

Minutes
WRI Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2009
Washington, DC

Attendees: James Harmon–Chair, Harriet Babbitt–Vice Chair, Alice Emerson, Frances Beinecke, Afsaneh Beschloss, Leslie Dach, Daniel Doctoroff, Jamshyd Godrej, Jonathan Lash, Kathleen McGinty, Douglas Oberhelman, Michael Polsky, Stephen Ross, Alison Sander, James Gustave Speth, Lee Thomas, Todd Thomson, Susan Tierney, Daniel Weiss

Guests: John Disharoon, Caterpillar

Staff: Manish Bapna, Steve Barker, Elizabeth Cook, Jennifer Morgan, Robin Murphy, Janet Ranganathan, Allison Sobel, Jacob Werksman, Zou Ji

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. ET by the Chair.

Welcome & Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2009, Board Meeting

Jim Harmon welcomed everyone to the call and wished everyone a happy holiday season. He said he appreciated everyone's service on WRI's board. Mr. Harmon welcomed Doug Oberhelman to his first meeting and said that he looks forward to meeting him soon.

The Board approved the Minutes from the September 22, 2009, Board Meeting.

Board Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Lee Thomas said that Ted Roosevelt IV was not able to join the call and introduced the resolution to elect Göran Persson. Mr. Harmon and Mr. Lash spoke about their meetings with Mr. Persson in Norway and via the telephone and the reasons why they think he is an ideal candidate for WRI's Board.

The Board approved the resolution to elect Göran Persson to the Board.

Mr. Thomas introduced the measure to elect Mr. Harmon to an extended term and said that WRI was fortunate that Mr. Harmon agreed to stay on as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Lash said that his term would officially expire at the March Board meeting, but that the By-Laws have a provision that the terms of the Chairman can be extended.

The Board approved the resolution to elect Jim Harmon to another term as Chairman of the Board.

Development Report

Liz Cook reported that since the Board had last met, the fiscal year ended and WRI was off to a promising start with fundraising in FY10. She reported on positive news from Development, including a large, multi-year grant from USAID for WRI's work to combat illegal logging. Ms. Cook spoke about several other recent grants including a five-year, \$30-million commitment to Embarq from Bloomberg Philanthropies. She also updated the Board on the status of WRI's bilateral donors. Ms. Cook reported that the November fundraising dinner in New York successfully raised unrestricted funds and thanked the Board for their support. Fifteen current and former Board members attended and/or contributed to the event. Ms. Cook mentioned several developing relationships stemming from the dinner. Ms. Cook also highlighted challenges the WRI Development team faced in the year to come, such as raising unrestricted funds for the China office.

The Board spoke about what worked well during the Dinner and offered suggestions for improvement of future events. Ms. Sander and Ms. Babbitt particularly liked the CCG event the next day and thought it worked well to tie it in to the Dinner. The Board thanked Mr. Doctoroff for arranging for it to be held at the Bloomberg office.

Prospects for Copenhagen

Mr. Lash asked Jennifer Morgan to update the Board on the standing of the negotiations. Ms. Morgan reported on emissions targets that both developed and developing countries are making and the status of the negotiations in Copenhagen. She spoke about the actions of China, India, and the EU to move the process forward. She said that President Obama would have limited negotiation power due to the lack of Congressional action. She reported on the dynamics involved between the Heads of State and the official negotiators, as well as the troubling conference logistics.

Mr. Lash said that the extent to which the U.S. will be bound by any agreement is not yet clear and spoke about the relationships between the U.S and China and between the U.S. negotiators and the U.S. Senate. The Board spoke about what the various commitments mean in terms of GHG emissions and how they are not adequate to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Mr. Godrej briefed the Board on the Indian Government's plan to reduce GHG emissions. The Board discussed whether EPA action would be sufficient to limit the U.S. GHG emissions and the possibility of the Senate passing a bill.

President's report

Mr. Lash said he would speak about WRI's growth and the issues and stresses that the growth is causing. Mr. Lash reported on the rapid growth that is expected at WRI over the next year and how WRI staff is now based in many countries, a big change

from how WRI functioned a few years ago. He said it was a challenge for WRI to bring on so many new people and to have them learn not only their job, but also about WRI's culture. He said that staff were working to expand WRI's orientation program and were bringing in outside help to determine the best way to manage the larger organization in order to remain responsive to global issues.

The Board offered advice and were pleased that WRI was addressing these issues as it was happening as opposed to after the fact. The Board discussed what we should think about as WRI grows, especially strategy, mentoring and what the Board could do to help.

China Strategy Update

Mr. Bapna reported on his work to prepare a strategy for WRI's work in China. The team was planning to determine WRI's value in China. He would like to make a decision on WRI's five-year objective for the China office and how to measure success. Mr. Bapna reported that WRI is convening an external Advisory Board for China as well as a China Board committee to help develop the strategy.

Mr. Harmon reported that he and Mr. Lash had traveled to China a few weeks prior to the Board meeting to make connections for WRI. He thought the trip resulted in many opportunities, but that harvesting them will take a lot of time and effort and noted this would be hard to do by phone from D.C. Mr. Harmon reported on several of the high level meetings they had in China including with Director Chen Jining. Mr. Lash spoke about the purpose of the trip and the meetings they had and noted that Mr. Harmon opened many doors that he and Dr. Zou Ji would follow-up with. He said it was enormously useful to do the hard work of building the relationships by going around and meeting people and thought that it would pay off. The Board spoke about the process of connecting with people in China, the role of the Chinese government, and the challenges moving forward.

The Conference Call disbanded at 1:30 p.m. ET.

Steve Barker
Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Administration, Secretary, and Treasurer