

Minutes Meeting #58
Board and Executive Meeting of the Canadian Permafrost Association
Teleconference
5 May, 2023 1300-1500 EST (1100-1300 MST / 1000-1200 PST)

Attending:

KK
PM
AS
GD
TH
RK
MG
JH
BF
DH
CB

Excused:

Minutes:

PM

Agenda:

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting #57, 11 April, 2023
3. Matters arising from the minutes (But not covered later as agenda items)
4. ICOP 2024 Chair report (LA)
 - a. General update
5. President's report (KK)
 - a. General update
 - b. Standing International Committee
6. Treasurer's report (BF)
 - a. General update
 - b. Standing Finance Committee
7. Secretary's report (PDM)
 - a. General update
 - b. Standing Membership Committee
8. Communications director report (JH)
 - a. General update
 - b. Standing Dissemination Committee
9. Early Career representative report (MG)

- a. General update
- b. Webinars
- 10. President-Elect report (GD)
 - a. Update on Action Groups
 - b. Standing Linkages Committee
- 11. Information Sharing
- 12. Any other business
- 13. Adjournment

Action Items:

ALL accountable Directors: Work plans and TOR for standing committees

DG: To seek clarification on funding the Canadian Permafrost conference in Winnipeg with Manitoba provincial funds.

Minutes:

1. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. KK: We need to talk about the IPA/Russia. Let's put that under Other Business.
 - b. No other changes
 - c. Approved
2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting #57, 11 April, 2023
 - a. KK: Thank you for these Astrid, and making the minutes for the meeting.
 - b. No changes
 - c. Approved
3. Matters arising from the minutes (But not covered later as agenda items)
 - a. None
4. ICOP 2024 Chair report (LA)
 - a. General update
 - i. KK: I circulated the email from the IPA about the Russian situation, and we have been getting emails about how ICOP will treat this situation.
 - ii. CB: Thanks KK. Essentially, in Feb, we wanted to have an election for the seats available on the IPA executive. When we said we'd have an election, many council members said they couldn't be seen to be doing anything with the Russians. A number of countries have been banned from participating in activities where Russia is Institutionally present. These countries may be able to participate where individual Russians are there. Difficult to avoid working with individuals, but easy with Institutions. But the IPA Constitution does not allow us to suspend countries from the IPA. When they made the IPA constitution, they didn't imagine this. Because this is not available, we need to have a special motion. When Ross Mackay was president of the AAG, he was approached with a similar scenario to do with the Vietnam war. He found out that if you go to the membership and ask that you go outside of the constitution, and they give approval by a vast majority, then you can go

ahead and make progress. So we have a resolution to ask if we can go outside of the constitution, and then a second motion to suspend the adhering body to the IPA. So these two motions will prevent the adhering body from performing any activities or being involved. But this does not target individual Russians. Norway has proposed this, and several of the countries have supported this. We think that some non-European adhering body should be involved. I've gone to Toni and Sharon of the CNC-IPA, and Toni is the Chair of the Standing International Committee. We think that the SIC should second the IPA's second motion. The IPA proposes that when the IUGS approves reinstating relations with adhering bodies, the IPA would too. Most of the adhering bodies support this, and I've communicated to the Russian scientists this position. It has been made clear to me that any communication to Russian individuals will likely be intercepted, and the situation for young scientists is not good. The IPA is looking for support on these resolutions.

- iii. KK: So CB is the President of the IPA, and our SIC sits on the council. The first resolution is to do something outside of the norm, and the second is a resolution to freeze Russian involvement in the IPA.
- iv. KK: I have one question, why not just stick to the bylaws and just kick them out?
- v. CB: The first is that this situation will end at some time. All of the organizations involved made it clear that they want to pause things, and not end things. In particular with respect to the number of Russian scientists. and there are many scientists who are concerned about the fact that they will not be able to work on permafrost carbon, when Russia has lots of it. There are many people who still want to work in Russia, we know that many scientists do not support the war, and the issue of Permafrost Carbon is of world interest, and this is not served well by expulsion rather than suspension.
- vi. KK: It has been difficult to come up with a statement about the wording from ICOP on Russian involvement. The groups like Yukon University want stronger statements.
- vii. JH: I hope that we don't have to kick out all of the individual Russians. Also, the IUGS has done this, but we are not policy people. What makes us make a statement on this, when there are other things happening in the world that we don't make a statement on. What makes this different from other atrocities around the world.
- viii. CB: An excellent question. Russia is involved in permafrost, but Ukraine is not. Many other countries have instituted prohibition against working with institutions from Russia, so the IPA and the conference wouldn't work. We are trying to make the least worst thing possible of this situation. We don't relish this situation at all. I've enjoyed meeting with all of these representatives, and hearing their positions. Some adhering bodies are neutral, some are very informal, some are formal like the CNC-

IPA and some like Norway are formal and are prevented from participating where Russia is present officially, but can go where there are individual participants.

- ix. JH: I get this, but it is complex. So no great answers.
- x. KK: The International Standing Committee is the CNC-IPA, and they are trying to figure out how to let NRC still pay the dues, but let the SIC make the decision.
- xi. GD: So the SIC makes the decision, but they need to have support of the CPA?
- xii. KK: Yes, that is correct. This is honouring the relationship between the CNC-IPA and the IPA
- xiii. KK: I will move. RM seconds.
- xiv. Discussion?
- xv. Vote: One abstention.
- xvi. Decision: Approved.
- xvii. CB: I think the whole situation is entirely regrettable. The IPA EC discussed that they will give 10K Euros to the conference.
- b. KK: As Lukas is still in transit, I'll pass on some updates.
 - i. We have 6 abstracts submitted, the Early bird registration will open next week. This is going through Fourwaves.
 - ii. The LOC is putting together a good social program, and they are still working on filling in some problems with locations. Field trips are coming along. PM is looking into whether we need any other insurance for the field trips. Sponsorship is coming along.
 - iii. Any questions for me to pass along to Lukas?
 - iv. None.

5. President's report (KK)

a. General update

- i. KK: We have got the banking wrapped up and reported on. I feel like this year is a bit slow compared to last, but next year will be very busy.
- ii. PM: No need! Last year was very busy!
- iii. KK: Questions for me?
- iv. None
- v. I'd like the Standing Committees to have their work plans and TOC put together for next meeting.

b. Standing International Committee

6. Treasurer's report (BF)

a. General update

- i. BF: Not that busy. no new members, and only one member renewed. TetraTec renewed. 173 members paid. 173 paid members, 0 new members. Distribution of members: 59 EC, 86 Reg, 18 Lifetime, 5 Corp Gold, 1 Corp Silver, 3 Inst. Gold and 1 Inst. Silver

- ii. Revenues: we made some money from renewals, and only a few expenses. CPA Assets: Cash Account: \$38,510; CPA Reserve: \$40,381; ICOP: \$20,409; GIC: \$2,034. CPA Revenues for 2023: \$23,120 This include: Membership Renewal: \$1,100; interest deposited in savings accounts: \$84 in Reserve. CPA Expenses for 2023: \$5,151 This month: only \$7 in banking fees.
 - iii. BF: ICOP update We got the \$10K from CGS and \$15 from CNC-IPA, so that allows me to pay some of our vendors. \$8006 to Gunta, and \$20360 to Majestic Solutions. Registration will open soon, so we will open payment soon in Fourwaves. Sponsorship is going on now, and Lukas is working on that.
 - iv. BF: I needed to contact CRA and report the tax for the first quarter. I was able to pay, but haven't been able to file because of the strike: \$474 in tax
 - v. CB: How many EC?
BF: 59 EC.
 - vi. CB: Division between Sci and Eng?
 - vii. BF: More scientists than engineers, maybe 70/30
 - b. Standing Finance Committee
 - i. BF: Sent the Board's comments to the Finance committee, but chair has been in the field, so haven't heard back yet.
 - c. KK: Questions for BF? I've asked AS to forward her invoices.
7. Secretary's report (PDM)
- a. General update
 - i. PM: I've checked into the insurance for ICOP2024 and we seem to be OK. We need to make sure that the companies that we contract have insurance, so we need to ask for proof of insurance. We have to look into whether or not Yukon U covers Fabrice if he is driving a Yukon U van or bus for the field trips. Presumably yes as it is a company vehicle.
 - ii. Thank you for for the minutes from last meeting, AS.
 - b. Standing Membership Committee
 - i. PM: Awards are organized by the SMC, but the foundation's plan is to take this on. Is that right?
 - ii. KK: I'd like the foundation to take this on after this year.
 - iii. BF: That is the plan, the Foundation would like to have a committee, and take over the awards.
 - iv. AS : We have to take over the awards from the CPA
 - v. CB: The awards should be given out by the President of the CPA, the person who stands up should be the President of the CPA. How the President gets the information to hand out the award, well that needs to have a liaison. Or there can be some strange things happening.
 - vi. KK: So the Foundations bylaws need to have a way to communicate the recommendation?

- vii. GD: Can the Foundation recommend the award to the President, and the Board approves?
 - viii. KK: I like that idea.
 - ix. PM: the SMC is going after the doable low-hanging fruit, as directed.
8. Communications director report (TH)
- a. General update
 - i. Keeping everything moving along.
 - b. Standing Dissemination Committee
 - i. TH: They have a nice work plan, coming along, and lots of action on a number of activities. The SDC will also work on helping AS with swag, like at ICOP.
 - ii. CB: The cups that Kumari got are fantastic. I heard from Emma that those were not that expensive.
 - iii. TH: Totally, I use them all the time.
 - iv. KK: They were on sale. We are aiming for swag for ICOP.
 - v. TH: We will get cost estimates soon.
 - vi. TH: I had to do some tune ups to the website, and have been keeping things chugging along.
 - vii. KK: Can you ask a question on SM so that we can get some comments on things. Something to increase the engagement. Something that kind of hooks people.
 - viii. TH: Yeah, good idea. I'll put it to the group.
 - ix. RM: Like a photo contest?
 - x. KK: We've tried that, and didn't have a lot of uptake
 - xi. PM: what about if it was competitive, like best ice wedge photo?
 - xii. RM: Or a competition about using Chat GPT, is this CHAT GPT or did a scientist write it.
9. Early Career representative report (MG)
- a. General update
 - i. Focused on webinars.
 - b. Webinars
 - i. We had a nice set of presentations, and those are recorded and will be posted soon. I have 1 talk scheduled for the fall.
 - ii. KK: AS, will you post that soon? Great. Looking forward to seeing Naomi's presentation.
 - iii. KK: Any thoughts for September? Let's help Madeline with ideas
 - iv. RM: Is there someone who would like to talk about the carbon side of things? This is coming up more and more?
MG: We had a permafrost pathways talk, but not sure if someone spoke about it already.
 - v. KK: We had the panel on Permafrost Carbon.
 - vi. GD: Would Cascade Institute talk on that?
 - vii. KK: They are not ready yet.

- viii. CB: There is interest in the Applied side, and there is something going on in the Yukon. Maria Strack at U Waterloo is working with Elyn Humphries, and they are working with the Yukon Government, to do with what happens when placer mining disturbs permafrost with carbon. We don't have a Canadian permafrost carbon specialist on this except for Elyn or Peter Lafleur. Needs a bit of digging around. This could be a well viewed/attended webinar.
- ix. KK: Can you draft a suggestion for us? The Permafrost carbon people have always been a bit marginal, and I want to make sure that they feel included. It is an opportunity to have a bit of a panel on this. Elyn told me that there are a lot of people working on carbon in permafrost environments, but not a lot on permafrost carbon.
- x. PM: Very interesting, because the Yukon stuff is not a peatland issue, but a carbon in permafrost issue, and I think many people will be interested.
- xi. RM: There are lots of questions about carbon that will be released. I'll pass something along.

10. President-Elect report (GD)

- a. Update on Action Groups
 - i. GB: Modelling, the group is in transition. Greg is stepping down as chair, and looking for a replacement. No one flagged yet, but maybe Earl Degousman. I think that this is a good opportunity to set new objectives and come up with a TOR. I'll talk with Earl
 - ii. DG: The Glossary committee is working hard, but I haven't wanted to bug them.
- b. Standing Linkages Committee
 - i. DG: Chris Stevens has started this, and I'm giving him a bit of time to get things going. We have a TOR to work with.

11. Information Sharing

- a. DG: We have a liaison with the Canadian Permafrost conference in Winnipeg. Our Terms in the MOU were accepted, but they added a new clause: all the money invested by the Manitoba government will not be included in the shared revenue. Not sure how that will work. If the revenue is 20K, but the government invested 30K, the partners will have to share a loss. I asked for clarification, but didn't get a reply yet. I think that money from Manitoba stays in Manitoba, but this is a bit tricky. Once this is clear we can sign the MOU and proceed with organizing the conference. The venue and hotels have been sorted, but after that it will be relatively quiet for the next few months. I'll keep you posted on this.
- b. KK: Wise to sort out this funding from Manitoba.
- c. PM: Did anybody hear Chris talking on the radio?
- d. CB: it was just a short segment on the Current, about the Russian issue and permafrost research.
- e. KK: We will put out a newsletter this month. We have an update from Greg on permafrost research at RMC.

- f. AS: We will have the call for nominations, and piece from Nunavik, and ICOP update, a President's note, and a contribution from PermafrostNet
 - g. KK: Abstract for ICOP are due on the 15th.
 - h. GD: Are these due for everything?
 - i. KK: No, just for conference papers.
 - j. GD: So how do you build your program without the extended abstracts.
 - k. KK: This is to give the publication and technical committees time to work on the papers.
12. Any other business
- a. None
13. Adjournment
- a. 14:27. Next meeting, Friday, 9 June 2023, 1-3 pm Eastern.