

**Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation**  
**2019 Annual. General Meeting**  
**October 3, 2019**  
**Gypsy Tea Room, St. John's NL**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Valencia Gaspard at 5:40 pm

**2. Review and approval of agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Sarah Minnes, seconded by Bojan Furst.  
Motion Carried

**3. Review and approval of 2018 CRRF AGM minutes**

Motion to accept the 2018 AGM minutes moved by Dave Felker, seconded by Wayne Kelly. Motion Carried

**4. Report of President**

Valencia delivered a brief report reflecting on the many accomplishments of the Board and of CRRF in the last year. She thanked her colleagues on the Board of Directors for their support during her tenure and looks forward to staying actively involved with. The important work of CRRF.

**5. Report of Treasurer**

Laurie presented the financial report. It was noted that CRRF is in good financial shape, having several successful conferences contributing to the current surplus.

**6. Approval of audited financial statements**

Motion to accept the report moved by Heather Hall, seconded by Patrick Levesque.  
Motion Carried.

**7. Appointment of auditors for 2019/20**

Motion to reappoint Harris Ryan as the auditors for 2019/20 moved by Laurie Brinklow, seconded by Bojan Furst. Motion Carried.

**8. CRRF logo renewal**

Bojan reported that the new logo design should be finalized in the next month and will then be shared with the committee and, subsequently, the Board for approval.

**9. Committee reports**

**a. Executive**

Craig presented the report of the Executive Committee. The committee had prepared letters of support for six projects in the previous year. The committee also continued its work with Dr. Reimer on a permanent CRRF archive. Discussions are ongoing with the University of Guelph. Concordia University remains an option.

**b. Membership**

Dave presented the report of the Membership Committee. CRRF has 170 members. However, our newsletter is received by over 2,000 people. We need to work on converting some of that market to full members. The group suggested several means of increasing membership, including adding a membership fee to the conference registration. It was noted that the bylaws are

up for renewal in 2020 so the membership fee system could be addressed as part of that process.

**c. Communications**

Ryan presented the report of the Communications Committee. There had been over 300 downloads of the latest State of Rural Canada report in the last 24 hours. We distribute 2,600 newsletters monthly with an open rate of 56%. The industry average is 5%. Our social media channel reach is increasing. “Ask An Expert” is gaining traction with six requests this year. Our calendar of events is popular with 80% of the events being outside CRRF.

**d. Policy and Advocacy**

Kathleen presented the report of the Policy and Advocacy Committee. The focus this year has been on establishing support for a “rural lens” within the federal government. Members were encouraged to follow-up with their MPs and Ministers on rural commitments. The committee is looking for new members. The group suggested several items for consideration, including: making explicit links between important policy issues like food, climate and water to rural; capturing discussions with Ministers in reports to the members; and doing formal evaluations of party platforms.

**e. Strategic Partnerships and Networks**

Sarah presented the report of the Strategic Partnerships and Networks Committee. The focus this year has been on building the relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. CRRF was consulted on the FCM report on rural Canada, hosted the rural plenary at the FCM annual conference, and had input on their housing report. We are building a stronger relationship with the Economic Developers Association of Canada as well. We have met with the new Regional Economic Development Minister and are having a meeting with her Deputy Minister in May. CRRF was asked for input on their RED Strategy.

**f. CRRF/RPLC Alliance**

Sarah reported on the work of the CRRF/RPLC Alliance.

Motion to accept committee reports moved by Dave Felker, seconded by Bojan Furst.  
Motion Carried.

**10. Election of Board and Officers**

**a. Nominations Committee**

The committee reported that two Directors would not be returning – Craig Pollett and Valencia Gaspard. In addition, four seats are available. The committee presented a slate of six candidates to fill the available seats. Katie Allen, Josh Barrett, Kyle Rich, Kathleen Kevany, Patrick Leveque, and Karen Foster. There being no further nominations, Katie Allen, Patrick Leveque, Kathleen Kevany, and Kyle Rich were voted onto the board.

**b. Election of board and officers**

**i. President**

Sarah Minnes was nominated by Heather Hall, seconded by David Douglas. There being no other nominations, Sarah Minnes is acclaimed as President of CRRF.

**ii. Secretary**

Patrick Leveque was nominated by Kathleen Kevany, seconded by Laurie Brinklow. Brennan Lowry was nominated by Bill Reimer, seconded by Bojan Furst. After an election, Patrick was announced as Secretary.

**11. Announcement of new Lifetime Members**

Fran Shaver- Presented by Ray Bollman

**12. Reflections on the 2019 Conference**

Members present congratulated the organizing committee for their work on the event. Comments indicated participants enjoyed the breadth of opinions and ideas covered in the sessions.

**13. Announcement of 2020 Annual Conference**

Québec in Fall 2020, partnering with CEDEC.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.