are supporting this argument twenty years ago
 - iii. 'Towards a Policy for Rural Canada' – if CRRF wants to generate material there is an opportunity to do so
 - iv. Chair of the Liberal Rural Caucus spoke about efforts to revive an institution like the Rural Secretariat
 - 1. Looking to base information from Hall and Gibson's work on rural-proofing
 - v. Should state that entity is cross-department
 - vi. Initiative is looking to be through the Privy Council Office
 - vii. Suggestion that entity be stand alone, does not need to be in Privy Council Office – rather use language of horizontal entity



1. Reimer was involved with recommendation through Kim Campbell to make commitment through Privy Council Office
 2. There should not be an absence of where the organization should land
 - viii. Is this part of a bigger strategy around the next election?
 1. What voice and prominence and presence are needed?
 - ix. This resolution is the first step in a larger process of advocating for rural Canada – there is a need to hear this message from other institutions
 - x. Government is not set up to support the initiative CRRF is looking for – suggestion is give the message you want to achieve
 1. Use the language of mandate
 - xi. Active wordsmithing happens on the floor
 - xii. Sarah B motions to accept resolution as amended, seconded by Ruth and accepted
 - xiii. Agenda for next board meeting: prepare strategy for election strategy
13. Election of Board and Officers
- a. Nominations Committee Report
 - i. Al Lauzon has worked to connect with interested future board members
 - b. Election of board and officers
 - i. Heather motioned to appoint Ryan as election lead, Sarah M seconded, carried
 - ii. 5 members interested in running for board positions: Bojan F., Phil F., Kathleen K., Heather M., Craig P.
 - iii. No candidates from the floor
 - iv. Kathleen K. will step down from nomination and commit to be engaged with a committee
 - v. Executive Members must be elected – Sarah B acclaimed, Ruth acclaimed, Valencia acclaimed
14. Announcement of New Lifetime Members
- a. Robert Annis
15. Reflections on the 2017 Conference
- a. Open to the floor
 - b. Congratulations on the number of practitioners and community members on the ground, it affects the nature of the discussions
 - c. Rich substantial diversity of perspective
 - d. Webinar provides broad reach
 - e. Expectations exceeded by practitioner who feels to be on the peripheral
 - f. Expression of thanks for opportunity convened by Ryan for government officials to meet
 - g. Great showcase of the Kootenay region
 - h. Inspiring!
16. Announcement of 2018 Annual Conference
- a. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
17. Adjournment
- a. Heather moves to adjourn the meeting