



PEFC Council Board

Conference call

Monday 3, Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 May 2021

PEFC Council

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Minutes

Present:

- Peter Latham (Chair)
- David Ford (1st Vice Chair)
- Riikka Joukio (2nd Vice Chair)
- Brian Kernohan
- Eduardo Rojas y Briales
- Kurt Ramskogler
- Nurudeen Iddrisu
- Peter Crook
- Lena Ek
- Dradjad Wibowo
- Gerald Pfiffinger
- Fatimah Mohammad
- Sara Khatib

Apologies:

- Josien Tokoe

In attendance:

- Ben Gunneberg (Secretary General)
- Michael Berger (Deputy General Secretary)
- Luca Saccone (at start of the meeting)

1. AGENDA

1.1 Declarations of potential conflicts of interest with agenda

- There were none.

BOD/6/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the Agenda.

1.2 Affiliations update

BOD/7/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the Board Affiliation as amended.

2. MINUTES

BOD/8/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the minutes of the last board meeting held virtually on Monday 22 February 2021.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Risk items to be considered

- Covered under agenda item 4.1

3.2 Board Follow up (Q1 2021 Progress report)

- The Board noted the Q1 2021 progress reports provided by the staff.

BOD/9/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To note the follow-up from last Board meeting and the Q1 2021 Secretariat's progress report.

3.3 Marketing Communications & Advocacy (MCA) Working Group – Appointment of new Chair

BOD/10/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To appoint Sara El Kadri as new Chair of the PEFC's Marketing Communications & Advocacy Working Group.

4. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

4.1 Broader Strategic Issues (incl. Risk Register)

- The Board spent considerable time considering strategic, reputational, operational and financial risks facing the organisation at a time when the relevancy of the SFM certification movement is increasingly questioned as stakeholders including governments and international institutions work towards determining legal and other pathways to address climate change challenges.

BOD/11/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the risk register once amended, based on the Board discussion.

4.2 Strategic Funding Update

- An Update was provided on the work of the strategic funding working group by David Ford

BOD/12/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To appoint Mr Dradjad Wibowo as a member of the fundraising committee, joining Messrs Ford and Briaies.

BOD/14/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To note the accounts as at 31 December 2020, to be sent to the auditor for final audit and presentation to the members at General Assembly.

5. FINANCE

5.1 Requests for reductions 2021 and 2022

BOD/13/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the applications for reduced subscription for 2021 received from Myanmar, Ghana and Portugal.
- To approve that the 2022 budget be prepared taking into consideration reductions for Estonia, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, India, Macedonia, Myanmar, Portugal, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, with a contingency for Vietnam, (Noting that Guyana reduction has previously been approved.)

5.2 Draft year-end accounts 2020

6. OPERATIONAL ITEMS

6.1 Board Charter Review

BOD/15/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To note and approve the amendments, and additions to both the publicly available PEFC Board Charter and PEFC full Board Charter which includes the appendices.
- To approve that the “the Deputy Secretary General is granted authority to sign contracts / letters of appointment related to PEFC’s operational activities, for and on behalf of the PEFC Council, up to a limit of 25,000 CHF, and to report all decisions thus taken to the Secretary General.”

6.2 PEFC Members Meeting

BOD/16/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- The Board noted the amended draft Agenda.

PEFC and work planning progress for 2022.

6.3 PEFC Week 2021 – Ireland – Verbal update (Peter & Ben)

- The Chair reported on discussions held with PEFC Ireland concerning the risks due to Covid of holding the PEFC General Assembly in person on 17th November 2021.

BOD/17/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To note PEFC Ireland's concerns and to hold the PEFC Week (week 46) and General Assembly virtually in 2021.
- To move the stakeholder dialogue and hold the PEFC Members Meeting 2022 in Ireland (week 19 commencing Monday 9th to 13th May 2022) with a possible field trip – Sat 14 & Sun 15.

6.4 Operational Update – (Michael Berger)

- Michael Berger updated Board members on a range of work items including the restrictions on the office in Geneva due to Covid; work on improving the process models (Blueheart – based on recommendations by AKC Global) for PEFC; Administrative changes including handling of contractors and subcontractors; progress on the Finance review and Data protection projects as well as internal reorganisations considerations to improve the delivery of services of

7. TECHNICAL

7.1 Endorsement - Ukrainian National Voluntary Forest Certification System

BOD/18/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To recommend the endorsement of the Ukrainian National Voluntary Forest Certification System to the PEFC General Assembly.

8. COMMITTEE UPDATE

8.1 Membership fee taskforce - (Peter Latham)

- This task force had met and reviewed the work to date, appointed a consultant and would start some modelling soon.

8.2 Management Account Committee - (Peter Crook)

- The committee had reviewed the management accounts and draft annual accounts, considered application for reductions (a process which is also online now) and was keeping an eye on the investment of reserves in addition to providing input into the financial review.

8.3 Marketing Communications & Advocacy – (Riikka Joukio)

- The Committee had been very active developing tools for members to use, setting up thematic task forces and enabling the regional hubs, all of whom had met recently, and

reports were given at the members meeting.

Signed:

8.4 Nominations Committee – (Ben Gunneberg)

- The committee had made a call for nominations including the position of the chair (to be in by 8th June) and put the application process online.

Peter Latham, Chairman

8.5 Chain of Custody Update – (Suzette Weeding)

- The core work of this committee is continuing the development and maintenance of chain of custody. The key work of this committee was currently on the revision of the chain of custody guidance documents.

Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General

8.6 Sustainable Forest Management Update – (Brian Kernohan)

- The committee had met recently and was considering the issues of Forestry Data; Ecosystem Services and how these could be catered for within the PEFC structure and had also held a virtual session on the issue of conversions including with external stakeholders, in the absence of being able to do field visits to explore the issue further.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The issue of the EU Taxonomy was raised, and a discussion took place on how the Board can support and advise the policy work in this and other EU areas.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Tentative Conference Call - **Wednesday 14 July** - from 14:00 - 15:30.