



Approved Minutes (On-line version)  
Board and Executive Meeting of the Canadian Permafrost Association  
Teleconference  
Meeting #28  
Friday 2 October, 2020 1430-1630 EDT

Attending:

PM, LA, AL, BF, PL, CB, XK

Excused:

AR, JS

Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting #27, 7 Sept 2020.
3. Matters arising (not covered later as agenda items)
4. President's report (LA)
  - a. Update on AGM in Yellowknife
    - i. Coordination with PermafrostNet
    - ii. Number of Abstracts submitted
    - iii. How/where to post virtual posters?
  - b. Nominations Committee update
  - c. Other organizations and their fees
5. Strategic Planning Committee report (AL)
  - a. Comments to date
  - b. Response to comments
6. Treasurer's report (BF )
  - a. General update
  - b. Follow up on profit share from CanCOP2019
7. Secretary's report (PM)
  - a. General update
  - b. Zoom voting
  - c. Chairs for Standing Committees
8. Communications director report (AR)
  - a. General update
9. Early Career representative report (XK)
  - a. General update
  - b. Webinars-Outline Plan with AL and CB
10. Past President report (AL)
  - a. Update Action Groups



- i. LA: Best practices for geothermal modelling spin-up and boundary conditions
    - ii. LA: PCF Action Group
    - iii. AL: Revised glossary of permafrost and ground-ice terms
  - b. Restart process to set up charitable arm
- 11. Any other business
  - a. Coastal RRA

Action items:

XK: Put out a call to students to register for AGM

XK: Organize a meeting with AL and AR to discuss webinar proposal.

LA: Reach out to Canadian Federation for Earth Sciences about membership.

LA, PM, BF: A separate meeting to discuss details. We will have President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Strategic Plan, and present our recommendations for the upcoming board meeting.

AL: Online vote to approve or reject the Strategic Plan.

Directors with a responsible committee: Locate committee Chairs before AGM.

BF: Pay GST.

PM: Set up 2 meetings, one for the AGM planning committee, and another for the Board and the MOM.

Minutes:

1. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Add Coastal RRA to Other business
  - b. Unanimously approved
2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting #27, 7 Sept 2020.
  - a. No comments
  - b. Unanimously approved
3. Matters arising (not covered later as agenda items)
  - a. none
4. President's report (LA)
  - a. Update on AGM in Yellowknife
    - i. Coordination with PermafrostNet
      1. The call went out. Feedback hasn't been overwhelming. We have 15 registered, and 3 indicating they will present. Registration is still open, but the abstracts were supposed to be closed on the 30th. We will extend the deadline, and AR will update that on-line.
      2. AL: I don't remember seeing the email.
      3. LA: If we can push or find some students to present, that would be great. XK, can you put out a call.



4. LA: I had the email filtered out by Microsoft pre-spam filter. This could be a problem.
5. I just did a quick search for CPA and it didn't come up with anything.
6. LA: One thing the filter looks at is the number of recipients. So we could try to send out in 2 smaller batches.
7. PL: Did get it.
8. BF Didn't get it, but it could be in quarantine.
9. AL: I did get it.
10. CB: I got one.
11. AL: I did get one from the CPA.
12. LA: This raises a good point that we struggle getting to our members. We are flooded with emails/Twitter. How do we fix this? We are getting lost.
13. AL: We need to be very careful in phrasing the subject lines.
14. LA: PM and I met with BHG at PermafrostNET to coordinate planning. Most PermafrostNet sessions are planned. No open call for presentations. They are having forum discussions. Because we only have 3 abstracts so far, and only one Keynote, not sure that we need a lot more. If we want more, then we need to think about a parallel session. But I doubt we need it. We really only need 1 day of talks, plus our AGM. We don't really need a second day at the moment.
15. AL: We can't generate talks if no one notices. If we target those involved in PermafrostNet, we can ask them to get their students to fill our time slots. I think that the call just went over people's heads. We can only do what we can do. When is our AGM?
16. LA: Monday. I was hoping to get a few more talks, and I will put up a schedule today.
17. CB: Part of the problem is that PermafrostNet doesn't have a load of students coming back from the field ready to tell us interesting things. Also, PermafrostNet had a hard time getting moving, so the projects are just starting now. There just aren't lots of students. A bit of early days for PermafrostNet.
18. LA: yes. If we have to, we can touch on people and get them to present. We all have something that we can pull.
19. AL: Hugh French once said that people come to hear people with some stature, so not a bad idea.
20. CB: Important for the president to show that they are working on something is good
21. LA: You have a way to convince people to get some work done!



22. LA: I had the idea that there could be a discussion about careers. What are the opportunities for young people in the future? People towards the end of their career can contribute to this. Grad students in PermafrostNet would like this.
23. AL: I would like to see a panel discussion about how we are actually going to deal with thawing permafrost.
24. BF: I spoke to Ed Hoeve. He is planning on doing something. He was not sure if he could because it did not seem to indicate engineering. AGM CGS meeting. Congratulations AL on your Roger Brown award. Didn't know that the permafrost session was moving ahead in a virtual symposium.
25. PL: The Yukon forum is 23 to 25th of Nov.
26. LA: Doesn't compete with our AGM.
27. PL: The NWT-NU Geoscience Symposium also does not conflict with our AGM.
28. AL: Problem is that it splits the community
29. LA: Business meeting
  - a. I think that we should have a separate meeting to discuss details. We will have President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Strategic Plan, and present our recommendations for the upcoming board meeting.
  - b. AL: We also need a report from the action groups
    - i. CB: PermafrostNet has a student who is also working on the same problem that Greg has been working on. I had a Brief meeting with all of the Theme 5 students. But I didn't put that together with his supervisor's undertaking.
  - c. LA: I's like to hear from the IPA at the business meeting as well.
    - i. CB: It will be a list of things that we are doing. I hope to say something substantive about webinars. and also something about professional development initiatives. PYRN is very interested in this. I Think that we will set a pattern with the CPA, and it will be adopted.
- ii. Number of Abstracts submitted
  1. 3 submitted
- iii. How/where to post virtual posters?
  1. No virtual posters
- b. Nominations Committee update
  - i. Names





- Kumari. She and I agree that ideally, the chair should be somebody from the north. At least in year 1. Having chair from the north will help.
- vi. PM: Update, Philip Bonnaventure wants to chair the SMC
  - vii. AL: How to handle the approval of the SP?
  - viii. LA: Let's do this through email.
  - ix. AL: It will take a week. The SPC want to see it again. Eva Stephani is someone we should keep working with , and Brendan O'Neill. We'll get it out to the board right after Thanksgiving.
  - x. LA: We will need 2-3 days, and then we will do an online vote.
- b. Response to comments
    - i. Addressed above.
6. Treasurer's report (BF )
- a. General update
    - i. 5 new members. 1 new lifetime, Robert Way, Queen's University. 4 new EC. And the promo code worked. We have 128 members, and only 1 unpaid. 41 EC, 12 lifetime; 66 Reg; 4 CG; 3 IG, 2 IS, 1 community members.
    - ii. \$31216 in the bank, \$2030 GIC. Revenue \$2746. Expenses are \$165 for membee, and I have to pay the GST. Still need to meet with PM.
  - b. Follow up on profit share from CanCOP2019
    - i. BF: I contacted Jean Pascale about the share, but no response yet. We now know who to contact
  - c. AL: We have already gone up nearly 20% in 5 months! A comment was that we were being too conservative in members, but that is huge progress!
7. Secretary's report (PM)
- a. General update
    - i. PM: I've been busy with taking notes during SP and AGM planning committee meetings
    - ii. PM: Got all of our mail ( 1 letter from RBC with our GIC statement) from Polar Knowledge Canada, and the cheque that we were expecting did not show up.
  - b. Zoom voting
    - i. PM: I've been looking into ZOOM. Do we need to add more members?
    - ii. LA: If we can do a short term change, we should do that.
    - iii. LA: Do we need individual pass codes?
    - iv. LA: Or we can check credentials and have people wait in the waiting room.
    - v. AL: I doubt that we will get too many members, but if we want it to be more open, we will have some difficulty.
    - vi. PM: One of the benefits of being a member is to attend the business meeting and to be allowed to vote.
    - vii. LA: Agree.



- viii. LA: If someone decides to join that morning, it is really fine, but unless we have that confirmation, we would have to say no to them on voting.
- ix. AL: According to our bylaws, the membership list is according to when the meeting is announced. We can let them in the meeting. They probably will/can vote. But the need for them to not vote seems to not be an issue. It does not seem that there will be any coup if we do let them in.
- x. CB: If Jen Humphries doesn't know who she should let in until the gate opens, you could make an in-practice deadline, one week before the AGM so that the hosts have one list that they can go to. So I think that we can include people after the meeting has been announced, but we need to know who will actually be there.
- xi. LA: A good idea.
- xii. AL: We may need more than one host. And we can all have the list at hand. I will be willing to help. Works very well for Office hours!
- xiii. PL: One list on Google Docs?
- xiv. AL: Do we limit the AGM to just our members?
- xv. LA: Yes. Why become a member if you can participate for free.
- xvi. CB: Costs right now for EC?
- xvii. BF: \$18 or you pay \$30 and you get next year.
- xviii. AL: So we will be admitting people in the morning.
- xix. LA: I do expect some traffic anyway. Hardly anyone sits there for 5 hours.
- xx. AL: So we need volunteers to sit by the list and admit members
- c. Chairs for Standing Committees
  - i. Discussed above
- 8. Communications director report (AR)
  - a. General update
    - i. Not present.
- 9. Early Career representative report (XK)
  - a. General update
    - i. Email from PYRN about the webinar. I told them that we are going to organize the webinar with IPA, USPA, etc, and we are going to develop a proposal for the process. I sent the proposal to AR and AL. So we need to have a meeting to discuss it. Then we can pass it to USPA.
    - ii. I need to find a speaker for October. Louis had a baby, so he is not available. I need to another person.
    - iii. AL: What about Brendan O'Neill?
    - iv. CB: or Alice Wilson?
    - v. LA; We could hold off and have them talk during the AGM.
    - vi. XK: OK
    - vii. PLA: We could wait until January
    - viii. PM: Agree, let's wait. There are lots of talks between now and then.



- ix. AL: We can set up a Zoom meeting when AR is back and work on the plan.
  - x. LA: What is the essence of the proposal.? Is it just the idea?
  - xi. XK: It is just the idea. No money is involved.
  - xii. LA: So let's have a pause on the webinars until after the AGM, and we move ahead on the proposal
  - b. Webinars-Outline Plan with AL and CB
    - i. Discussed above
10. Past President report (AL)
- a. Update Action Groups
    - i. LA: Best practices for geothermal modelling spin-up and boundary conditions
      - 1. No update.
    - ii. LA: PCF Action Group
      - 1. On the 6th is the panel discussion at the Massey College. CRB will be part of it. Also more action. A standing committee is struck, Mike put in \$50K, Nancy Wright is employed to move things forward. Mike Brown, Tony Penikett, Denis Connor and myself are involved, and we are organizing a few workshops for next year. What is the current state of science for carbon emission in the Arctic, Geoengineering solutions, and a few more workshops. The team is working on filling those themes and workshops, in the end a roadmap should be developed on the economic impact of the permafrost carbon feedback.
      - 2. CB: I made a few unfortunate discoveries. I aske Elizabeth May about this issues. She asked, is permafrost carbon treated the same as forest fire? Forest fire doesn't matter because the trees grow back. Permafrost is lumped in with that. So the government is not interested. The second issue is with feedbacks, the tipping points. That is the hook that we have. The Feds are not going to come in unless people are scared enough. Elizabeth did say, you better give me something about it, because I haven't spoken about it yet. She does not believe that it is in the national conversation at the moment. The geoengineers are going to have a problem, because they may not get a return on investment.
      - 3. LA: We just don't know the numbers, to decide if there will or will not be a return on investment. There is some movement from countries that don't have the problem to point to us and say that you can't ignore it. Currently it is not accounted for. But will it stay like this? Not sure. If it joins the political agenda, it may be too late. We need to get going.
      - 4. AL, CB: Completely agree.



5. AL: There are 2 videos, one is on CBC the other is W5. Where did they go for the Permafrost Carbon expertise? To the US. Our two major broadcasters have looked at permafrost thaw, “the big melt”. It is sort of there.
  6. LA: I’ll ask Mike or Nancy to report at the AGM.
- iii. AL: Revised glossary of permafrost and ground-ice terms
    1. Nothing more from Michel Allard, but I think that I will take this on. Brendan O’Neill is interested in it. Question: One thing the glossary will update the technical terms, but we should also have an easy access glossary to communicate in parallel. So within that, I am strongly thinking that we should say “permafrost melts”. This is in opposition to what I have been saying, but it has struck me that we are fighting a losing battle. The term is wrong, but it communicates what we want, so why are we standing on that hill.
  - b. Restart process to set up charitable arm
    - i. AL: A little progress there. PM pointed out that the CAG has 3 charitable funds, so I am trying to find out how those work. I wanted to check with the board here. I want to know if the CAG set up as a charity or is there a separate NFP for charitable funds. If the latter, is there a separate board, or are the board members the same? Is there an onerous reporting plan, and can we have a copy of any by-laws that we can look at to use as a model. Any other questions? I have an email drafted and will send out, but I wanted to see if the Board had any questions before I sent it.
    - ii. CB: The GAC may also have some knowledge that we can tap into. I bet they have this all sorted out. At one point they had 5000 members, and will know how all this is handled. Most important question is about issuing tax receipts.
    - iii. AL: Indeed. The CAG seems to issue tax receipts. They have money flowing in and out. I will put in, “do you issue tax receipts?”
11. Any other business
- a. Coastal RRA (CB)
    - i. The UNEP GRID-Arendal published a Rapid Resource Assessment on trying to define research needs for coastal permafrost. It is now posted on the web. It is impressive with what you can do with a web platform. There are 2 components. The science side and the recommendations side. We should spread this around. I am impressed with how you can use the platform. Very much worth drawing attention to it. I sent a link to LA, and AL. It should be mentioned in the next CPA newsletter, and even a link from our webpage.
    - ii. CB: Question? Whether the CPA should be a part of the Canadian Federation for Earth Sciences. CFES is meant to speak for earth sciences. I am thinking about it because the CFES will issue of a statement about



climate change and we should contribute to it. They have a good president, and the CPA should look into joining CFES. They wouldn't know who to come to about permafrost, but probably not us. We can contact Olly Bonhomme and find out how to join. At the annual CFES meeting, you get every element of earth science together. It is short of meant to make sure that every society is pulling in the same direction.

- iii. AL: The CGS and CAG are members, so they are broad enough. By the look of the other organizations there, we should be there too.
- iv. PM: They are named in our Strategic Plan.
- v. LA: I will reach out and see what it takes to join and if they want us, if you agree?
- vi. Everybody: Agrees.
- vii. LA: OK, a good way to start with linkages.
- viii. AL: They are already mixing science and engineering.
- ix. LA: Thanks CB
- x. PM: So 2 meetings, one for the AGM planning committee, and another for the Board and the MOM. I'll set them up. Something soon for the AGM, and something about a week ahead of the MOM for the Board to give a run through of presentations.

## 12. Adjournment

- a. 16: 23 Eastern. Meeting 28, 6 November 2020, 14:30 to 16:30 Eastern.

