



CFAR SOCIETY
Circle for Aboriginal Relations

CFAR Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2011

Host: ATCO Electric
Location: ATCO Centre Building 1, 909 – 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta (3rd Floor)
Key Contact: Lisa Maragh or Leah Sinclair
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Attendees: J. Turuk, A. Vanderjagt (formally Dinn), T. Belot, C. Schreuder, B. Phillips, W. Erasmus, B. Brisson, B. Schadeck, J. Moravitz, J. Handel

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introductions and opening remarks
2. Review and approval of agenda
Approval of minutes – May 2011 Board meeting
Office Managers Report
3. 2011 Conference and Golf Tournament Debrief
4. Credential Recognition Update
5. Succession Planning & September AGM
6. Other discussion Items

Minutes:

1. Welcome, Introductions and opening remarks
 - An opening prayer was conducted by B. Schadeck
 - J. Turuk thanked ATCO Electric for the use of their boardroom facilities for the meeting and for providing lunch
2. Review and approval of agenda
 - Agenda was reviewed and two items were removed (item 3 & 4). The approval of minutes for the May 2011 Board meeting will be circulated via email to the board for approval. The office manager's report will be circulated at a later date.

- Motion passed by B. Phillips for approval of the minutes; Seconded by W. Erasmus; All in favor
Action Item: a) J. Turuk to circulate May 2011 Board meeting minutes for approval via email
b) C. Schreuder to circulate office manager's report at a later date

3. 2011 Conference and Golf Tournament Debrief

- The Conference and Golf tournament was discussed and feedback was provided by meeting attendees. Some identified issues related to the conference included:
 - o Not as many feedback forms were filled out as in previous years. This may be due to their insertion into the delegate package rather than placement on the tables.
 - o There were some issues with speaker flow and how the various speakers were connected together.
 - o The break-out session format was not well received, it was suggested that speakers be available all in one place with a longer question period at the end of each talk. It was suggested that at the end of each day an hour could be allotted for all the speakers to have a discussion together.
 - o The topic and agenda may not have reached the entire audience of CFAR membership. Current court cases/decisions was suggested as a hot topic.
 - o It was suggested to have more innovative speakers and bigger name speakers.
 - o A format was suggested that would see the opening sessions propose a problem and the final sessions producing a product or idea that solves the initial problem.
 - o Credential Recognition was suggested as a topic for future conferences.
 - o A comment was made to a Board member that more senior Aboriginal Relations staff should be engaged in CFAR.
 - o Entertainment ran slightly long.
 - o There are limitations with the time that can be allotted to the Conference with a volunteer Board and committee.
 - o Planning for the conference should begin sooner.

Some identified positives related to the conference included:

- o Well organized.
- o Many well received speakers.
- o Great networking opportunities.
- o Great entertainment.
- o The Talking Stick facilitated session was good and will help credential recognition move forward.
- o The conference was well attended by new members.
- Some takeaways for next year included: more board input into speakers and provision of testimonials for suggested speakers; overall more board involvement with speaker and program development. B. Brisson noted that this could be part of the job of an executive director.

4. Credential Recognition Update

- B. Brisson should have the focus group information by Friday
- The Credential Recognition Committee would like to engage Talking Stick for an additional focus group over the summer to engage HR professionals, complete a marketing plan, develop an 'elevator speech' for CFAR Board to have on hand when asked about Credential Recognition and draft a press release for the program. Some of these items are within the scope of the current contract; however, some are outside of the scope. B. Brisson will work with Talking Stick to secure an estimate for the additional tasks.

Action Items: a) B. Brisson to secure scope and budget changes from Talking Stick and work with either the Board or executive board members over the summer for approval.

5. Succession Planning & September AGM

- It was noted that the Board attendance and responsibilities for Elders and Advisors to the Board would have to be fleshed out in the coming year. Currently, there is no process in place for this.
- Doreen Healy expressed interested through B. Schadeck to become an advisor to the Board.
- Lack of Quorum was noted as a significant issue for the Board moving forward

- All members in attendance indicated their continued commitment to CFAR; specific roles to be determined over the summer prior to the AGM.
- W. Erasmus indicated that he sits on the board of Alberta Future Leaders and noted that they could come and present to the Board.
- It was noted that 2010/2011 was a successful year for CFAR. The membership and event attendance was up.
- The growth experienced by CFAR this year highlighted the need for an executive director. It was noted that it would make things much easier for the volunteer Board if there was an executive Director.
- Talking Stick was agreed to as a facilitator for the September Board Planning Session.
- Representation in CFAR from a community level was noted as an issue.
- Increased interest and dialogue between CFAR and other societies such as CCAB was noted as a positive and helps increase the credibility of CFAR overall.
- Leadership by J. Turuk was noted as a key component to CFAR's continued success.

Action Items:

- a) W. Erasmus to coordinate representative of Alberta Future Leaders to present to the CFAR Board in the fall of 2011.**
- b) B. Brisson to approach Talking Stick regarding the facilitation of the September 2011 Board Planning Session.**
- c) J. Turuk to follow up with Board members and Executive Board members over the summer with help from B. Brisson.**
- d) C. Schreuder to craft and distribute a memo to membership asking for interested parties to be a part of the CFAR Board.**

6. Other discussion items

- It was proposed that the planning session in September be a full day rather than a half day.
- The day following the planning session should have a Luncheon followed by the AGM. This results in a two-day commitment from incoming/existing Board members in September.
- B. Brisson will approach Talking Stick for 3-4 days that they are available to facilitate this session and send them around to the Board to approval.
- Potential Luncheon speakers were discussed and it was suggested that CFAR apply a yearly theme to the events and select speakers based on that theme.
- Two suggested topics were legal actions/decisions related to Aboriginal consultation and the Conservative Governments Action Plan and how it relates to Aboriginal peoples.
- B. Phillips raised programs available for CFAR to approach for funding and agreed to pursue this over the summer and have more details available for the planning session in September.

Action Items:

- a) B. Brisson to approach Talking Stick for available dates to facilitate the fall Board Planning Session.**
- b) B. Phillips to pursue funding opportunities for CFAR and develop this information for the fall planning session.**
- c) J. Turuk to email the Board for September luncheon speaker suggestions; T. Belot and A. Vanderjagt to help with planning for this event over the summer.**

Meeting adjourned 12:45pm