



FONDATION  
CANADIENNE POUR LA  
REVITALISATION RURALE

CANADIAN  
RURAL REVITALIZATION  
FOUNDATION

## **2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

2 October 2020  
3-4:30pm EDT

1. Call to order (Sarah)
2. Review and approval of agenda (Sarah)
  - a. Motioned by Heather, seconded by Ryan
3. Review and approval of 2019 CRRF AGM minutes (Sarah)
  - a. Motioned by Ashleigh, seconded by Laurie
4. Election of board (Ryan)
  - a. Nominations committee report (Sarah)
    - i. There was one empty spot on the Board, and 5 of the existing Board seats are up for re-election
    - ii. 6 candidates: Brennan Lowery, Kristin Catherwood, Dave Felker, Wayne Kelly, Heather Exner-Pirot, Patrick Brouder
  - b. Short speeches from candidates (Candidates)
    1. Brennan Lowery
      - a. Finishing PhD at Memorial
      - b. On Board since 2018, Secretary since start of 2020
      - c. Interested in working more with CRRF on rural data-sharing/well-being indicators
    2. Kristin Catherwood
      - a. Born and raised on a farm in rural SK
      - b. Working in rural community engagement, heritage engagement, Master's of Folklore from MUN
      - c. Will be doing her second term on the Board
      - d. Interested in Board governance, strategic
    3. Dave Felker
      - a. Community development consultant on Gaspé Coast of Quebec

- b. Has been on the Board since 2018 as well
- c. Chair of membership committee
- d. Big priority of raising membership in Quebec, raising the org's presence in Quebec overall

4. Wayne Kelly

- a. In Brandon, MB
- b. Involved in CRRF since 2015, Board member since 2018
- c. PhD student finishing work on digital technologies

5. Heather Exner-Pirot

- a. Was co-chair of 2018 conference in Saskatoon
- b. Now in Alberta doing work with Indigenous groups
- c. Also working on Saskatchewan Indigenous economic development, reconciliation

6. Patrick Brouder

- a. First learned about CRRF in 2015 at the Canadian Geographers' Meeting in Halifax
- b. BC Regional Innovation Chair in tourism and rural development: what can tourism do for rural communities?
- c. Hoping to bring the CRRF conference back to the west coast sometime soon

ii. Motion to accept nominations:

- 1. Motioned by Ryan, seconded by Patrick Leveque

c. Circulate online election link for electing board members (Ryan)

- i. N/A (all Board members acclaimed)

5. Report of president (Sarah)

- a. This has been a monumental year for CRRF; a lot of projects that have been in the works for years are
- b. Contributions of the Board:
  - i. Kristin steered the efforts of the logo/visual identity committee; guidance on

- ii. Kyle stepped up to organize the 2020 and 2021 conference; securing SSHRC Connections and Partnerships grants for the conferences and SORC IV
    - iii. Kathleen: leadership with R2CN, partnerships committee
    - iv. Dave: memberships committee, Quebec connections
    - v. Wayne: archives committee, partnerships committee, RPLC-CRRF synergies
    - vi. Katie: leading us through the strategic planning process, RPLC-CRRF alliance
    - vii. Laurie: handling CRRF finances as treasurer, leadership on the executive, communications committee, COVID committee
    - viii. Brennan
  - c. Acknowledgment of past presidents
- 6. Report of treasurer (Laurie)
  - a. Full treasurers' report is online
  - b. Revenue is a little lower this year than in past years
  - c. In 2019 we ran a deficit
  - d. Need for a plan to solicit donations more actively next year
  - e. Current bank balance:
    - i. \$31,562.85 currently in account
    - ii. \$25,000 GIC as well
    - iii. Recent memberships and donations, which will show up in 2020-2021 financials
- 7. Approval of audited financial statements (Laurie)
  - a. Motioned by Heather Hall, seconded by Sarah Breen
- 8. Appointment of auditors for 2020-2021 (Laurie)
  - a. Proposal to re-appoint Harris Ryan
  - b. Motioned by Katie, seconded by Kathleen
- 9. Committee reports
  - a. Executive (Brennan)
    - i. Transition of Secretary in February 2020 – Patrick stepped down due to health issues, Brennan filled in
    - ii. This year, CRRF has provided 10 letters of support, in which we've extended a variety of in-kind services to the following organizations, research projects, events, and initiatives

- iii. Main types of in-kind support provided:
  - 1. Knowledge mobilization support through CRRF's existing communication platforms (newsletter, website, and social media)
  - 2. coordination and mentorship for students
- iv. Total value of in-kind support provided in letters of support: \$84,000 (at least)
- v. CRRF also fulfilled 9 requests for informal partnerships/support
- vi. Other requests/items:
  - 1. CRRF provided a Partner Contribution Statement to RDI detailing CRRF contributions to RPLC for the 2019/2020 year
  - 2. Review/approval of CRRF/RPLC submission to Canadian Radio-television & Telecommunications Commission on the state of rural broadband infrastructure
  - 3. Review/approval of job description/ad for the CRRF Communications/Research Assistant position

b. Membership (Dave)

- i. Membership committee met once, decided to hold off until after the strategic planning process was done
- ii. Brennan stepped down from the committee
- iii. Current membership count: 112 members
- iv. Membership has increased leading up to the conference
- v. 15 memberships are expiring in 2020, and various memberships expiring in subsequent years
- vi. 13 new memberships (5-year)

c. Communications (Ryan)

- i. Communications committee has been very active in the last year
- ii. Monthly newsletter that reaches 2,600 people (we've been circulating it for about 96 consecutive months)
- iii. Deadline for newsletter submissions is usually around the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month
- iv. CRRF website was redesigned this year (huge thanks to Koren Lam)
- v. November newsletter will be a chance to showcase the rural research centres
- vi. February will profile new researchers and their initiatives

- d. Partnerships (Kathleen)
  - i. Partnership committee discussions have been very active
  - ii. Sarah's important ambassadorial work with federal government officials, especially CENRED/Minister Monsef
  - iii. Many other government and non-government partners
    - 1. Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity
    - 2. Health partnerships
    - 3. Northern/remote partnerships
    - 4. Etc.
  - iv. Continue to work to be a strong voice for rural Canada
- e. CRRF/RPLC alliance (Sarah)
  - i. RPLC-CRRF alliance was created to recognize symbiotic relationship between CRRF and RPLC, plan for legacy items of RPLC that CRRF could take over
  - ii. The committee was discussing a winter rural policy event but had to cancel this due to COVID
  - iii. Now it's reallocated that budget to the communications committee budget, helping to fund the part-time communications and research assistant position (Sean Jeffries), who will partly take on tasks that RPLC has been doing
- f. Envisioning (Katie)
  - i. We started with an analysis of the previous 2015-2020 strategic plan: alignments and gaps with current priorities
  - ii. We've also been undergoing a strategic planning framework for the next plan:
    - 1. New priority actions and operational goals
      - a. Positioning CRRF
      - b. Financial stability
      - c. Organizational capacity
      - d. Governance
    - 2. Board hired Jocasta Boone to facilitate a strategic planning process for CRRF
      - a. Who we are, what we do, who we serve, what makes CRRF unique

- b. That session gave us the content/guidance to craft the new strategic plan
    - c. Baking in diversity and inclusion into all decision-making processes
    - d. Appropriate Board structure
    - e. Potential risks that may arise
    - f. Organizational priorities
    - g. Future funding opportunities, potential for innovating, need for core funding and diversification of funding sources
    - h. Need for paid staff/organizational capacity
    - i. Next steps: work with Jocasta on how to position CRRF and the mission/vision/values
  - iii. Bill: we have 10-12 student projects from McGill on fundraising and organizational development that could help inform the strategic planning work
- g. CRRF archives (Wayne/Bill)
  - i. Bill
    1. Guelph Univ. has agreed to be house the archives
    2. COVID has put the physical archiving on hold, but Bill is working with Guelph's library to meet their requirements
    3. CRRF also received some materials from Tony Fuller that will go into the archives
    4. Bill is also trying to integrate some archives from the New Rural Economy project
    5. There are some exciting opportunities for looking back to CRRF's story, sharing it with the world
    6. Bill would welcome help from volunteers on curating the materials so they're acceptable for Guelph's library requirements
  - ii. Wayne:
    1. Goal has been for this to be part of the transition from RPLC and helping record RPLC's role in the larger CRRF story

#### 10. Announcement of new lifetime members (Bill)

- a. CRRF nominates Dianne Looker as the new lifetime member (“une femme de caractere tres fort”)

11. Reflections on the 2020 conference (Floor)

- a. Dave: amazing job given the circumstances, it's not been the same, but a good substitute, congrats to the organizers
- b. Kathleen: it was heartfelt, a good connection even at a distance, good sense of purpose, playfulness, meaning, grounding in place, honouring our connection with Indigenous peoples and land, not less than
- c. Kyle: thanks for all the support from everyone on organizing, and on the insight papers, especially Ashleigh
- d. Bill: one of the challenges we've consistently faced is making the case for this kind of work to our colleagues and to hiring/promotion committees; can we find a way to help our early career colleagues who are trying to make the case for why this work is impactful and important (including university promotion and tenure committees)
- e. Dianne: SSHRC is putting more emphasis on engaged research, knowledge mobilization, but the researchers who are more traditional, publication-driven need to have a cultural change
- f. Sarah: maybe a young researchers' award?

12. Announcement of 2021 annual conference (Kyle)

- a. We're still planning to have the 2021 conference in Rimouski
- b. CEDEC has been a great partner and has been very flexible
- c. All abstracts have been returned, there will be a new submissions process next year
- d. Hopefully more updates will be coming soon

13. Announcement of 2020/2021 board member online election (Ryan)

- a. N/A

14. Election of 2020/2021 CRRF board executive (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) (Ryan)

- a. Current nominations:
  - i. President: Kathleen
    - 1. Other nominations: none
  - ii. Treasurer: Laurie
    - 1. Other nominations: none
  - iii. Secretary: Brennan
    - 1. Other nominations: none
- b. All executive members elected by acclamation

- c. Address from new president:
  - i. Can we unravel what the secret elixir of CRRF's magic is?  
Could be an interesting research project
  - ii. The 3 Rs of CRRF:
    - 1. Relationships are one of the major components
    - 2. Reach is also important, having far presence/reach and impact
    - 3. Respect
  - iii. Looking forward to a great new era for CRRF

15. Adjournment (Sarah)