

Canadian Worker Co-op Federation: 2020 Annual General Meeting, Virtual

November 13, 2020, 12 noon to 2 pm Eastern Time.

Agenda

Parliamentarian: Marty Frost, member of CWCF WC Developers' Network

Guest speaker Dr. Jessica Gordon-Nembhard presented on "Diversity and Inclusion Are Not Enough" prior to the formal AGM portion of the meeting.

Part I: Reports

1. Call to Order, and Land Acknowledgement (Reba Plummer, Board President)

Formal AGM was called to order at 12:51 ET. Reba welcomed people and did a Land Acknowledgement before our guest speaker.

She then called for a moment of silence for people that we have lost in the past year: Ben Prunty, Chris Johnson, and others that we have lost.

She noted that only voting delegates are able to move and second motions.

2. Verify Quorum (Hazel Corcoran, Executive Director)

Per our delegate system, there are up to 54 members with a vote, and quorum is 20% of the members entitled to vote or 11 members. There are 22 voting delegates present. (Total of 59 people).

3. Introduction of guests (Reba)

Reba introduced those present from The Co-operators: from management Marc Duplantie, Joel Santos, Wendy Carruthers; & directors Phil Baudin & Collette Robertson, and from the USFWC: Pres. Ricardo Nuñez, ED Esteban Kelly, and Policy Director Mo Manklang.

Marc Duplantie, from The Co-operators brought greetings, as did Ricardo & Esteban Kelly from the USFWC. Ricardo was pleased to see this meet-up; many of our initiatives are international. I believe that our worker co-op sector has outsized impact. Even in this pandemic, we see local WC's being nimble and agile and not only thinking about the bottom line. Everything that Jessica Gordon-Nembhard was speaking to, we are trying to root in the Federation itself. We seek to tie our work to social justice organizations & also BIPOC communities.

Esteban then shared a [link](#), on the recent report on worker co-ops "Weathering the Storm". About 40% of the worker co-ops have taken advantage of the government programs. We believe that our structure will be supporting members. We keep our eye on 2021, ensuring we are there for supporting members. Our members are not out of the woods yet.

Reba introduced some of the other allied organizations which are participating:

- *Canadian CED Network*
- *International Centre for Co-operative Management, Saint Mary's University*
- *SETSI: Social Economy through Social Inclusion*
- *Cooperative Enterprise Council of New Brunswick*
- *OCA - Ontario Co-operative Association*
- *CCO Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario – which is also a member through the CWCF developers network class and CoopZone.*
- *Réseau Coop (Québec) – which is also a member Regional Federation.*

4. Approve Agenda (Reba)

Moved to accept the agenda a presented by Jessica Provencher, Seconded by Matt Adams, Carried.

5. Approve 2019 AGM Minutes (Reba)

Moved to accept the 2019 AGM Minutes by Frank Bezanson-Harris, Seconded by Jared Blustein, Carried.

6. Business Arising (Reba)

None

7. Reports: President, and Executive Director (Reba/ Hazel)

Reba provided the President's report as in the Annual report in both French and English. In response to the pandemic, CWCF pivoted to working from home. Although no in-person meetings were possible once the pandemic started, work continued on the strategic plan with an adapted approach. We also introduced emergency support programming, held special webinars and offered "solidarity dues" to support our membership. Now is the time for a Solidarity Economy.

Hazel noted CWCF's three strategic priorities (engage and strengthen our members, build awareness and scale up worker co-ops, and build the Solidarity Economy). She then highlighted each area with some key points per the Executive Director's report in the CWCF Annual report. Pre-pandemic, we held our annual Conference in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia featuring Mi'kmaq keynote speaker Hannah Martin. We also hosted or co-hosted in-person events in Wentworth, NS; Edmonton; and Toronto. Thereafter, we connected with members one-on-one and in webinars. To help build awareness, CWCF developed a new logo and website, and started a series of worker co-op profiles. We supported seven worker co-ops with technical assistance grants to assist them with various aspects of operations or governance, and approved several others to be placed in the current year. We signed an agreement with Quebec's Réseau COOP to adapt their Parcours COOP training program to English to be delivered by CWCF outside of Quebec. We did significant government relations work at the federal level. With

regard to the Solidarity Economy, CWCF participated in the Youth Climate Strike and the People-Centred Economy Group, and issued a statement on Black Lives Matter.

Part II: Financial Statements and Budget

8. Financial Report: Presentation of audited financial statements (Hazel/Kaye Grant)

Kaye presented, noting that the auditor's opinion is the first paragraph on page one notes that this is a clean audit.

On our income statement, we note that the most significant income is from our RRSP and TFSA fees, other income sources include interest, dues, sponsorship for our AGM last November, and our loyalty payment from The Co-operators which we greatly appreciate.

On the expense side, our significant expenses are wages, and direct expenses related to the administration of the RRSP/TFSA program. We also spent more than we have in the past on government relations consulting. We approved almost \$19,000 in Technical Assistance Grants as well. On the Fund side, the only source of income is interest while the key expenses are related to administration of the program.

Overall, we ended up with a net surplus of \$27,887.

Looking at our balance sheet, there are a few things to note here: Under restricted cash (trust funds payable), these are funds held in trust for our RRSP and TFSA members. Also the long-term debt which is unusual for CWCF, is the Canada Emergency Business Account term loan which has 0% interest (as stated in the notes to the financial statements). Although we got \$40,000, this reflects the net of the forgivable portion with the \$10,000 being declared as income for this year.

We ended the year with \$296,333 in our reserves. This is higher than our minimum core reserves but is important due to the unpredictable nature of some of our revenues.

Moved to accept the audited financial statements as presented by Evan Proven (CWCF Treasurer), Seconded by Bill Barrett, Carried

9. Appointment of Auditor (Evan Proven, Treasurer)

Motion to re-appoint Bishop and Company as our auditor next year by Kelly Storie, seconded by Réjean Laflamme, Carried.

10. Budget 2020-2021 (Hazel)

Hazel presented the budget. The largest single revenue item continues to be the RRSP-TFSA program. The fees for service are primarily associated with the worker co-op start-up training program, to be adapted from the Parcours COOP. On the expenses side, the main expenses are the RRSP-TFSA program, and wages. Other significant items to note are for start-up training program (under special projects), Government Relations to assist with the federal lobbying effort, and technical assistance grants. On projected revenues of \$400,468, projected expenses

are \$414, 777, for a projected deficit of \$14,309. In addition, technical assistance grants to worker co-ops for a total of up to \$34,000 are budgeted to come from reserves. Given the current size of CWCF reserves, this approach fits within our budgetary policies.

Part III: Elections and Resolutions

11. Resolutions (Jessica Provencher, Director)

Jessica reported that after the call for regular resolutions in the summer and the call for late resolutions, none have been received. If any delegate has a resolution at this point, it would be possible to consider it. She then asked if anyone had a resolution to propose, but there were none.

12. Director Elections

a) Review process: b) Facilitate Election or Acclamation of Directors (Eric Tusz-King)

Eric noted we have two at-large board seats up for election. We have one candidate, Jared Blustein.

He then called for nominations three times. There were no further nominations.

Recommend that we accept Jared Blustein for an at-large position by acclamation and leave one seat vacant.

Jared was invited to provide a brief presentation.

Jared: I am very dedicated to worker empowerment. The joy of co-founding the Allium has been the other opportunities it affords, to help other worker co-ops to form. I'm constantly meeting with other groups. I'm also on the Board of ACCA. I will speak next week at the Soul of the Next Economy forum.

Motion to accept Jared's candidacy by acclamation by Bill Barret, seconded by Eric, Carried. Congratulations to Jared.

13. Thank departing directors (Hazel and Jessica)

Hazel expressed thanks to Yvonne Chiu, and Jessica to Eric-Tusz-King, in each case paying tribute to the individuals and their many contributions to CWCF and the worker co-op movement.

14. Seek volunteers for 2020-21 Nominating Committee, Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, and Government Relations Committee (Reba)

Reba noted that we will continue to seek another director; the board is able to fill a vacancy by appointment until the next AGM.

We are also looking for support on these committees. If anyone has interest, they should email Hazel or Kaye.

15. Announce Place and Date of next AGM: Vancouver, 2021, tentative (Reba/Hazel)
We are tentatively planning to hold our conference/AGM on Nov. 16 – 18, 2021. We'll decide by mid-April whether to hold this virtually or in person.

16. Other Business / Question and Answer period / (Reba)
None

17. Adjourn formal AGM
The AGM was adjourned at 2:02 pm ET.