

# Professional Geoscientists Ontario Minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council Thursday, May 21, 2020 Virtual

**Present** 

Milan Situm, Chair Scott McLean

Mark Goldie

John Ryder

Melanie Siewert

Zen Keizars

Roger Phillips

Carole Gilbert
Don Johnston

Paul Connor Marco Simone

David Good

Paul Hubley David Leng

Pizye Nankamba

Tafa Gomwe

Susan Carlyle

**Robert Hearst** 

Regrets:

Nicole Januszczak

Staff

Tony Andrews, CEO Aftab Khan, Registrar

Marilen Miguel

By invitation:

Dennis Waddington, Audit Committee

Roger Woeller, Enforcement and

**Compliance Committee** 

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 9:15a.m.

#### 2. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair acknowledged and thanked everyone for their online participation.

## 3. SAFETY MINUTE

David Leng provided some safety tips when cycling. One of the critical things for safety is to ensure that you are visible to motorists. When cycling, lights are essential not just during night time but also during the day.

#### 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None

### 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was reviewed.

Motion 135 - 1: Melanie Siewert moved to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

#### 6. ATTENDANCE RECORD

The attendance record was noted.

# 7. MINUTES FROM MARCH 19, 2020 MEETING

Council reviewed the minutes from March meeting. Minor edits were made.

Motion 135 – 2: Paul Hubley moved to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Susan Carlyle. Carried.

#### 8. POLICY CONCEPTS UPDATE

Council reviewed the written update provided by Policy Concepts.

# 9. MATTERS ARISING FROM MARCH 19, 2020 MINUTES

Action 134-1: Council will revisit Non-practising category issue at its May Council meeting. This has been addressed by incorporating a change in by-law # 1 Section 5.10 allowing non-practising registrants to have voting rights.

#### 10. CEO REPORT

Tony Andrews, CEO, provided an update on the following areas:

## 1. Operations

- Adapting to COVID-19
- Digitization of Registrant Files ongoing
- 2019 Year End Audit Process completed
- By-Law Review included in the report by the Governance Committee
- Nominations for Council Positions included in Governance Committee status report
- Nominations for Awards (FGC, PGO Award of Merit)
- AGM Preparation ongoing
- Strategic Planning continuing work on firming up action plans

## 2. Initiative and Issues

- Committee Meetings: Conference Planning, Executive, Enforcement & Compliance, Environmental Subcommittee, Governance, Professional Practice, Registration
- Sustainability and Climate Change -
- PGO Symposium 2020 included in the Conference Planning Committee report

- Mobility Agreement with OGQ maintaining correspondence with OGQ
- Ontario Government
  - a. Erosion Hazards Assessment (MNRF) submission being spearheaded by the geomorphology subcommittee
  - b. Submission on Proposed Amendments to Aggregate Resources Act (MNRF)
  - c. PGA Amendments (MENDM) keeping up the momentum by proactively meeting with ministry's staff and policy advisors.
  - d. Bottled Water Project (MECP) work of the panel was completed and the report has been finalized.

### 11. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Aftab Khan, Registrar provided update on PGO's registration and other key activities

 A number of registration statistics that include, but not limited to, membership as of May 2020.

Membership Class	May, 2019	May, 2020
Full P.Geo.	2179	2201
Limited P.Geo.	72	75
Non-Practising P.Geo.	150	199
Geoscientists-in-Training	478	544
TOTAL	2879	3019
Student	633	584
Certificate of Authorization	206	206

- By year-end of 2019, PGO saw the highest rate in suspension of membership due to non-renewal and the highest rate of change of designation from practising to non-practising in six years. In the same year, dues relief was at its lowest.
- PGO continues to maintain its record of no appeals in its registration decisions to date.
- Engagement & Risk Assessment (E & RA) Files as of May 2020
   Total number of active files to date is 536. Number registered from E & RA pool in 2020
   is 19. Total number of registrants to date from E & RA pool is 644.

#### Other activities

- Attended online meetings of Professional Practice Exam Committee (PPEC) on April 8, April 22 and May 6, 2020
- Virtual meeting with Office of the Fairness Commissioner (OFC) to finalize the items in the PGO-OFC action plan on April 14, 2020.

#### 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Registration Committee - Update provided by John Ryder, Chair

John Ryder, on behalf of the Registration Committee, presented the committee's recommendations on the issue of Retired P.Geo.'s. The recommendations are:

- 1. That PGO seek an amendment to Registration Regulation to include a retired category;
- 2. That, given the time required for amending the Regulation, full voting rights be given to Non-practising members of PGO;
- 3. That for the time being, retired members who want to have voting rights should maintain the Non-Practising membership; and
- 4. That the necessary amendments be introduced to the By-Laws to reflect these changes.

Motion 135 – 3: Zen Keizars moved to accept the recommendations of the Registration Committee. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

Enforcement and Compliance (E & C) Committee – Update provided by Roger Woeller, Chair

- The committee met via teleconference on May 7th. Part of the discussion was the work items identified in the PGO's action plan.
- Final version of terms of reference was forwarded to Scott McLean.

# Review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of Committees – Update by Scott McLean

Scott McLean reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of committees and subcommittees for compliance, consistency and completeness. His goal is to make sure that committees and subcommittees have the right composition and the ToRs should reflect that. Further, he noted the following:

- The Executive Committee's Terms of Reference were being finalized.
- Audit Committee's composition should not have any member of Executive Committee

- ToRs are subject to approval by Council prior to being posted on the website.
- ToRs should have consistent elements and format.
- Recommended that all subcommittees should directly provide report to the Professional Practice Committee (PPC). PPC in turn reports on the activities of all subcommittees to Council.

# **Professional Practice Committee** – Update provided by Paul Hubley

- Work on professional practice guidelines is ongoing.
- Sustainability continues to be a priority and will continue to look for opportunities to discuss wider participation in the development of sustainability guidelines.

# **Conference Planning Committee** – Update provided by Paul Hubley, Chair.

 Implementation of symposium workplan that includes marketing plan are going smoothly. The full symposium content along with online registration were launched online.

# Audit Committee - Update provided by Dennis Waddington, Chair

- Dennis reported that the Audit Committee's membership includes Paul Connor, Mark Goldie and Shelly Cuddy.
- The committee reviewed the audited financial statements and was satisfied with the work of the auditor. No concerns were raised.
- The committee recommended to Council to accept the audited 2019 financial statements and auditor's opinions as presented.
- The committee also recommended to retain Bateman and McKay as PGO's auditor for 2020.

Motion 135 – 4: Scott McLean moved to accept the 2019 Audited Financial Statements along with the auditor's opinions as presented. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

Action item 135 – 2: Council will present this motion to be voted on by PGO's practising, limited and temporary members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Council will also present a motion to appoint Bateman and McKay as PGO's 2020 auditor.

# **Governance Committee** – Update provided by Paul Connor

Paul reported on the nominations received for a number of member and non-member positions up for election and appointment. Nominees for appointments were presented.

- o Two nominees for LGIC member appointment Kristina Small and Jim Steel
- o One nominee for LGIC non-member appointment Dr. Patricia Lorenz
- One nominee for Non-member public appointee Paul Connor

Motion 135 – 5: Paul Hubley moved to appoint Paul Connor as a non-member appointee. Seconded by Zen Keizars. Carried.

Motion 135 – 6: Robert Hearst moved to recommend Dr. Patricia Lorenz to MENDM as PGO's LGIC non-member appointee. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

Motion 135 – 7: Robert Hearst moved to authorize Paul Connor to conduct a secret ballot among Council members as a basis for deciding on who to recommend to MENDM for the LGIC member appointee. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

Action 135 – 1: Paul Connor will poll Council around selection of who to recommend for Lieutenant Governor-in-Council (LGIC) member appointee. Expressions of interest will be circulated for review by Council members.

The following nominees were acclaimed:

- o Paul Hubley Vice President
- David Leng South West Regional Councillor
- Bryan Brassington South East Regional Councillor

## Past Presidents Advisory – Update by Zen Keizars

PGO received two nominees for the Fellow of Geoscientists Canada (FGC) designation Zen Keizars and Ron Ormson.

# Review of proposed by-law amendments – presented by Paul Connor, Chair of Governance Committee

- PGO retained a legal firm specializing in not-for-profit governance to provide their expertise in PGO's initiative to amend its by-laws.
- The work was led by the Governance Committee members with support from the CEO and the President of Council. Paul acknowledged everyone's contribution.

• Council went through each draft amendment. Members presented further edits and discussed them collectively. Edits were incorporated into the proposed amendments.

Motion 135 – 8: Paul Connor moved to present the draft amended by-laws for approval by voting members at PGO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the specified amendments discussed at today's Council meeting. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

# **12.** REGIONAL COUNCILLORS AND COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE REPORTS Nothing to report at this time.

## 13. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 14. IN-CAMERA SESSION

• Council had a brief in-camera session.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 135 – 9: Scott moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

President

# **Summary of Motions and Actions**

Motion 135 - 1: Melanie Siewert moved to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

Motion 135 – 2: Paul Hubley moved to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Susan Carlyle. Carried.

Motion 135 - 3: Zen Keizars moved to accept the recommendations of the Registration Committee. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

Motion 135 - 4: Scott McLean moved to accept the 2019 Audited Financial Statements along with the auditor's opinions as presented. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

Motion 135 – 5: Paul Hubley moved to appoint Paul Connor as a non-member appointee. Seconded by Zen Keizars. Carried.

Motions 135 – 6: Robert Hearst moved to recommend Dr. Patricia Lorenz to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM) as PGO's LGIC non-member appointee. Seconded by John Ryder. Carried.

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#### **ACTION ITEM**

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