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# STRONGER BOARDS

Webinar Three: New Approaches and Burning Questions

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# New approaches & burning questions

- Your board successes & questions
- Some common board challenges
- Four practical ideas to try
- Strive to work more strategically

# If there is one thing...

- I like about my board it is...
- I would change about my board it would be...





# Your successes and burning 🔥 questions

- What has your board tried?
  - Successfully
  - Unsuccessfully (it did not take)
  - I know that some other groups....
- What questions do you have?
  - We would like to try...
  - I am curious about....



# Volunteer boards often report that:



- We do not get through the meeting agenda
- Someone regularly takes up too much “airtime”
- We have a board member that never shows up
- Committees are not doing their job
- Board members come to meetings “unprepared”
- We have few young/new people on the board
- Often, we are not able to make “quorum”



# Idea 1: Create a board calendar/annual work plan

- Every month
  - Financial report
  - Committee reports
- Not every month
  - Review of board member terms
  - Recruitment of new board members
  - AGM and associated RJSC filing
  - Annual budget - approval
  - Trail improvement/maintenance goals for the year
  - Membership & fundraising goals
  - Review of policies - Pick 4
  - Bylaw review (one every 3-4 years)
  - Meeting evaluation (2 x year)



# Board calendar/work plan (fill in each box)

January (Jan 14) Goals for the year	February (Feb 15) Board recruitment Grant application	March (March 10) Approve budget
April (April 15) Form committees	May AGM Outline goals	June
July (No Meeting)	August	September Trail public event
October Board and member pot luck	November New trail brochure Review bylaws	December (No Meeting)

## Idea 2: Change up your meeting agendas

- Welcome and meeting goals
- Approval of minutes
- Special Item/ Annual Goal 1
- Special Item/Annual Goal 2
- Routine Item 1
  - Committee Reports
- Routine Item 2
- Financial Report





## Idea 3: Raise up your board's leadership

- Discuss the job of the chair
  - Chair's role in meetings (how to improve our meetings a little)
  - Chair's role outside meetings (preparing for meetings, focus on goals)
  - How do we make the chair's role more “doable”?
- Have this conversation when “recruiting” someone to serve as chair.
- Have the conversation out in the open
  - It is really about the board not just the chair
- Use the conversation to create a written chairperson position description
- Ensure that the chair is not a one-person job
  - Who else is part of the leadership team (secretary, vice chair)?

# Idea 4: Invite outside guests to your meetings



One or two meetings a year



Guests help build trail communities



Guests make others more aware and appreciative of your work

See: **Guests in the Boardroom** (2017) on Governing Good

# Strive to work more strategically

- Boards really benefit from having annual goals
  - Trail development goals
  - Community use and awareness goals
  - **Board effectiveness goals**
  - Fundraising/membership goals
- Keep your strategic plan (or other goals) in front of the board
  - Look at them more than once a year
  - Goals can be meeting agenda items (one per meeting)
  - List goals at the bottom of the board's agenda
  - Use goals in helping you recruit new board members





# More questions?

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# Thanks

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