

ONLINE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WACC CA
And WACC UK
MAY 19, 2020 – 10:00 A.M. Toronto time

Meeting commenced at 10:10 a.m. Note – this meeting was held jointly with WACC UK

Welcome by the President

The President invited Rev. Vincent Rajkumar to start the meeting with a prayer.

The President thanked everyone for attending and noted that this is a very important time for WACC to be able to mobilize its resources and continue its efforts to expand the work it is doing to help marginalized people and communities. The President asked everyone in attendance to share information as to what is happening in their respective parts of the world.

While those in North America and Europe advised that overall, the numbers of new cases and hospital admittances are heading downward, meaning that restrictions on workplaces, retail, etc. are slowly being lifted, group assembly is still restricted and will be for the foreseeable future. Vincent Rajkumar reported that the situation in India is very grim, with mass migration taking place as people are leaving the cities and heading for their rural homes. Those from the Caribbean noted that the numbers of infected people in their regions are most likely being under reported, or testing is not available to enough people. Rania Rashid reports that in Egypt while the numbers of people testing positive in the early days was low, there has been a steady increase in the numbers testing positive.

Besides the tragic economic impact faced by all regions, a common thread is that there is a general mistrust of government, in , due to lack of direction. It is difficult for people to distinguish between good and bad information as the media often focusses on the extremist factions, the same people who are racists, climate deniers and anti-vaccinists.

WACC has not been without casualties. Stephen Brown and Gregge Brekke have both been infected and have recovered, as has Jay Chowdry, a North American Regional Board Member, who was hospitalized for some time, now recovering.

Roll Call – WACC CANADA

Directors:

Embert Charles (President)
Stephen Brown (Treasurer)
Glory Dharmaraj
Kristine Greenaway
Philip Lee
Absent – Mathilde Kpalla
Apologies - Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (Vice-President)

Staff:

Philip Lee (General Secretary) PL
Sara Speicher (Deputy General Secretary) SS
Shari McMaster (Board Liaison/Minute Taker)

Review and Approval on Recommendation of the Treasurer of the Budget 2020 to 2022

The President invited the Treasurer, Stephen Brown to speak to this matter.

The Treasurer introduced the WACC funding situation Report which report resulted from the Board meeting of March 12th wherein the Secretariat was asked to bring back to the Board a revised budget for 2020 and the following years with a total drawdown not exceeding CA\$200,000.

The Treasurer acknowledged that this was a very difficult task but the Secretariat has put together several proposed cuts in order to achieve this goal. The Treasurer invited the General Secretary, Philip Lee to discuss the proposed cuts.

The General Secretary reviewed Item Nos. 1-5 of the Proposed cuts in the Report. He too stated that this was a very difficult task, as there are unfortunate results coming from it.

1. The Finance Assistant contract is to be terminated with the work being shared amongst the Financial Controller, the Programmes and Funding Officer and the Administrative Coordinator.
2. The WACC office rent is being negotiated to reduce by 50%. If negotiations are successful, WACC will remain at its offices, with 50% less space. If unsuccessful, WACC will relocate to other premises, within Toronto.
3. There is a moratorium on travel and accommodation to the best of WACC's ability. WACC will need to forego some meetings to which it would normally be invited to take part.
4. There is an anticipated reduction in legal fees as the governance changes are now in place. However, due to the change in governance structure, there may be an increase in accounting fees as the two entities have amalgamated and the financial reporting requirements may be different.
5. There will be a savings on governance costs of approximately \$50,000 for each of 2020, 2021 and 2022 as there will no be face to face meetings. The next face to face meeting of the WACC UK Board will take place in 2023.

As a result of these changes and other cuts along the way, the drawdowns on reserves will be reduced to \$283,840 in 2020, \$200,861 in 2021 and \$205,875 in 2022.

There being no questions, **Stephen Brown MOVED that the Budgets be adopted as presented to the Board.**

SECONDED by Glory Dharmaraj. UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

Review and Approval of the Terms of Reference for a Fundraising Task Force

The President invited the Treasurer, Stephen Brown to speak to this matter.

The Treasurer referred to the portion of the Funding Situation document relating to fundraising and indicated that a recommendation was being made to the Board that a fundraising task force be formed. The General Secretary was invited to speak to this matter.

The General Secretary said that best way of explaining the fundraising strategy is that there will be a shift from the "few" to the "many". Everyone must play a role in fundraising, to a greater or lesser

extent. The funds raised will be a mosaic – with funding coming from multiple donors, from various sources – philanthropists, governments, private donors, members. WACC needs to raise and build its visibility. It will look at funding calls and the trends and consider revising WACC programming to meet those calls. WACC will work on ways to solicit self-generating income.

WACC will look at every possibility to ensure WACC's sustainability over the next few years, thus the proposal of setting up a fundraising task force that would oversee what is being done. The task force would be made up of the Finance Committee, Officers and others with different perspectives and expertise.

The President asked if there were any questions.

Do the cuts to travel in the budget not detract from the ability of WACC to physically make those personal connections with potential funders?

While personal connections are integral to forging relationships, part of the new strategy will be to utilize people associated with WACC – Directors, Regional Associations, members, people known to WACC. WACC recognizes that it will require the assistance of all of those people.

Also WACC needs to be more visible in terms of credibility. For example, in answer to COVID 19, WACC has launched the Community Media Rapid Response Fund. WACC is in a position to show how relevant communication is in during this time.

The Deputy General Secretary was invited to speak to the matter. Sara Speicher said that this situation is an example of how strategies change. In the past, WACC would have done more project proposals. Social media and a strong online presence are now vital. The strategy is to match the priority of a funder to what WACC can do. It is imperative to leverage all contacts. This will impress funders.

The Treasurer MOVED to approve the establishment of a Task Force. Kristine Greenaway seconded the Motion. UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

Review and Approval of the Terms of Reference for a Fundraising Task Force

The President invited the Treasurer to present the Fundraising Terms of Reference. The Treasurer referred to the document providing the Background, Mandate, Members and Responsibilities.

The President indicated that the implementation of a Task Force provides the authority and latitude to focus on fundraising.

Rania Rashid of WACC UK volunteered to be part of the Task Force. The Task Force members therefore at this point will be the Officers, the Finance Committee Members, the Executive Staff and Rania Rashid. The Directors are also invited to put forth names of people who may be able to provide expertise to the Task Force.

It was agreed that the Task Force would meet once every three months.

It was MOVED by the Treasurer that the terms of reference for the Fundraising Task Force be accepted. SECONDED by Kristine Greenaway. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Any other Business

The General Secretary indicated that the strategy documents are nearing completion. An action plan has been sketched out and ready for a Task Force meeting around mid-June.

Ary Regis of WACC UK said that he had been invited to and participated in a UNESCO high level panel recently regarding COVID misinformation. In the course of his participation, he provided information about WACC. Ary questioned if there are restrictions on representation by him of WACC in a situation such as this.

The General Secretary indicated that a restriction would be making some sort of commitment on the part of WACC. Otherwise, this sort of visibility is good for WACC and should be encouraged. Whether the visibility is for the Region or WACC global, either could be beneficial.

The Treasurer commented that it would be beneficial, after the Fundraising Task Force has been established, for the Officers and the Board to review who represents WACC in this sort of situation. There should be some sort of guidelines provided to Directors so that it is clear to Directors (or an individual) how best they can represent WACC.

The President thanked attendees for the contributions at the beginning of the meeting to help us understand what the situation is around the world. He asked Rev. Vincent Rajkumar to say a final blessing for the meeting.

Adjournment

It was MOVED by Stephen Brown and SECONDED by Glory Dharmaraj that the Meeting be adjourned. ALL IN FAVOUR.

11:50 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari McMaster