



MINUTES of the CSSE Western NS Chapter meeting held January 17, 2023, via Teams

Participants: Heather Wright, Chair                      Build NS  
Christian Fournier    CSSE RVP Atlantic  
Rea O’Leary    The Brick Distribution  
Matthew Duffy    FishSafeNS  
Gail Sinclair    SSRCE  
Stacey Maguire    Ulnooweg Development Group  
Travis Woodworth    Glooscap Ventures  
Mike Carter    SafetyWorks Consulting Services  
Andrew McKenzie  
Derrick Ozon    Halifax Water  
Stewart Franck    Workplace Performance Management

Regrets: Gary Slauenwhite  
Melanie Matthews-Bond  
Jordan L  
Kyle B

Heather Wright, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Christian provided an update on recent changes to CSSE;

- The society is going through a major restructuring
- All chapter charters have been revoked by the national society office as of January 16
- 7 new chapters to be created; BC/YT, AB/NT/NU, MB/SK, ON, QC, ATL, International
- Atlantic chapters will be folded into one regional chapter
- Communities, work groups, etc. may be created within the region
- January 27<sup>th</sup> strategy meeting for current Atlantic chapter executive members
- It is a time to suggest what we want things to look like for the future
- CSSE 2024 PDC is in Edmonton and it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society
- Please look for the recent call for volunteers for COSH week, etc.
- Christian is hosting a Regional Chapter Restructuring meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> – a brainstorming session for chapter executive members to develop the Atlantic Regional Chapter structure.
- Christian advised that it is okay to vent!

Open discussion by all present

- Financials
  - All CSSE Chapters must close their bank account and send remaining balance to CSSE National as demanded by CSSE CEO

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- The recent communications from the CSSE CEO did not state how moneys will be redistributed
- Chapter financial reports have been maintained by the chapter executive and regularly submitted to national. Seems unnecessary to move bank balances just so national can report amounts to CRA
- During the pandemic, CSSE expenses were down considerably while revenue was fairly stable. (I.e. \$1.4M expenses for 2020, dropped it to \$680K in 2021. Similar revenue both years. Where and how was the \$652,000 savings spent? Where has the money gone?)
- Funds the chapter received from the NS Department of Labour – \$3,000 in 2012 – have not been itemized and recorded separately
- MOTION by Gail Sinclair, Seconded by Stewart Franck, “That the Chair and Treasurer review past financial reports to ascertain how the \$3,000 OHS trust fund grant was utilized and send a letter in this regard to the current Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, OHS Branch, and to advise that the CSSE has revoked all chapter charters, thus the chapter bank account will be closed and all remaining funds transferred to the CSSE national office as per the direction of the CEO, Christopher Barry.” CARRIED
- MOTION by Stewart Franck, Seconded by Gail Sinclair, “That the Treasurer and Chair contact the TD Bank Kentville branch to make arrangements to close the chapter bank account and transfer the remaining balance to CSSE national as instructed by CSSE CEO.” CARRIED
- Communications
  - Several members expressed the need for better communications from national
  - Communication is lacking; it needs to be streamlined and sent regularly
  - More transparency, e.g. educate members on exactly what our membership dues are spent on
  - Overall, not a good impression for new members
- Website, data retention, membership records
  - A member stated it took three years for the local chapter to be informed of the move and the new member in their midst
  - Membership records are not up to date and not available to chapter executive
  - Many botched website changes have resulted in lost membership records and details
  - The website is a client services database and poorly utilized as such and to not preserve member records
- Looking ahead
  - Generally, members remain hopeful that the society can be saved and that member value can be a priority even if driven locally
  - We need to keep moving forward, be patient and remain positive
  - Members are curious as to when the new Atlantic region chapter will be launched

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- Christian described a process
  - WE the members can define what our future looks like, within or outside of a national society
  - Perhaps Christian can lead this with all Atlantic chapters beginning with the January 27<sup>th</sup> regional meeting
  - The executive committee will meet the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> and arrange to close the chapter bank account and transfer the balance to CSSE national as directed by CSSE CEO Christopher Barry.
- PDC
    - Seen as the main member value opportunity offered by CSSE national
    - As mentioned above, the 2024 PDC is in Edmonton
    - The society should look to the next PDC as an opportunity to establish new trust with members across the country

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Western NS Chapter executive committee  
January 25, 2023

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