

**IAH-CNC Inc. Annual General Meeting
Waterloo Inn (WI) Heritage Room
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
5:25 PM to 6:45 PM on October 28, 2015**

Minutes

Present

IAH-CNC: Grant Ferguson (GF), Steve DiBiase (SD), Robert Betcher (RB), Joanne Thompson (JT), Nataliya Tkach (NT), Harm Maathuis (HM), Diana Allen (DA), Steve Holysh (SH), Frank Magdich (FM), Carlos Maldaner (CM), Garth van der Kamp (GV), Martin Stewart (MS; only attended start of meeting), Jeff Bell (JB)

Regrets: Marie Larocque, Nolan Shaheen, Nell van Walsum, Gwyn Graham, Laurra Olmsted, Mark King, Joe Riddell

AGM minimum attendance ~ 41 (varied throughout the meeting).

Meeting started at 5:25pm (scheduled start 5pm)

1 Call To Order and Introductions

Grant Ferguson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2 Approval of 2015 AGM Agenda

Don Ford motioned, Heather Wilson seconded, no discussion, motion passed.

3 Approval of Minutes from AGM held on October 19, 2014

Chris Neville motioned, Diana Allen seconded, no discussion, motion passed.

4 Business Arising from Minutes

Audit: Don Ford mentioned that he had volunteered to be part of the Auditing Committee at the Niagara Congress (2012) and had not received any follow-up. Grant Ferguson responded that with the recent changes in non-profit registration requirements, IAH-CNC was no longer required to perform an external audit for the Canada Revenue Agency. Joanne Thompson mentioned that we are still required to perform internal audits, and GF clarified that this audit must be completed by the Executive. This was discussed during the Board Meeting held on October 27, 2015.

5 Update by the President

Grant Ferguson:

- President's Report will be posted online
- Primary struggle the IAH-CNC faces is engagement from the membership in the administration of the IAH-CNC (volunteers, executive positions, nominations for Farvolden Award, etc.)
- Membership levels fluctuate, but are generally stable

Don Ford:

- Commented that the “generic” Agenda for the AGM may discourage “new” participation and attendance from conference attendees. Don suggested that having an activity, or making an event out of the AGM may encourage new attendees and draw more attendees in general. Suggestions included a keynote presentation. Widespread agreement amongst the attendees; no formal motion or action item but the Executive will consider modifying agenda for future AGMs to attempt to increase attendance/engagement.

Round of applause: for the Waterloo 2015 conference organizers Tammy Middleton and Steve DiBiase and others.

Grant Ferguson – Future Conferences:

- Planned conference collaboration with CGS in 2017 and 2018; looking for a partner for 2016 and that the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) is holding its annual conference in Montreal in 2016.
- The potential for a joint meeting with CWRA in 2016 was suggested by Yves Michaud. Diana Allen mentioned that this had been discussed in the Board and Executive Meeting. Yves contacted Andre St. Hilaire at CWRA (QC branch) who mentioned that it was too late for a full co-sponsorship. However, CWRA was open to the idea of a sponsored symposium or colloquium. Brief open discussion of potential themes—Energy-Water Nexus garnered interest.
- Yves Michaud attended the International Water Resources Association in Scotland last year and noted that groundwater had a significant presence, and that there were good synergies with IAH.
- Don Ford mentioned that he has presented groundwater talks at CWRA events and that they are generally amenable to groundwater presentations. Diana Allen mentioned she is the co-editor of the CWRA journal.
- Overall, strong interest amongst attendees to pursue greater collaboration with CWRA.
- Tammy Middleton mentioned that when IAH-CNC Waterloo 2015 was announced, the planned Aquitard Commission gathering/conference was deferred. Tammy mentioned that next year could be an opportunity to collaborate with that Commission when they reschedule. In lieu of CWRA 2016? In addition to?
- **Action Item:** Yves Michaud and Diana Allen to continue engagement with CWRA re: sponsored session at Montreal 2016.

6 Farvolden Award:

Grant Ferguson: introduced Diana Allen, the 2015 recipient of the Farvolden Award.

Diana Allen: gave a presentation, “Climate Change Impacts: Interconnections within the Hydrologic Cycle”.

Grant Ferguson: 2 Farvolden Awards presented this year: Jim Barker (2014) and Diana Allen (2015).

- Mentioned that we had have years in which no award was given due to low/poor nominations (2004, 2006, 2008). Grant encouraged attendees to be more active in the nomination process and to consider candidates in academia, consulting, and industry.

Tammy Middleton (side discussion):

- Suggested that we should consider splitting away from CGS for conferences and awards. The attendance at Waterloo (~350 IAH attendees) is evidence that IAH can organize successful, well-attended events without the need for co-sponsorship. Tammy mentioned that “we tend to be overwhelmed [by CGS]” in joint conferences, and that we need to stand-alone more in order to grow and mature as an organization.
- Grant mentioned that this comment/suggestion may be poor timing since we have already agreed to joint conferences with CGS in 2017 and 2018, and Frank Magdich (CGS rep to IAH-CNC) is helping to re-establish strong relations between the two organizations. Acknowledgement that, for whatever reason, the relationship between the two organizations seemed strained for the past few years.
- Discussion of whether IAH should have their own, additional/separate awards from the joint CGS-IAH Farvolden Award. Widespread agreement amongst attendees that this should be explored. Suggestions included Young Professional Award and IAH Service Awards.
- Frank Magdich reiterated the focus on strengthening the relationship between IAH and CGS.
- Yves Michaud: commented that we should also continue to explore other partnerships (CWRA, etc.).
- Mike Wei: Mike cautioned using the success of Waterloo 2015 as indicative of our ability to stand-alone. Ontario, and Waterloo region in particular, is a hotbed of hydrogeology and that we need to look at the different regions in Canada and Canada as a whole when making these sorts of determinations. The CGS is very active in BC, and IAH benefits significantly from the partnership in Vancouver where we don’t have “the people power in hydrogeology”.
- Don Ford: “back to awards...we should do more to recognize [awards] for early, mid, and late career hydrogeologists.”
- Steve Holysh jokingly commented that Don should chair an Awards Sub-Committee. Grant Ferguson mentioned that Richard (Dick) Jackson has also expressed interest in this topic.
- **Action Item:** Don to talk to Dick about forming an Awards Committee and to report back to the Board for further discussion.

7 Presentation of Financial Statement

Grant Ferguson: provided an overview of the Financial Statement provided by Martin Stewart during the Executive Meeting.

- ~\$110,000 in the bank after the pending 2015 membership transfer to UK.
- \$50,000 ear-marked for establishment of a scholarship.
- The notion of establishing a “Strategic Initiatives Fund” was suggested, comprising funds set aside for the Board to use for single or multiple year projects or “mini-commissions”. Grant Ferguson mentioned that the scholarship funds were essentially part of a conceptually similar initiative. Grant mentioned that discussions along these lines have been occurring in recent Board and Executive meetings and reminded attendees that our budget surplus is a relatively new occurrence (post-2012 Congress).
- Tammy Middleton: wanted to remind everyone that all Board Members are volunteers and suggested that the Executive explore opportunities to “make our lives easier” by hiring outside

help to lighten some of the workload for the more time-intensive positions (Membership, Treasurer, Communications, etc.), or generally cover some of the expenses of being an Executive (travel, conference attendance, etc.). Tammy recognizes that the Board members are in an awkward position to establish remuneration for themselves.

- Grant Ferguson: preliminary discussions occurred during the Board meeting to explore transitioning some responsibilities to an external provider (e.g., Gibson Group Management, who does a similar service for the CGS). Committee consisting of Mark Bietting (chair), Steve DiBiase, Kim Gilder, and Steve Holysh to develop an RFP for an external provider to assist with aspects of membership, communication, and treasurer duties for consideration starting in 2017.

8 Update on Membership

Mark Bietting provided update on membership.

- Consistent with previous years – 359 paid members in 2015, including 7 corporate memberships and 28 student members. Overall increase of 24 memberships from 2014, but down from 2013 (post-Congress increase). Anticipate an increase in membership of ~80 due to Waterloo 2015 registration.
- Discussion of renewal times and notifications: historically, IAH-CNC has opened renewals between mid-January and early March. The past 3 years has seen a gradual improvement (advancement) of the initial renewal notice to earlier in the year (early January in 2015). Mark committed to issuing the renewal notice for 2016 by early December. With a new Membership Director set to start after the Waterloo 2015 conference, Mark will remain responsible for this initial renewal notice and will transition responsibilities to new membership Director over the next few months.

9 Update on Communications

Joanne Thompson has stepped down as Communications Director. Steve DiBiase has been nominated for the position. Joanne mentioned that website is currently being updated, and should be completed in November. Moving forward, IAH-CNC will likely have to engage a new website administrator, as the current administrator is Joanne's brother.

- Approximately 40,000 hits/year
- Highest volume is in November, December, January; Joanne suggests this could be related to members looking for renewal information (did not mention whether page views in these months correspond to the renewal page)
- Jobs page is most active.

10 Transition of IAH-CNC By-Laws

New federal requirements for non-profit by-laws necessitated reformatting of our by-laws. No functional difference in the content.

- Point of Discussion: were the highlighted sections in the draft revised by-laws circulated to the attendees accepted by the Board (via Grant Ferguson): yes.

- Heather Wilson mentioned that the changes had to be accepted by Board Resolution and then ratified by the members. Joanne Thompson motioned that the Board accept the changes via resolution, Mark Bietting seconded, no discussion, Board voted and passed Resolution. Anthony Lotimer motioned for members present to ratify, Dick Jackson seconded, Bob Betcher voted against (in jest), motion passed.

11 Other Business

Conferences Revisited: Show of hands indicated that majority of AGM attendees were in favour of this collaboration in 2016.

Action Item: Yves Michaud, Grant Ferguson, and Diana Allen to follow-up with CWRA re: collaboration for 2016 conference in Montreal.

Action Item: Executive to discuss/engage Aquitard Commission for potential collaboration on a conference or symposium. No specific members identified to carry out this action.

12 Election

Grant Ferguson: reviewed process and presented slate of candidates.

- Early Career Hydrogeologist Network Advisor (non-voting) representative added to Executive Committee (Carlos Maldaner)
- Bob Betcher appointed as Executive Assistant by the President
- Don Ford motioned to accept slate, Steven Rose seconded, Diana Allen opposed (in jest), motion passed.

Approved Board of Directors (with expected Officer appointments other than President to follow at next Board meeting) was:

- Diana Allen (president)
- Mark Bietting (vice president)
- Nell van Walsum (secretary)
- Kim Gilder (treasurer)
- Jason Assam (membership)
- Steve DiBiase (comm)
- Mark King (Atlantic)
- Marie Larocque (Quebec)
- Nataliya Tkach (Ontario)
- Jeff Bell (Manitoba)
- Harm Maathuis (Saskatchewan)
- Frank Magdich (Alberta)
- Laurie Welch (BC)

Other members of the Executive Committee (non-voting):

- Grant Ferguson (past president)
- Bob Betcher (executive assistant)

- Carlos Maldaner (ECHN)

Action: Appoint officers at next Board and Executive meeting.

Action: President to invite Joanne Thompson and Steve Holysh to site on the Executive Committee.

13 Adjournment

Don Ford motion, Mark Bietting seconded, motion passed.

Minutes recorded by: Mark Bietting

Minutes approved at: [pending 2016 AGM]