



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

### THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF EARTH SCIENCES

October 24<sup>th</sup> 2009, at the UNIVERSITY CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF REGINA, SK

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#### AGENDA

1. Call to order (Bill Mercer)  
E. Kusters will be secretary. Quorum is present.  
Motion to approve agenda. So moved by Godfrey Nowlan, seconded by Alec Aitken, all approved.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting (Halifax, June .. 2008) - <http://www.geoscience.ca/minutes/2007-2008CFES-FCSTAGM.pdf>  
Proposal to waive reading the minutes unless there are objections.  
Nobody notes objections or errors, the minutes will not be read.  
Motion to approve the minutes, so moved by Lisa Griffith, seconded by Steve Holysh, all approved.  
  
Matters arising from the minutes - none
3. Report of the President  
There are no objections or comments, the report is considered read and is included in these minutes as Appendix I.
4. Report of the Finance Director  
The president asks not to have a detailed discussion on funding at this point, as this will be discussed later during the meeting. This agenda item addresses only finance (the books).  
The auditor's report got in last Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Both in 2009 and 2008, CFES/FCST spends \$45,000-\$50,000 more than it raises. Assets are decreasing by about \$40,000 per year, the organization has less than 2 years life left under these conditions.



There is also a letter from the accountants. Page 4 of the finance director's report is a response to this letter, which contains recommendations from the accountants.

- a. First recommendation: CFES/FCST must get GST reimbursed, hasn't been done since 2002. This process has now been set in motion.
- b. Recommendation 2 refers to invoices for societies; the accountants advise to send these out to members at the same time. We do actually send all invoices at the same time, but sometimes a society requests an adjusted invoice, because of changed membership.
- c. Recommendation 3 addressed reimbursements, which should be done more consistent. We now have adopted a standard form.

*Discussion on the financial report.*

The accountant and auditor currently cost 10% of our annual budget.

- "Business expenditures" include costs for managing director (Elisabeth Kusters), administrative assistant (Catherine Barrett), webmaster (Bill O'Brien), incidental labour (Susan Eaton).
- The "Finance director's office" consumed \$14,500. It turns out these costs were Insurance, cost of the audit, and penalty to CRA.
- "Executive travel" = reimbursement of semi-annual meetings to directors, which also includes the cost of renting facilities.

The president asks for a motion to accept the financial report: so moved by Alec Aitken, seconded by Ian Young, approved by all.

The president asks for a motion to postpone discussing the budget until agenda item 14 of the semi-annual meeting: so moved by Pat Ryall, seconded by Godfrey Nowlan, approved by all.

5. Report of the Managing Director –  
There are no objections, the report is considered read.
6. Nominations for 2009-2010  
Sitting Board Members to continue:  
President: Bill Mercer  
Past-President: Ian Young  
Finance Director: Pat Ryall  
Communications Director: Jeff Packard  
International Director: Peter Bobrowsky



Outreach Director: Godfrey Nowlan

Director: Steve Holysh

Newly nominated Board Members

1. President-elect: Bill Stiebel

Comment by Lynden Penner on behalf of CGS. The CGS board is strongly in favour of this candidacy.

The president asks for a motion to nominate Bill Stiebel as president-elect: so moved by Scott Jobin Bevans, seconded by Lynden Penner, all approved

2. CanGeoRef Steering Committee co-Chair: Carolyn Relf.

The Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists has given CFES/FCST seed money for the start-up of CanGeoRef, therefore we invited them to chair the CFES CanGeoRef steering committee.

The president asks for a motion to nominate Carolyn Relf (director of the Geological Survey of the Yukon) as CanGeoRef Steering Committee chair and CFES/FCST board member: so moved by Sandy Cruden, seconded by Kevin Ansdell, all approved.

The managing director must be nominated and appointed separately annually.

The president asks for a motion to reappoint the managing director: so moved by John Boyd, seconded by Dan Smith, all approved.

Discussion: there are objections to irregularities in the nomination procedure. It is suggested to ask all societies for nominees, and also to favour candidates with previous experience with CFES.

7. Election of Officers and Directors

8. Unfinished Business – none

9. New Business – none

10. Next Annual General Meeting – Fall 2010, wherever the CFES/FCST meeting will be held. Exact timing will be decided at May 2010 meeting in Calgary

11. Adjournment

The president asks for a motion to adjourn the AGM: so moved by Pat Ryall, seconded by Ian Young, all approved.



## APPENDIX I

### President's Message

By

Bill Mercer

Regina, October, 2009

As a preamble, for those new to Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES), a little history may be appropriate. In November 2006, the transition took place from the Canadian Geoscience Council to the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences, and also at that time, Ian Young became the first president of CFES. The change was part of the objective of revitalizing an organisation that some perceived was not achieving its purposes and to increase the engagement of geoscientists in industry with those in government and academia. These specific goals have been largely achieved, as Ian's period as president was very fertile for CFES with major initiatives such as International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), the survey of employment requirements (the HQP survey) and the establishment of the Earth Science Advisory and Advocacy Panel (ESAAP). However, much remains to be done.

As a result CFES has established itself as an important forum where earth scientists in widely different divisions of the discipline and from different work backgrounds can come together and advance common goals. I believe these common goals can be distilled down to:

1. A common voice to the public, young people and the government ("outreach").
2. Representing Canadian earth science internationally.
3. Completing projects with specific objectives from overlapping areas of earth science.

Thus as examples of the first case, we have the earth sciences website ([www.earthsciencescanada.com](http://www.earthsciencescanada.com)), IYPE, Canadian Geoscience Education Network (including its EdGEO Teacher Workshop Program) and ESAAP. For the second, there is representation in the International Union of Geological Sciences and the Canadian National Committee for Geoparks. And for the third, we could name the CanGeoRef initiative and the committee examining Canada's geological time scale (possibly to be renamed the Canadian Stratigraphic Commission).



Although any one of these may be a more or less modest goal in itself, in total they represent a steady advance of CFES objectives and new initiatives will continue to build on this. For example, recently the earth science department at the University of Waterloo has proposed a joint project with CFES/FCST to launch an addition to the IYPE earth science careers website directed towards high school youth in their last year and about to graduate.

It is important that we continue to bring together earth scientists of various persuasions and that our projects continue to be broadly based. A broad base of support will also ensure that the projects are successful.

All this said, although we are having success on the implementation front, CFES is definitely challenged in its finances and it is going to take some work by the board of directors to develop a clear path forward. Over the past two years our income has declined and on top of this, we incurred a loss outside our control at the Nuna-Gussow Geoscience of Climate Change conference. Although this loss may appear minor, it is a serious issue for an association as small financially as CFES/FCST. As a result, the first action we are taking is to cut expenditures through tightening our control on outgoing funds, and seeking ways to lower the cost of operations. Secondly we will be seeking ways to improve the incoming funds partly but making sure special projects are self financing. It is critical that we do not run down the reserve funds any more than absolutely necessary. We need to carefully examine the financial risk involved in any new initiative. Ian Young stated in his last message as president that securing the financial future is critical. This still applies. Although there is a challenge, I do believe it is surmountable.

CFES exists for the constituent associations so that they can achieve objectives that would not be possible if the associations were acting alone. As a result it is the strategic decisions of those associations, who are represented at this meeting, that will guide the future directions and high level objectives of CFES.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers on the board and committees for their time over the year and also thank Elisabeth Kusters for her dedication to the success of CFES/FCST.