

AWSA WESTERN REGION WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2017

El Dorado Hotel, Panorama Room, Reno, Nevada

Meeting Minutes

(Version 2.0)

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

1. Members Present:
 - a. Owen Letcher – West EVP
 - b. Brad Corbin – Area 1
 - c. Greg Badal – Area 2
 - d. Tim Vaio – Area 3
 - e. Tad Scharpf for Randy Grubbs – Area 4
 - f. Larry Laughlin – Area 5
 - g. TC Boice for Brad Jamieson – Area 8
 - h. Sam Lee – Area 9
 - i. Barry Young – Director & AWSA VP
 - j. Richelle Muhlitner – Director & Rules, Regional Awards Committee
 - k. Brad Hartwell – Director
 - l. Tyler Vaio – Regional Guide
 - m. Ryan Nason - Announcers
 - n. Mike Hayes – HND & IAC
 - o. Brandy Nagle – Skiers Qual/IAC
 - p. Judy Stanford - Seeding
 - q. Frank Harrison – HND
 - r. John Goodman – HND
 - s. Lucie Goodman –
 - t. Don Stanford -
2. Council approval to allow substitutes (for this meeting for non-attending Councilpersons) Motion Richelle Muhlitner, Second Greg Badal – Motion passes
 - a. Tad Scharpf for Randy Grubbs, Area 4
 - b. – for Christine Gulley, Area 6
 - c. -- for Steve Ware, Area 7
 - d. TC Boice for Brad Jamieson (Area 8)
 - e. Establishment of a quorum (8 of 13 voting members) 10 voting members present plus the EVP
3. Assignment of Parliamentarian – TC Boice, motion Brad Hartwell, Second Richelle Muhlitner, motion passes
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from 7/20/2016 Summer Council Meeting Motion Brad Corbin, Second Barry Young, motion passes
5. EVP Report & AWSA Presidents Report – Owen Letcher provided verbal report discussing West Region need for additional volunteers, National Tournament bids and AWSA President 11 point plan. Barry Young assisted with discussion of the mini course and description of an alternate scoring format that was presented by Freddy Kruger at the AWSA Exec (1 point for going around the green buoy (inner), 2 points for skiing just inside the red (outer) and 3 points for going around the standard course (outer, red). Used as an incentive on a four pass novice tournament to encourage participation and allow skiers not likely to participate otherwise. Alternate tournament formats were discussed and Brad Corbin provided example of the series that had been run in the past in the desert. Links to alternate format tournaments including the Buckeye Buoy Tour can be found on the Grassroots portion of the webpage. (<http://www.usawaterski.org/pages/TournKit/GrassRoots/tournkit.htm>). Additionally, AWSA and USAWS are looking at an improved membership package for all members. This year it will include a 15% discount for Masterline. Additionally, the boat manufacturers have been meeting with USAWS and discussing promotions, members should be aware that all events are likely to be tapping into the ski boat manufacturer's and that the need to provide support for dealers and manufacturers is real if we want to continue to have tournament boats at events. Greg Badal summarized the changes in the Nautique program, which is not to discourage use of boats

but is seen as a way to promote larger events were the manufacturer will get additional exposure. Several Driver issues are being actively discussed and will be brought to the National meeting. No action required.

6. AWSA Presidents Report – Jeff Surdje (report attached) no action required
7. Treasurer’s Report 2016 -Tad Scharpf (report attached & verbal report) West region report presented, second by TC Boice, Motion passes. Junior Development report presented, second by Barry Young, motion passes.
8. National Executive: Barry Young /Owen Letcher (report attached) no action required
9. Council Area Reports – Area 1 through Area 9
 - a. Area 1 – Brad Corbin discussed that area is hosting 24 events this year, majority of which are one day events. Mission Bay Ski Club will be hosting a 3 event tournament this year on Mission Bay in San Diego. Past and current events have been run as never made formats, with points awarded for skiers from each area who participate in club and sanctioned events which then are awarded at the end of the year in a cumulative event point system at the end of the year. No action required
 - b. Area 2 – Greg Badal, Area will host 5 events this year all of which will be considered a series and awards will be presented at the Delta Fall Open. No action required
 - c. Area 3 –Tim Vaio, Area will host approximately the same number of tournaments again this year. No action required
 - d. Area 4 – Larry Laughlin, area will host a number of four round events this year using rule proposal approved last summer. No action required
 - e. Area 5 – Tad Scharpf, area will host the same number of events as last year, several 4 round events and using a never made format. One head to head will be run as a class F.
 - f. Area 8 – TC Boice, area would like to encourage all clubs to post a family entry fee structure for events put on by the LOC which can encourage participation by families in the sport. No action required
 - g. Area 9 – Sam Lee, area will host the same number of events as in the past, never made formats will be used at Gilbert Lake in Idaho. No action required
10. Regional Committee Reports (committee reports come as a motion for approval – second needed)
 - a. Regional Awards – Richelle Muhlitter provided a verbal report highlighting the two award nominees this past year in Brandy Nagle (Outstanding Official) and Tad Scharpf (Western Region Merit Award). Members with nominees for Western Region Merit Award are encouraged to submit names to Richelle early in the year so that nominations and voting can be coordinated, organized and completed prior to the Mid Summer Meeting. No action required
 - b. Regional Drivers – Greg Badal provided a verbal report highlighting that the West Region has set up a DropBox site for all Regular and Senior Drivers to submit end course video for review each year, request a minimum of 10 slalom passes and driver should have reviewed the passes prior to the submission. Additionally a folder has also been set up for the tournament Technical Controllers to upload all record tournament end course video for review in accordance with the Rules. This information will be sent to all drivers and TC’s via email very soon. No action required
 - c. [15 minute Break](#)
 - d. Regional Junior Development—Tim Vaio, Randy Hocking & Brett Klinchuch. Tim Vaio provided a verbal report on *basic data* surrounding the junior skiers in the West. The committee is looking at how many skiers are in each group and at what level are the skiers. For the B3/G3 group the West is #2 in number of skiers and #3 in caliber of skiers in level 8 and 9 of the ranking list. For the B2/G2 group the west is #2 in number of

- skiers and #4 in caliber of skiers in level 8 & 9. Plan for the year: the committee continues to fund camps for 2017 at \$350 per camp. They will host three Best of the West camps this year at the following locations; Imperial Lakes, Bell Acqua, and Laku Landing. Kids for each camp will be selected by peer group with a total of 24 to 26 kids invited to the three camps. From the West, five kids were selected to National Teams in 2016. **Budget;** completed the year slightly better than projected with a deficit spending of only \$1400. Council requested the committee provide a list with the number of junior skiers, number of junior elite skiers, number of skiers selected to National Teams, and number of Men 1/Women 1 skiers. No action required
- e. Regional Guide—Tyler Vaio/Phil Yastrow. Tyler Vaio provided a verbal report, the one area of improvement would be in the early submission of advertising copy that can be incorporated into the guide. Tyler had received late submissions last year that caused rework to the guide at the last minute. The 2016 guide was published around March 1st and mailed to all AWSA members from 2015. The 2017 guide is expected to publish around the same time frame. Gina Odegard is working on add sales and has contacted the previous advertisers, if they advertised last year or not, and will send report to Tad of add sales. No action required
 - f. Regional Nominating----Dave Vogt (2017 ballot)
 - i. Nomination for EVP – Owen Letcher (motion by Tad Scharpf, Second by Greg Badal)
 - ii. Nomination for Director – Barry Young (motion by Owen Letcher, Second by Richelle Muhlitner)
 - iii. Council members will remain the same as currently seated for reelection.
 - g. Regional Membership – Barry Young (no report)
 - h. Regional Records-Amy Scharpf (by Tad-report attached) Second by Brad Corbin for records submitted with the meeting package.
 - i. Regional Webmaster – Louie Vidmar (no report) Owen Letcher provided a summary of the discussion to allow the council people access to the website to post information from each council area (veto power will be held by the EVP and Webmaster to take items down), second by Tad Scharpf, Motion passes. Additionally, Mark Crone has spent time and effort on developing a mobile app for the AWSA website and would like all to download the app and register for use of the app. This is available from the USA Waterski website on the right side of the page. Registration is important as that is the only way Mark knows you have downloaded the app.
11. 2017 Western Regional -Tournament Update – Wet Set Village (Frank Harrison) an update of the tournament preparedness and the Tournament Announcement was reviewed by the council with amendments suggested and made to the announcement by Frank. A revised announcement will be submitted by Frank for the Guide. Motion Barry Young, Second Brad Hartwell, motion passes as amended.
1. Appointment of officials (Announcers, Drivers, Judges, Scorer, Safety & Technical) Motion Tim Vaio, Second Barry Young, motion passes.
 2. Judges & Scorers
 - a. Brad Corbin, Chief Judge, Appointed Judges; Ryan Nason, Barry Young, Mike Hayes (Pan Am), Brad Hartwell, Russ Selsor (Assistant Chief)
 - b. Kim Larson, Chief Judge, Appointed Scorers; Judy Stanford (Assistant Chief), Gail Heinrich (split), Owen Letcher (split)
 3. Drivers
 - a. Tom Nathan, Chief Driver, Appointed Drivers; Bob Hardeman, Brad Conger, Brian Holm, Randy Hocking, John Jacobson (Assistant Chief)

4. Technical Controller, Dee Johnson and Don Strategier
 5. Safety, Jeff Gastra
 6. Announcer, Barry Horton
12. Western Regional Tournament Bids
- 2018 Regional Tournament Bids – Tim Vaio presented a bid from Laku Landing for 2018 Regionals, Motion Tim Vaio, Second Tad Scharpf, motion passes
 - 2019 Regional Tournament Bids – no bids were received.
13. 2017 National Tournament – San Marcos River Ranch, San Marcos, Texas
- a. Official Recommendations (Announcers, Drivers, Judges, Scorer, Safety & Technical) Motion Tad Scharpf, Second Richelle Muhlitner, motion passes.
 - i. Judges (2); Mike Hayes and Russ Selsor
 - ii. Driver (1); Barry Young
 - iii. Scorer (1); Tom Nathan
 - iv. Safety – not required
 - v. Announcer – not required
14. 2018 National Tournament Bids (Bell Acqua, Rio Linda CA; West Palm Beach, Florida, Kansas) Proposals for each bid were included in the National meeting package and reviewed with discussion during the meeting. Brad Corbin motioned that the following be the order of priority from the Western Region - #1 Bell Acqua, #2 Mystic Lakes, Kansas, #3 West Palm Beach, Florida. Second Richelle Muhlitner, motion passes.
15. 2019 National Tournament Bids – no received
16. [Lunch Break – Frank Harrison provided the 1998 US Team Trials at Wet Set Village as shown on ESPN for all to enjoy](#)
17. National Committee Reports
- National Announcers: Ryan Nason presented a verbal report, Hank Longo has posted the announcer guidelines on the USA WS website. No action required
 - National Awards: Randy Hocking no report.
 - National Boat Drivers: Greg Badal indicated all items were covered in the Regional Report.
 - National Bylaws: No Current representative (Brad Conger) (no report)
 - National Coaches: Terry Goodman (no report)
 - National Grassroots: Matt Brandt (no report)
 - National IAC: Mike Hayes provided a verbal report to supplement the information provided in the meeting package. Teams will be selected for specific events only via a paper screening process. Team members will be selected as close to the event as possible. No action required.
 - National Judges & Scorers: Tom Nathan (written report submitted and is attached) no action required
 - National Junior Development: Jim DeVito/Shannon Reese (no report)
 - National Nominating – Barry Young reported that the officers will remain the same for 2017. No action required
 - National Rules: Richelle Muhlitner/Dave Vogt. Richelle presented the rule change proposals one at a time and all items were discussed. The results for each are noted below:
 - a. Proposal #1 – Second by Tad Scharpf, motion passes 9-1
 - b. Proposal #2 – Second by Barry Young, motion passes
 - c. Proposal #3 – Second by Brad Hartwell, motion passes
 - d. Proposal #4 – links to items 2 &3, passes due to link.
 - e. Proposal #5 – second by Sam Lee, Motion Fails 1-9
 - f. Proposal #6 – Second by Tad Scharpf, Motion passes 9-0-1
 - g. Proposal #7 – second by TC Boice, motion passes 9-0-1

- h. Proposal #8 – links to item 7, passes due to link
 - i. Proposal #9 – second by TC Boice, motion Fails 1-9
 - i. Amendment to proposal #9 presented by the West Region: 6.01E Additional drivers shall be chosen by the AWSA President at his discretion from alternate drivers proposed by the Executive Vice Presidents. When an adequate number of Appointed Drivers and Alternate Drivers are not available, the Chief Driver may choose other Senior two or three event Drivers to drive an event. **For the Open Division only, non-appointed drivers may be used, at the discretion of the LOC.**
 - ii. Rationale: The LOC is the one putting on the event and to attract Open Division skiers to participate in the event the LOC is in the best position to review skier input in advance of the event and select a driver that will draw skiers to the event.
 - iii. Motion by Barry Young, second by TC Boice, motion passes.
 - j. Proposal #10 – second by Greg Badal, motion passes
 - k. Proposal #11 – links to item #10, passes due to link
 - l. Proposal #12 – second by TC Boice, motion passes 7-3
 - m. Proposal #13 – second by Tim Vaio, motion passes
 - n. Proposal #14 – second by Barry Young, motion passes 9-1
 - o. Proposal #15 – second Brad Corbin, motion passes 8-2
 - p. Proposal #16 – second Greg Badal, motion passes
 - q. Proposal #17 – second Tad Scharpf, motion passes 8-0-2
 - r. Proposal #18 – second Tad Scharpf, motion passes
 - s. Proposal #19 – second Greg Badal, motion passes
 - t. Proposal #20 – second Brad Hartwell, motion passes
 - u. Proposal #21 – second TC Boice, motion passes
 - v. Proposal #22 – second Greg Badal, motion passes
 - w. Proposal #23 – second Barry Young, motion passes
 - x. Proposal #24 – second Barry Young, motion passes
- [Afternoon Break – 15 minutes](#)
 - National Safety: Harley Wallace (written report attached) no action required
 - National Skiers Qualification: Brandy Nagle presented the Skiers Qualification Committee report and proposals from the committee for consideration.
 - a. Proposal #1 – second Barry young, motion passes
 - b. Proposal #2 – second Brad Hartwell, motion passes
 - c. Proposal #3 – second Richelle Muhlitner, motion passes 9-0-1
 - National Technical: Phil Yastrow (no report) Phil has requested replacement on the National Technical Committee.
 - National Tournament Seeding: Judy Stanford provided a summary of the report, no action items were included.
 - National Towboat: Will Bush (written report attached) no action required
 - USA WS- Connie Bergmark (no report)
18. Other Sports Divisions
- National Collegiate - Harley Wallace & Jeff Rush (no report)
 - a. Brad Hartwell provided information that the Collegiate Nationals at Imperial Lakes was a good event.
 - b. Please remind all high school and collegiate skiers that the Western Region has a scholarship that is awarded by the Education Foundation in the amount of \$1500.
 - Disabled Skiers – Matt Oberholtz (no report)

- Wakeboard – no report received
- Show Ski – no report received
- Hydrofoil – no report received
- Kneeboard – no report received
- Barefoot – no report received

19. Old Business

- Online Tournament Sanctioning & Payment for 2017 Status---Council
 - Changes for 2018 calendar year were discussed, no action was taken, it was noted by Tad that should we continue to deficit spend the budget then the likely place to correct that action is with sanction fees, which must be raised either at the winter meeting for the following year or at the summer meeting.
- Recommendations for Regional Guide Advertisers for 2017 and 2018 forward to Gina Odegard.
- Team Skiing Regional and National Tournament (Connie Bergmark, West Commissioner)
 - a. Discussion on the Team Competition for the West Region was had by all. In order to provide more even competition and to provide opportunity for full teams to be established it was motioned that the Region divide into four teams divided per the following:
 - i. Southern California – Council Area 1 (Southern California and Hawaii)
 - ii. Northern California – Council Area 2 and 3
 - iii. Northwest – Council Area 4 and 5 (Oregon, Washington and Alaska)
 - iv. Rocky Mountain – Council Area 6, 7, 8 and 9 (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona)
 - b. Connie Bergmark provided her comments as the 2017 Team Commissioner and will be included in the meeting minutes.

20. New Business

- Treasurers Report 2017 – Tad Scharpf presented the 2017 budget based upon 132 tournament sanctions. An amendment was made to include a budget for a shade tent for the 2017 National Tournament at SMRR of \$700. Second by Barry Young, Motion passes.
- Committee Assignments for 2017/2018 that are currently empty or have requested replacements
 - a. Regional Nominating -
 - b. National By Laws –
 - c. National Technical –
 - d. National Judges & Scorer – Tom Nathan now Chair
- National Winter BOD meeting attendees (Owen Letcher, Barry Young, Richelle Muhlthner, Brad Hartwell)
 - a. Committee Chairs Attending – Richelle Muhlthner (Rules); Jim DeVito (Junior Development) Brandy Nagle (Skiers Qualifications)
- Date and Place of Western Region Mid Summer Meeting
 - i. July 23rd, 2017 in Frank Harrison's garage from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm
 - ii. Wet Set Village, Newberry Springs, CA
- Date and Place of the General Membership Meeting
 - i. July 25th, 2017 in Frank Harrison's front yard, 30 minutes after completion of last event
 - ii. Wet Set Village, Newberry Springs, CA

21. Recommendations from the Council to the National Directors to present at the National Mid-Winter Meeting on January 30, 2016

- i. Amendment to Rules proposal #9 presented by the West Region: 6.01E Additional drivers shall be chosen by the AWSA President at his discretion from alternate drivers proposed by the Executive Vice Presidents. When an adequate number of Appointed Drivers and Alternate Drivers are not available, the Chief Driver may choose other Senior two or three event Drivers to drive an event. **For the Open Division only, non-appointed drivers may be used, at the discretion of the LOC.**
 - ii. Rationale: The LOC is the one putting on the event and to attract Open Division skiers to participate in the event the LOC is in the best position to review skier input in advance of the event and select a driver that will draw skiers to the event.
22. Motion to Adjourn by Greg Badal, second by Richelle Muhlitter at 4:44 pm, motion passes