

**MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF GRAIN AND GENERAL SERVICES UNION (ILWU • CANADA) held by video
conference and in-person at the Ramada Plaza, Regina, SK on October 8, 2020**

GSU President – Jim Brown

GSU Vice Presidents – Michelle Houlden

Local 1 (Viterra Ops/Maintenance)

Dave Barrett, Travis Brewer, Gaylyn Kennedy

Local 2 (Viterra Offices)

Sheila Tran, Howard Wilson

Local 4 (Grain Millers)

Ryan McNabb

Local 5 (Western Producer/GVIC)

Sharlene Tetrault

Local 6 (Wild West Steelhead)

Amber Pearson - Local 6

Local 7 (Heartland)

Heather Mackay

Local 8 (Advance Employees Association)

Dion Elliott [video], Steve Holliday [video], Doug Murray [video]

Local 9 (Trouw Nutrition)

Derek Webb [video], Jordan Jefferson [video]

Local 14 (Richardson Pioneer)

Justin Shauf [video], Craig Reiman [video]

Local 15 (Nutrien) – 4 representatives

Curtis Cousins [video], Brian Cowan, Lynn Shaw

GSU Staff

Hugh Wagner, general secretary

Lynn Woods, assistant general secretary

Dale Markling, staff representative

Steve Torgerson, staff representative

Donna Driediger, staff representative
Debbie Head, financial representative

Absent with Regrets

Brett North, vice president
Mark Zacharias - Local 14.

These minutes reflect the disposition of the meeting. It should be noted that each agenda item and matters which arose were thoroughly discussed and often vigorously debated. In the interest of brevity, however, in most instances the final result is the only aspect recorded.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and introductions followed for those gathered in Regina and Council members joining via Zoom.

For the benefit of new participants, Hugh Wagner explained the role of the Joint Executive Council (JEC) and the purpose of the meeting. He reviewed the agenda and meeting materials.

MOVED by D. Barrett, seconded by T. Brewer that the proposed agenda be adopted with the power to add. Carried.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

President Jim Brown and vice-president Michelle Houlden shared the responsibility of reading the minutes of the April 3, 2020 annual meeting of the JEC.

MOVED by G. Kennedy, seconded by L. Shaw that the minutes of the April 3, 2020 meeting of the Joint Executive Council be adopted. Carried.

H. Wagner reviewed the minutes of the July 3, 2020 and Sept. 18, 2020 meetings of the Executive Committee for the information of Council members.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Wagner reported that the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the GSU Defense Fund was filled with the election of Barb Healey (Local 14 – Richardson – Edenwold).

Council members were asked whether they wished to address the three resolutions deferred at the April 3 Council meeting. By consensus, no action was taken on the resolutions.

Wagner reported that following consultation with the Executive Committee and, as approved by the Council, \$8000 was donated to Food Banks of Saskatchewan for distribution to the 32 local food banks in its network. A donation was also made to the Chilliwack Food Bank.

Wagner informed the Council that with the exception of Trouw Feeds and Grain Millers, the employers contacted in relation to a COVID pay boost had all declined to make any adjustments.

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND REPORT ON UNION ADMINISTRATION

Wagner advised the Council that as at August 31, 2020 GSU was running a \$92,000 operating surplus. Copies of the statement of financial position as at August 31 were distributed to the Council (*copy attached*).

The meeting was updated in relation to ongoing repairs to GSU's Regina office and the \$42,000 estimate to stucco the exterior of the building.

It was reported that the Executive Committee had reached a cost-neutral contract with Wagner.

Wagner informed the Council on the steps being taken to fulfill collective bargaining responsibilities, including the tentative Local 15 settlement with Nutrien Ag Solutions. Adjusting member contact and servicing efforts rounded out and concluded this agenda item.

MOVED by M. Houlden, seconded by S. Tetrault that the Financial and Administration report be adopted. Carried.

GENERAL SECRETARY SUCCESSION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The meeting turned to the process for determining who will be the next general secretary. Council members were informed that the Executive Committee had discussed the subject and two approaches were reflected in the draft resolutions included in the meeting materials.

One of the draft resolutions provided for a modification of the current election process. The second draft resolution provided for a hiring process to replace electing the general secretary.

Wagner recommended that whatever course of action the Council chooses, the matter should be taken to the 2021 biennial policy convention as a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the delegates.

A lengthy discussion followed with many members of the council contributing to the dialogue.

MOVED by L. Shaw, seconded by G. Kennedy that subject to slight refinements to address improvements, omissions, or errors, the resolution providing for the recruitment and hiring of the next general secretary be approved for submission to the 2021 GSU biennial policy convention. (*Copy attached.*) Carried unanimously.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S 2020 AUTUMN REPORT

The draft 2020 general secretary's report to members was presented to the meeting (*copy attached*). Each subject area of the report was discussed by the Council. It was agreed that changes would be made to update information and include reference to the Council's resolution to the 2021 biennial policy convention regarding general secretary replacement.

MOVED by S. Tetrault, seconded by L. Shaw that the draft autumn 2020 general secretary report to members be approved inclusive of the resolutions on Defense Fund dues and the constitutional amendment regarding policy conventions. Carried.

2021 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Plans for the March 18-20, 2021 policy convention at Temple Gardens in Moose Jaw were reviewed. The impact of pandemic restrictions and requirement adjustments were discussed. It was reported that the number of delegates might have to be restricted depending on room availability.

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Planning for 2020 annual membership meetings was discussed. A variety of format options were also discussed.

GSU OFFICER EDUCATION

The types, formats, and components of GSU officer education were canvassed. Holding a workshop(s) at the 2021 convention was discussed along with methods for acquainting elected representatives with all the aspects of GSU functions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

President


General Secretary

Attachments:

GSU financial position as at Aug. 31, 2020

Draft Resolution for Consideration re: General Secretary replacement

General Secretary's Autumn 2020 draft report