Minutes: Canadian Chapter IECA Board Meeting, November 25, 2020

Present: Chris Thomson, Mark Myrowich, Glenn MacMillan, Risa Olekshy, Brad Fairley, Elyse MacDonald, Trent Hatfield, Harry Reinders, Gilles Rivard, Aileen MacMillan

*please note action items are in bold

1. Budget status: Mark will meet with the accountant (Ron) shortly and report back with a budget proposal for next year. Mark will call a December meeting to review the budget, and those who are able to attend are welcome. **Budget will be circulated to board members prior to the January meeting, at which decisions can be discussed and approved.**

2. IECA conference – Canada pass: IECA Global ratified the merging of Region 1 and 2 into a global organization. The IECA annual event for 2021 will be held virtually in conjunction with IFAI (Geosynthetics Materials Association) on the same dates as the in-person conference. This gives us a unique opportunity to reach people all over the world, and to make it easier for Canadian members to participate (without the cost of travel). There is a huge need internationally for education about agricultural erosion control. Canada and the U.S. have strong programs in this area. The cost to attend the virtual event is $200 USD and participants receive PDH credits. To bring the fee closer to $200 CDN, Mark proposes we budget up to $6000 CDN dollars to issue coupons for EC21 at an exchange rate of 1.3 (approximately $60 CDN per participant). This will only be offered to members (currently we have 106 Canadian members). Participants will still have to pay in USD on the website, but will receive the discount immediately when using the code. The chapter will reimburse IECA directly for every coupon used. Seconded by Harry, approved by all.

3. EC21: IECA is looking for roundtable ideas for the virtual annual event. Each roundtable will consist of 3-4 participants representing different sectors. Panel members do not have to be IECA members. Winter preparedness is one suggestion. **Please email suggestions for topics or potential partners to Glenn by next Tuesday.** Since the Canadian chapter AGM is usually held at TRIECA, Glenn proposed it be held at EC21 this year on Tues Feb. 23 -5:30 EST for one hour. This was approved by all.

4. Approval of minutes: Motion put forward by Risa, seconded by Chris. Approved by all.

5. Montreal Stormwater Symposium: The event went well with about 65 attendees (last year’s face-to-face event drew 95 people). Gilles will forward the participant list to be added to the database. Registration fee was $320, and it is yet to be determined the portion CANIECA will receive. Next April if COVID is still active, there may be an opportunity for CANIECA to run this event independently with help from IECA global. We will aim to keep fees low as participants indicated they found $320 a bit expensive. We will have to give IECA adequate lead time for planning purposes.
6. Extension of Executive Assistant contract: Proposal to extend the current contract with Aileen at $500 per month for a 12-month period. Harry made this motion, seconded by Risa. Approved by all.

7. CAN IECA LID Webinar: Aileen is working with Sylvie Spraakman on this webinar. We will use Zoom. It will include a few slides about the Canadian chapter and a thank you to our sponsors. The event will not be recorded. Please try to attend on Dec. 1st. All board members received a flyer about the event for distribution.

8. Sediment Pond Design Webinar: Jerry Fifield has agreed to deliver a free 1-hour CANIECA webinar. Trent and Glenn will discuss the content details. The webinar will be scheduled for next year.

9. Quarterly Newsletters: Currently CANIECA puts out a monthly newsletter, as does IECA. No newsletter will go out in December. Every other chapter puts out quarterly newsletters. Glenn proposed that the Canadian chapter produce 6 newsletters for 2021 (one the end of January and then every second month following). Events can be promoted between newsletters via social media. Approved by all.

10. Board meetings for 2021: meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month with the first being Wed. Jan. 27. The Feb. meeting (AGM) will take place at the annual event on the 23rd. Aileen will send new meeting invitations.

Items for January board meeting.

1. Budget
2. Fisheries Act Webinar
3. Set agenda for the AGM to be held on Tues Feb. 23 -5:30 EST at EC21