

AWSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015 1:00 P.M.

- 1) Opening & Call to Order. Meeting called to order by Gordon Hall, Chairman, at 1:00 P.M.
- 2) Introduction & Roll Call. Members and guests present:

Gordon Hall	Bob Mayhew
Lyman Hardy	Darr Leutz
Jody Seal	James Babcock
Jim Jaquess	Kate Knafla
Bob Schouten	Peter Dahl
Tonya Mauer	Delaina Downes
Hutch Haines	Jeff Surdej
Jonathan Thacher	Leon Larson
Pat Byrne	Robert Rhyne
Mark Crone	Jeff Clark
Jim Grew	Doug Robbins
Richelle Muhltnr	Floyd McCreight
Owen Letcher	Jerry Jackson
John Goodman	Bob Crowley
Mike Hayes	Keith Lindemulder (arrived 4 p.m.)
Julie Krueger	

- 3) Announcement of Quorum – A quorum was declared present and announced by the Chairman.
- 4) Opening Administrative Motions:

Motion to allow invited non-directors to attend the meeting, with voice but no vote - Pat B/Jim J

Carries

Motion to treat all action items in committee reports as motions with automatic second - Pat B/Jim J

Carries

- 5) Appointment of Parliamentarian – Jeff Clark Appointed as meeting Parliamentarian by the Chairman.
- 6) Confirmation of Voting Roll. Motion to approve the voting roll as set forth in the board package, with the following updates and substitutions:

West – Richelle Muhltnr replacing Connie Bergmark as director; John Goodman substituting as Alternate Director for Barry Young, Mike Hayes substituting as Alternate Director for Laura Johnson.

East – no changes

South – Jody Seal, new director, replacing Chris Eller.

MW – Jim Babcock (Alt. Dir. for Dennis Downes), Darr Leutz (Alt. Dir. for Mike O'Connor (new MW director)).

SC – Bob Mayhew (substituting as Alt. Dir. for Joe Darwin), Keith L – getting off plane, will call in, needs board approval.

Athlete Advisory Council – Current AAC members are Alex Lauretano, Brooks Wilson, Freddy Krueger, Ellie Horton, and Karen Truelove; none present at meeting.

Amended Motion (Gordon H/Julie K) Approve the voting roll as amended, and allow Keith Lindemulder attend by phone and be allowed to vote

Carries

- 7) Adoption of Agenda
 - a) Add item 21: Task Force for Insurance
- 8) Review Minutes
 - a) Correction of Item 16.e – West Recommendation to Board: revise last sentence to read: (current requirements only allow one clinic to be credited within each two year renewal period)”
Motion to approve minutes, as amended (Jim J/Lyman)

Carries

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9) Ratification of electronic voting record. Motion to approve (Jim J/Lyman) Carries

10) Nominating Committee Report & Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Slate:
President - Jeff Surdej
Vice President - Barry Young
Secretary - Delaina Downes
Chairman of the Board - Gordon Hall

Nominations open: Kate/Tonya nominate Robert Rhyne for Treasurer

Motion to close nominations (Jim J/Kate K) Passes

Motion to approve of slate (auto) Passes

New officers duly elected, Gordon thanks Bob M for his service as outgoing president

11) Administrative items pertaining to Nationals – Mike Hayes, Chief Judge, 2015 Goode Nationals

Schedule change – moved W7-11 slalom from Main Lake / North South to the Turnpike. Discussion on how to best notify all affected participants.

Rule 10.216.b – discussion of placards informing all Slalom skiers of the rule and that they should measure their handle before hand

Jump slated to start at 9am – may have glare, delaying start, possibly creating officials scheduling issues

Last count 598 skiers – Total of 1008 rides

Motion to offer W6J the option of class L (Mike H/Jim J) Discussion; question called; vote. Passes

Nationals 2016 - No bids received; however Sacramento seriously considering, depends on long-term weather outlook (drought).

12) Officer Reports

USA-WS Executive Director's Report – Bob Crowley

Just finished show ski Nationals last night

Headquarters – 9 full time staff – appreciated being able to get a bonus this year due to AWSA donation for other items. – Thank you

Current staff members:

Bob Crowley	Taryn Garland
Bobbie Razor	Britt Hoyland
Scott Atkinson	Debbie, Emily (Van Treese) Dammeyer
Lynn Novakofski	(part-time)
Melanie Hanson	
Sandy Hardee	

Membership numbers continue to shrink – Sport and Fitness says water ski down, wakeboard down, stand up paddle board up 200%

Club numbers are up

Had to borrow \$50K of reserve funds for working capital needs; has been replaced

Increased fees for family memberships causing people to join as individuals

Merchandising is going well

Sponsorship – trying to clean up loose ends and get back on track

Program Development – Social media, etc.

#LifeOnTheWater used over 19,000 times. Thanks to Scott, Lynn, and Taryn
Pilot program in Wisconsin with Red Line Sports: connect boat buyers to USA-WS.

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Question & Answer session. Topics: Nationals, contracts, use of funds, sponsors, bylaws, involvement, practices.

Discussion of the Nationals contract document; who the parties are, who signs, who approves, and how to disseminate the contract for Nationals for review. USA Water Ski is the National Governing Body for AWSA, contracts are done through USA-WS, and the sports disciplines can not unilaterally sign a contract. Discussion of the need for transparency, and how to accomplish without risking misuse of sensitive information.

AWSA President's Report & AWSA Executive Committee Report

Outgoing President, Bob Mayhew – Happy to see younger members becoming active on the board and glad to see Jeff take over... He has a lot of plans and energy.

Incoming President, Jeff Surdej – Excited, looking to evolve. Get ready for the ride, and to think outside of the box... Let's see what can we do in 2-3 years. Looking forward to the winter meeting. The next 6 months will be busy.

Motion: (Jon Thatcher / Lyman Hardy) - Adopt as a policy of the board that any and all contracts that affect AWSA be disclosed to the board, as long as the board is willing to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Discussion: Contracts this would apply to: Nationals, US Open, Jr US Open, Team Trials, etc.

Motion to call the question (Darr / Kate); passes. Vote:

15 Approved, Carries

AWSA Treasurer's Report – Robert Rhyne

Account Receivable for SC has been paid

Regions have been invoiced for regional support of Jr Development. Historically, this pays for pizza party at Nationals. Regions should expect invoice for \$500 (\$200 for JD support, and \$300 for Regional support)

Date for Beginning Balance on report should be 12/31/2014 not 12/31/2015.

Discussion of Sources of funds under General Support category, and details of accounts.

Motion to accept Treasurers report (Bob S / Pat B) Motion carries; report Accepted as amended

13) Pan Am Region IWWF Report – See Report in Board Package

Jim Grew reported that the PanAm games went well. All were treated well by the Olympic committee.

14) IAC Report – See Report in Board Package

Items to add –

Can-Am – Discussion of event's cancellation in 2015. Canada is making a major restructuring in its method of team selection. Looking for places to host... May go back to a bi-annual event... Canada hosts the event, it just takes place in the US.

Next year the team will be chosen on paper, no team trials due to costs, time, etc. Not a new method, is done for other teams.

Pan Am games – amazing experience, unique opportunity, treatment our athletes don't get at any other event in the world. Funded by USOC

No word on Senior Worlds....

Worlds will be in Chapala, Mexico this Fall

15) AAC – See report in Board Package

Tonya – question on clinics that athletes are supposed to do.... Jim G says there hasn't been much success getting active participation from the AAC.... Extraordinarily busy.... Need board help, might get more results

16) USOC – No report

17) Other Committee Reports

a) Announcers – Hank Longo – See report in Board Package.

Mark Crone to get with Hank and discuss methods to improve response rates for online bio's.

b) Awards – No report

c) Boat Drivers – See report in Board Package.

Update to item #3 (maintenance requirements for Trained Drivers) by Jim G: A motion was taken to USA-WS board to make it simpler, and it was approved. So the issue was resolved.

d) By Laws / Jeff Clark – See report in Board Package.

Eastern Region has requested Jeff's assistance to rewrite their By Laws, which have to be approved by the committee and approved by the board.

e) Judges & Scorers / Floyd McCreight - See report in Board Package.

Thanks to Bob Harris, who led the way on online clinics, and is being recommended to the Awards Committee as Volunteer of the Year by the J&S committee.

Need help policing test administrators – e.g. tests given prematurely, ensure correct version administered, need to follow policy.

Dec. 31, 2015 will be the end of the current biennial renewal period. Officials with shortages received email in July 2015.

Senior Judges & Scorers clinic – Tonya/Eastern Region has agreed to hold, more info to come, opening up to drivers, safety, if they would like to participate.... targeting March 2016

Action items –

Send email to test administrators

Finishing Senior Slalom practical video – looking at central tower, boat video, and gate video.

Would like to see similar reports for drivers, and safety

f) Junior Development / Owen giving for Jim Devito

Working to smooth out the banquet

Jr Development meeting tomorrow night

g) Rules / Richelle M – See report in Board Package

Deadline for rules recommendations – 6 weeks before meeting of November 7, 2015

h) Safety / Jim Babcock – needs athletes to respond to emails, needs their votes

i) Seeding / - No report

j) Skiers Qualifications / Keith – No report

k) Technical / Jerry J - See report in Board Package

Asks that everyone go by and tell Melanie and her staff thank you for all they do for us.

Motion to create benchmarks for recognizing records for new Master's Women divisions:
Slalom – 1@41off, Tricks – 6,450 points, Jump – 155ft

Passed

Motion to have two levels of Technical Controller's ratings:

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REGULAR/NATIONAL and SENIOR/INTERNATIONAL – All current TC's will become Senior/International

Passed

Process for Emeritus – Submit to Jerry, Jerry approves, then comes to board for approval

l) Towboat / George Lindy – See report in Board Package

Julie K has made a Regional recommendation regarding addition of ballast weight for wake enhancement. Disadvantages: Towboat owners cannot control the type of weight used and do not want to have their boats damaged.

18) Special Committee Reports

a) Nationals Division II / Tonya Mauer – Its work completed in March 2015, this Special committee is now disbanded.

b) USOC Rep/AWSA membership – This committee has investigated the issue and reported its findings. The AAC has agreed to fill its AWSA board spots exclusively with AWSA members. The USOC Rep may attend board meetings but shall not be a voting member. The Special Committee recommended changes to the AAC's bylaws, and the AAC declined to make the changes. This committee has now disbanded.

19) Regional Recommendations

a) East

i) Motion to require task force to be put in place from current board of directors with representation from each region to evaluate the insurance coverage and expenses and make recommendations to help reduce insurance costs

b) MW

i) Enable LOCs to move tournament locations to a new site due to weather.

ii) Update Website; not set up for new skiers, Life On the Water can't get new members if it continues to be on the bottom.

iii) USA-WS should reach out to those members that don't renew to find out why.

iv) Have state safety rating minimum age lowered to 15, since they can become life guards at that age, where they get 125 hours of training.

v) Rules or Tech Com / Review rule 8.03, wakeboard length is not in compliance

vi) Overhaul ranking list

vii) Membership renewal – reduce waste by asking if they want the magazine, especially in family situation where one household is receiving multiple magazines.

c) South

No recommendations

d) South Central

i) Who is heading up membership committee – who is bottom line accountable to bring in sufficient numbers to sustain us?

ii) Rules / Allow overall skiers having a score of 0 in an event to qualify for overall placement at Regionals enabling them to ski overall at National's

iii) Let officials know what they have done and what they need to do in addition to what they haven't done

iv) Towboat / skier to add more weight to the boat if they want to.

v) Update the website; with more emphasis towards newcomers.

e) West

i) Have a membership level for non-skiing officials, that meets the insurance criteria for their participation in tournaments.

20) Old Business

21) New Business

Motion to require a task force (aka Special Committee), to be formed using current members of the board of directors, with regional representation, and specialists, to study our insurance and make recommendations, by Nov 1st (Tonya/Jim Babcock):

Discussion – Jeff S/Chairman or President can select a special committee... or the board can vote to create one.

Julie – Motion to Call the Question – fails

Amended motion – to require a task force (aka Special Committee), to be formed using current members of the board of directors or other qualified members, with representation from each region and specialists, to evaluate our current insurance coverage and costs, and report findings to the board by November 1, 2015; the outcome to include any options to possibly reduce our insurance costs.

Passes

b) Special Interest Group – presentation by Tonya Maurer & Mark Crone: (in Board Package)

Objective: to address the downward spiral of AWSA membership.

Membership value needs to be understood

Skiers are looking for enhanced and different competition opportunity

Skiers looking for fun

Cost

Partner with HQ

Retention Categories

Outreach & Recognition

Packet to new members, acknowledgement when moving up the ranking list or attending 1st Regionals or Nationals, etc.

Competition

Create teams or leagues based on different criteria, use an app to keep up with rankings.

Demonstration by Mark Crone of prototype Team Competition & Ranking app.

Standing ovation for the most exciting idea in a while.

22) Adjourn – Motion to Adjourn (Tonya/Lyman). Carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Delaina Downes

Secretary