**Executive**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council**

**of The United Church of Canada**

**Minutes June 15, 2023, 12:45 PM**

**Present:** Jennifer Irving (President), Mark Laird (Past President), Brent Caslick (Treasurer), Jessica Cottrell, Beth Kerr, Ann Harbridge, Cathy Larmond, Heather Leffler, Joyce Osborne, Terry Smith

**Regrets:** Andrea Allan, Joyce Johnston

# Welcome and Constitution of Meeting (President Jennifer): I constitute this meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, the one true head of the Church and by the authority vested in me by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council for whatever business may properly come before it. The bounds of this meeting will be the Zoom call and the Regional Council Office, 1552 Highway #6, N. Hamilton.

## **Appoint Minute Secretary for the meeting** Ann Harbridge was appointed as secretary.

Members of the executive introduced themselves and described how they were brought into this work.

## **2. Consent Docket**

Any of the following matters that require discussion can be lifted from the consent docket and voted upon separately:

1. Enabling Actions
2. That the Agenda be adopted as circulated.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2023 and May 17, 2023 be approved as distributed.
4. That motions and proposals be written and given to the Secretary.
5. Receive
6. Regional Council Evaluation Report and Evaluation Part 2 - WOW
7. Executive Minister Accountability Report

It was **agreed** that the consent document be approved by consensus.

**3. Confirm**

What information is being shared from the report and how it will be shared:

1. With Commissions and
2. With Regional Council (newsletter, fall meeting, etc.)

It was **agreed** that the full report will be shared with commissions, along with the WOW specific report, and the evaluation presentation powerpoint - to be kept confidential by the commissions until after it is shared at the regional council fall meeting.

It was agreed that an executive summary will be shared by the President with full regional council / congregations, noting that it will be discussed and shared more fully at the fall 2023 regional council meeting. There will also be an opportunity for input into next steps.

1. Take action on Volunteer Recruitment Proposal to put a Recruitment Team in place (if there is not one) so they can assist with fall orientation and develop a process to recruit lay representatives from congregations. Will Executives work together to develop a mandate for this Committee? If so, please appoint people to do that.

Recruitment team is Heather Leffler, Jennifer Irving, Rebekah Duncan. Recruitment team will create a draft mandate to present to the executive by the September meeting.

Looking to break region into local clusters, invite approximately 6 congregations on zoom, Minister or Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Chair of board/regional council representative, Discipleship and Justice representatives from congregation. This would help with recruitment as well as connecting congregations to regional council and to their neighbours. Is it time to create networks/clusters in the region?

Recruitment team will draft an outline for cluster meetings for the July executive meeting.

1. Set the date and time of Executive meetings to accommodate new members

Confirmed as WOW Executive meeting date: 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 10:30 am.

No August meeting

July meeting to focus on the review / strategic planning July 19th 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

1. Set date, time and location for fall orientation

3rd Tues (19th) of September at Trinity Listowel

Recommended agenda for the day: 9 AM: Executive meeting

10:30 AM: Orientation

12:30 : lunch

1:30 PM: Commission meetings

Fall regional council meeting:( Sept 28-Oct 1) discussion about breakout groups – can they be consistent?

How can volunteers help ease the workload for staff?

Is there room for items / concerns to come to the meeting that doesn’t force a proposal that might not be fully prepared? Perhaps in small groups so that those in the know can respond.

1. Proposal 1: Millbank Cemetery

**MOTION**: Cathy Larmond/ Mark Laird

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agree to

1. Transfer the cemetery parcel known 44R436-0030, Township of East Perth, held by the Trustees of the Millbank Congregation of the Methodist Church in Canada to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Huron of the Anglican Church;
2. cover legal expenses to do the same.

**CARRIED**

**8**. Proposal 2: Eden Mills Final Payment (Brent Caslick)

**MOTION**: Heather Leffler / Mark Laird

That the Executive of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council direct the Treasurer to request the General Council accounting office to make the final payment of $6,591 to the Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council. **CARRIED**

1. Registration

Because the next WOW regional council meeting is online, the discussion on registration deadlines was deferred to the next meeting of the executive.

For all three Regional Councils in Fall Meeting Together: Cycle of meetings: do we need monthly Executive meetings or could we move to bimonthly? And Shared Ministry Agreement: staff and office space

Note: Dec 1 evening & 2nd is next Tri Regional Executives meeting, on zoom.

Check-Out: Mark Laird explained that we seek to live into our commitments around right relations, affirm, anti-racism, etc., and as a group we will check-out by raising one thing that stood out for us that speaks to our statements on these things.

Today we are including the whole day.

* Allowing the space to hear different feedback even though things were not on the agenda.
* Balance between chaos and order – allowing ideas to percolate.
* Care in trying to figure out a central location for in person meeting. What is central and what works.
* Including everyone
* Appreciated that first meeting was face to face.
* Appreciate Jennifer and the great job she has done, and allowing people to speak – agenda was flexible.
* Appreciate that everyone is able to have a voice.

President Jennifer closed the meeting in prayer.

Adjournment