

Minutes of the Meeting of the Bank Information Center's Board of Directors

July 16, 2013

Attendance:

- 1) There were present:

Board members: Katie Redford (Chair), David Hunter (Treasurer), Susanne Breilkopf, Amy Shannon (by phone until 10:05am), Charles Moore (phone), Athena Ballesteros, Mamadou Goita (from 10:40am)

BIC staff: Joshua Klemm (Safeguards Campaign Coordinator), Martha Coe (Executive Assistant), Alvin Carlos (Development Director, Secretary of the Corporation), Mark Rentschler (Campaigns Director), Hetal Patel (Senior Finance Associate)

Regrets from Board members: Marcus Colchester

Call to Order

- 2) Ms. Redford convened the meeting at 9:38am.

Introductory Business

- 3) Mr. Dobson requested a few minutes to share a brief organizational update, and an executive session with the Board.
- 4) The Board approved the minutes from the April 22, 2013 meeting.

Organizational Update

- 5) Mr. Dobson gave a brief organizational update. He mentioned BIC's new Executive Assistant Martha Coe; potential work in Morocco with new funding from Oxfam Novib; open position at the Inspection Panel; developments at the World Bank including discussion of the Energy Strategy; and a possible grant from Open Society Foundations for safeguards coordination work.

Update on Safeguards Campaign

- 6) Mr. Rentschler shared a brief update on BIC's safeguards campaign. In the past months, BIC facilitated submission of partner comments about various issues including environmental assessment, scope and architecture, forests, disability, children's rights, involuntary resettlement, and others. BIC continued its engagement with U.S. government representatives. BIC has recently received funding and hired a new staff to work on climate safeguards. BIC is requesting an additional year of funding from the Moore Foundation to continue work on safeguards. Additional grant money will serve as an opportunity to engage more Southern partners. There is a Technical Board Briefing on July 23 on safeguards, after which BIC should have a better sense on the review timeline. BIC continues to facilitate partner outreach to Board members. BIC will soon produce several case studies on IDA countries. Next steps include assisting partners prepare for official consultations and World Bank Board member engagement.

Finances

- 7) Mr. Carlos discussed the latest 2013 financial projections. Projected revenue has increased due to new funding from Oxfam Novib for Egypt and Morocco work and increased OSI Burma grant, partially offset by a 3-month funding gap from OSI MNA. Expenses are projected to increase in accordance with the new grants.
- 8) Mr. Carlos and Mr. Dobson shared the latest fundraising leads that BIC is pursuing. This includes the Christensen Fund, Novib Asia, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the funding consortium on coal.
- 9) Ms. Redford suggested to make fundraising leads a standing agenda item where Board members can see if/how they can help.
- 10) Ms. Breitkopf suggested BIC look into the Arcus Foundation.

Strategic Planning for 2015 & Beyond

- 11) Mr. Carlos shared the draft strategic planning process to the Board, noting that the Board decided last April to have a joint Board-staff discussion during the fall about big picture items, and that a good part of BIC's grants are safeguards-related and that they will end around mid/late 2014 or early 2015. The proposed process also includes a discussion on how BIC can strengthen its organizational structure.
- 12) The Board suggested to conduct an evaluation as a key input of the strategic planning process.
- 13) The Board raised the point that organizational structure issues should be decided in concert with strategic planning issues.
- 14) As part of the opportunities analysis, the Board suggested that BIC consider discussing opportunities to support partner work on other IFIs, as well as the balance between BIC's policy campaign work and capacity building work.
- 15) The Board sought clarification on who from staff will attend the November Board-staff meeting, keeping in mind the balance needed between being inclusive and having a dynamic discussion.

Board Development

- 16) Mr. Dobson proposed a name for the Board to consider inviting, but the Board decided to hold off on new board member discussions until it has had some discussion on what BIC's new strategic plan might look like.
- 17) The Board suggested that it review the matrix of qualifications needed in a Board and what it currently has, as well as the list of names that has been floated in the past.
- 18) Ms. Redford urged Board members whose first terms are ending soon to signal their interest to her or Mr. Dobson about serving another term.

Executive Session

- 19) The Board had an executive session from 11:40am to 12:40pm.

The Board adjourned at 12:40pm.