

Canadian Worker Co-op Federation

2018 Annual General Meeting, November 2-3, 2018 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Minutes

Chair: Reba Plummer

Recording Secretary: Kaye Grant

Parliamentarian: Peter Hough, member, CWCF WC Developers' Network

Friday, November 2nd

Part I: Reports

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

Reba called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. Verify Quorum

CWCF Executive Director Hazel Corcoran verified that there was quorum.

3. Introduction of guests

There were no special guests introduced.

4. Approve Agenda (Reba)

The proposed agenda was presented by Reba. Moved to accept this agenda by Frank Bezanson-Harris, seconded by Jessica Provencher, Carried.

5. Approve 2017 AGM Minutes

A motion to approve the previous 2017 AGM minutes was moved by Donald Proven and seconded by Chris Nichols, Carried.

6. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

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

Reba noted that our key focus this year was on the strategic planning process. We hired outside consultants to lead it and had an active Strategic Planning Committee including board members, members and developers. Reba expressed her appreciation to the committee.

The strategic priorities which have been identified for CWCF are:

- Engage and strengthen current members (Worker Co-ops & Regional Federations)
- Build the Solidarity Economy.

- Build Awareness and Scale-up Worker Co-operatives

There is a variety of activities outlined to enable meeting these priorities as well as the goals.

Hazel presented a report on activities carried out during the year on the basis of our four Mission areas.

I. We worked in solidarity with our members to achieve our Vision of a Co-operative Economy

Activities included: 2017 Conference, Newsletters, Webinars, Worker Co-op Member Survey, Liaison with CCIF, and the RRSP-TFSA Program.

CWCF has been offering periodic webinars for which we are paying an honorarium to presenters. At the School of Democratic Management (USFWC), CWCF has negotiated so that our members have a 50% discount to attend. We are actively working with the Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund (CCIF) to help make their investments available for qualified worker co-operatives. We are also looking for a representative to nominate for the CCIF board.

II. We Supported the Development of Worker Co-ops

Specifics included: Tenacity Works Fund, Technical Assistance Program, Website, Government Relations, and the CoopZone Developers' Network transition.

We have increased resources in our Technical Assistance Program and we encourage members as well as start-ups to apply for it. We added a multi-media section to our website. There was a suggestion to add a link to some solidarity economy resources. In government relations activities, CWCF made a submission to the consultation on federal Motion 100, on a framework to promote the recognition and development of co-operatives. We have continued advocating for a federal worker co-op business succession program.

III. We Strengthened the Federation

This covered: Strategic Planning, and Improving governance, financial sustainability and succession planning processes

IV. We Represented and Promoted the Canadian Worker Co-op Movement in Canada and Internationally

This included representation to: CICOPA, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada, and The Co-operators.

There was a question as to why CWCF has co-op developers in its membership. Hazel responded that worker co-op developers have long been seen as a driving force in the worker co-op movement, and that it made sense to include them in membership to partner more effectively with them and to engage them. However, the developer member class has only 5 votes at the AGM, and developer members cannot run for the Board unless part of a worker co-op.

Peter Hough made a motion to receive the President and Executive Director reports, seconded by Frank Bezanson-Harris. Carried.

Part II: Financial Report and Board Election Process

8. Financial Report

Hazel presented the financial statements. With revenues of \$377,756, there was net income of \$23,450. The Federation's general reserve is \$244,926, and the Tenacity Works Fund is at \$477,515. She noted that the vast majority of the \$2,214,049 in restricted cash on the balance sheet belongs to investors in RRSP members.

Motion to approve the financials by Yuill Herbert, seconded by Marty Frost, Carried.

9. Appointment of Auditor

Yuill Herbert moved that we retain Bishop and Company for our audit for 2018-19, seconded by Devan McLelland. Carried.

10. Budget 2018-2019

Hazel presented the budget and noted the strategic plan implementation.

A member noted that typically the "taken from reserves" income should be listed after the net loss on the budget.

Peter Hough, moved to receive the budget as amended (move the reserve income to under the net and to correct the \$20,000 error) seconded by Marty Frost, Carried.

11. Explain a) Board election process, b) Available seats: BC, Prairies, Ontario & Quebec, plus one at-large), and c) Host candidate speeches (facilitated by Yuill Herbert, Director)

Yuill noted that there are seven board seats and five regions with two at-large seats. Five seats are up for election. We have five people running for those positions. Candidates were offered given a minute to present.

ON: Reba Plummer

QC: Jessica Provencher

BC: Ian Marsh (not present)

Prairies: Rick Proven, and

At-large: Yvonne Chiu (not present)

Devan McLelland moved to adjourn this portion of the AGM.

Saturday, November 3rd, 9:00 – 9:30 am

Part III: Resolutions and Elections

12. Resolutions (Eric Tusz-King, Vice President)

Eric moved that membership accept the strategic plan as presented, seconded by Peter Hough, Carried.

13. Director Elections (Yuill)

a) Review election process

Yuill explained the election process.

b) Facilitate Election or Acclamation of Directors

Yuill chaired the election/acclamation as follows, calling for nominations three times after each candidate. He stated that the followed candidates have been nominated:

BC candidate, Ian March is nominated;

Prairies candidate, Rick Proven is nominated;

Ontario incumbent, Reba Plummer is nominated for another term;

Quebec seat incumbent, Jessica Provencher is nominated for another term;

At-Large-Seat, Yvonne Chiu is nominated;

Moved to accept these candidates by acclamation by Omar Yaqub, seconded by Devan McLelland, Carried,

Eric Tusz-King thanked the departing Directors:

Alexandre Banville, Tommy Allan, Lee Fuge, and Omar Yaqub.

14. Seek volunteers for 2019-20 Nominating Committee, and Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

There were no volunteers from the floor.

15. Announce Place and Date of next AGM: Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, October 24-26 2019 (Reba/Hazel)

Peter noted the amenities at the Tatamagouche Centre, which is on a beautiful site on the TransCanada Trail and is a traditional Indigenous meeting space.

16. Other Business / Question and Answer period / (Reba)

In response to a question, Hazel clarified that the summary of the Strategic plan “buckets” is that CWCF has enough resources to implement & do the member engagement/ member support part of the strategic plan, but not enough to do the development parts such as scaling up the movement. That second item in our Mission is the part we need everyone’s help on finding resources for, and doing.

17. Adjourn

Yuill moved to adjourn.