

**AWSA Western Region**  
*Mid-Winter Council Meeting*  
*January 15, 2011 | Reno, Nevada*

**Meeting Minutes**

Call to order: 8:03 am

1. Introductions
2. Council approval to replace area representatives
  - 9 people present
  - Missing Greg Badal, Brad Stevenson & Nick Ithomitis
  - Richelle Matli accepted as replacement for Greg Badal
3. Assignment of parliamentarian: TC Boice - approved
4. Review & approval of previous minutes
  - Connie Morris added as attending Summer Council meeting
  - Minutes approved as corrected
5. Regional committee reports:
  - Executive Vice President: Barry Young
    - Thank you to TC Boice for going to Executive meeting in Florida in his place.
    - Shrinking group here. We have two areas here that don't even have a replacement for them. The usual group continues to step in. We need to be active in finding new representatives, even if it's not for councilperson.
    - Mike Hayes suggested having a job description listing for council and committee members on the web site. Andrea Plough suggested a Policy and Procedure manual. TC Boice will start the manual and Barry Young will assist.
    - Richelle Matli has been appointed as Chair of the Rules Committee.
    - Larry Goodwin has now moved out of our region. We would like to thank Larry for his dedication to our region in Safety, Ethics, Web Site and TC work.
    - Tom Nathan has agreed to step in on the Judges and Scorers committee.
    - Erik Kosney has stepped down as skier qualifications committee chair but remains on the committee.
    - Judy Stanford is stepping in as seeding committee and Laura Johnson remains on as non-voting chair.
    - Dana Garcia has agreed to join the Bylaws committee.
  - Regional Records: Richard Doane
    - Makayla Haw's jump score was omitted from the report - 140'/42.6m
    - Connie Morris recommended that meters are added to the Best of the West record scores. Laura added to application and forwarded to Richard Doane.
    - Discussion regarding course measurements/verification. Ultimately this is up to the integrity of the officials of the tournament.
    - Records approved
  - Regional Guide: Laura Johnson
    - Advertising rates will remain the same for 2012
    - No ranking list in the guide for 2011

- Regional awards: Debbie Badal - Report by Richelle
  - Change in awards.
  - TC won the Western Region Merit Award
  - Award of Appreciation will be given to Larry Goodwin for his dedication to the region.
  - Thank you to Debbie Badal for getting us back on track with awards (despite the fact that she went to Jamaica instead of the meeting.)
- Webmasters: Phil Yastrow
  - Larry Goodwin is leaving for SC region.
  - If someone is interested in taking over for the web site editing, pass it on Phil or Laura. Troy Crivello has been doing a lot of youtube.com videos, he may be an option.
- Regional Junior Development: Lisa Wilson
  - Drop in junior numbers this past year. Hoping to get more kids skiing at this year's Regionals.
  - Need donations for silent auction and raffle. This is how the camps are funded.
  - 2011 Junior Banquet will be held at the host hotel. Planning to break-even with banquet.
  - Introduce parents of new junior skiers to chief officials/councilperson to welcome them to the sport and to hopefully get them involved with sport.
  - Thank you to Lisa (and to her committee) for 11 years of her dedication to junior development and for keeping the program above budget.
- Nominations: Dave Vogt
  - People have not been volunteering for positions so the council should be more active in soliciting new help.
  - People still use the paper ballot for voting. Online works well!
  - EVP: Elaine Bush; Director: Tad Scharpf will run again; Randy Hocking USAWS Board member – would like a replacement, volunteers welcome (not on ballot for 2011, but could be replaced mid-term). Nick Ithomitis is stepping down due to time constraints – Travis Feldheger is replacing him. Brad Stevenson would like to step down – a replacement is needed. Connie seconded motion. All in favor of ballot.
  - Replacement as alternate (to Randy Hocking) for Jim Lang's position as USA Waterski board member is needed.
- Task Force: Tournament Sanction Flexibility: Connie Morris reporting
  - Letter from Dave Goode on subject
  - Discussion regarding how we got to where we are with decision to have tournaments agreed upon in advance: impromptu tournaments that were limited to specific people, others were not invited – it caused a lot of problems.
  - Budget is set based on tournaments that we have set now in the winter; it would be much more difficult to budget with tournaments being added throughout the year.
  - Brad Jamieson said that in his area (Utah) where weather is unpredictable at times of the year, such as October, it would be nice to have the flexibility to add a tournament if it is going to be nice/warm.
  - Phil Yastrow said that we could add a note at the top of the Dataweb sanction system that notes changes or updates to tournament sanctioning. Mike Hayes added that an email blast could go out to notify area skiers.
  - Andrea Plough suggested that a tournament could reserve a date in advance (at the council meeting).
  - Tad Scharpf motioned trial of committee's recommendation for a period of two years; Brad Corbin seconded. Brad added that in areas like his (Area 1) – people will be fearful of not planning their tournaments ahead so as not to lose their dates. Also, we've done a good job of tightening up our sanction process, maybe becoming too rigid - perhaps it's time to loosen a little bit. All other regions allow flexible sanctioning.
  - All in favor of motion.

- Note to Phil Yastrow – include the seeding representative in communication of new tournaments. Also add note to regional guide and web site.
  - Regional Drivers Proposal Pat Rogers
    - Focus more on putting our top drivers in for Regionals. Our current policy allows for only three event drivers; this eliminates some of our top slalom drivers. Proposal allows for two two-event drivers. Intent is to raise the bar of our tournament drivers. Also pushing this at the national level.
    - Brad Jamieson seconded Pat’s motion. No discussion. All in favor.
    - Also recommending that we establish a national driver selection committee. We as a region would select three drivers for consideration for nationals and then the committee would pick its ten drivers regardless of the regional they’re from. This helps to pick the best drivers, regardless of region. (recommendation to the Board)
  - AWSEF regional scholarship: Tad/Owen
    - Change name to Western Region Scholarship from Big Al Scholarship. Delete South Dakota from eligible states list.
    - Agreement with AWSEF has expired; recommend renewing Memorandum of Understanding for another five years. Tad will handle renewal.
    - Bryan Reinke seconded. No discussion. All in favor.
    - Task force work is now complete.
6. Treasurer’s Report: Tad Scharpf
- Income Statement, Budget and Checkbook register reported
  - Great job by Tad on reporting. Thank you for your work.
  - Todd Yokum seconded. No discussion. All in favor.
7. Regional Tournaments:
- 2011 Regional Tournament review: Tim Vaio/Bell Acqua  
Appointed Officials
    - Drivers: Bill Barrett, Bob Hardeman, Nick Ithomitis, Mike Martens, Scott Thompson, Pat Rogers (Assistant Chief Driver), Will Bush (Chief Driver). Two event drivers: Elaine Bush & Greg Badal. Alternates: Brad Conger & John Goodman
    - Assistant Chief Judges: Janie Fausold, Connie Morris, John Goodman & Barry Young. TC Boice (Chief Judge)
    - Appointed Judges: Russ Selsor, Sally Mecham, Jack Hanna, Mike Hayes, & Richelle Matli
    - Scorers: Debbie Badal (Assistant Chief Scorer), Martha Selsor & Gail Heinrich. Laura Johnson (Chief Scorer)
    - Brad Jamieson seconded motion. No discussion. All in favor.
  - 2012 – Bell Acqua is on target for the second year.
  - 2013 – no bids
8. National Tournament Officials from the West
- Appointed Judges: Mike Hayes & Russ Selsor
  - Assigned Judge: John Crivello, Jack Hanna (alternate)
  - Appointed Scorers: Gail Heinrich, Martha Selsor (alternate)
  - Appointed Drivers: Pat Rogers (veteran) & Nick Ithomitis (newcomer), Bill Barrett (alternate)
    - Pat & Nick to split the week. If Pat is selected as Assistant Chief Driver, Bill will be moved into his spot and split the week with Nick.
  - Richelle Matli seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

9. Local Tournament Sanction approvals
  - Discussion item: Record tournaments need to be considerate to others outside their area and coordination between council people would be helpful.
  - Approved tournament by Council Area – 141 record or C class that are in the system now; 147 total with grassroots. Anything received after today will be assessed a late fee of \$150 will not be included in the guide. This is in concurrence with the flexible tournament sanctioning program approved during this meeting.
  - Collect lists, Safety forms, AWSA & Regional sanction fees
  - Brad Jamieson motioned to approve the tournaments; Brad Corbin seconded. No discussion. All in favor.
  
10. Other Sports Divisions, Etc.
  - American Wakeboard Association: Andrea Plough
    - More disillusioned with Wakeboard and lack of volunteers. They have a competing organization, WWA that is staffed and has no volunteers. Discussion going forward with Executive Director to address issue.
  - NCWSA/Collegiate: Jeff Rush
    - Discussed situation that arose with Washington tournament and disciplining procedure. Additional repercussions to the school in question will be discussed at their winter meeting.
    - Congratulations to Storm Selsor of ASU for receiving the NCWSA Male Athlete of the Year award for the second time.
    - Barry Young discussed reaching out to the leaders of collegiate skiing and encouraging them to migrate into AWSA post-graduation. Jeff responded that there are a larger number of members who are volunteering and wanting to get more involved. Money and time are largest factors in keeping them from doing so; newer to the work force, working a lot, starting families, etc. There seems to be a five to ten year window that forces them to step away from skiing and then they tend to come back.
  - Water Skiers with Disabilities Association: Steve Hornsey (no report)
  
11. National Committee Reports:
  - AWSA Executive: Barry Young - TC Boice attended the meeting in Barry's place.
    - Budget is on track
    - Proposals: Membership revisions; restore \$10 guest membership to grassroots events; increase in Nationals entry fee; team funding. Nothing to vote on; as reported.
  - USAWS: Randy Hocking (no report)
    - Andrea Plough: Name change for organization to USA Waterski & Wakeboard not approved.
    - Andrea Plough USAWS Nominating Committee: Chairman of Board Don Bucher, President Jim Grew, Vice President Tom Gallone, Secretary/Treasurer Sara Chappell.
    - USAWS Membership numbers as of 12/31/2010: total of 16,018 members. Sports division breakdown: AWSA 7,686 (48%), NSSA/Show 5,006 (31%), Wakeboard 1,073 (7%).
  - USA WS Ethics: (no report)
  - Rules: Richelle Matli & Dave Vogt
    - Discussion regarding Proposal 1 – rule is redundant with existing rules.
    - Discussion regarding Proposal 3 - moving back and forth between Open/Masters and age division and the fairness to that skier as well as his/her competitors.
    - Discussion regarding Proposal 17 – turn and burn format. Looking for feedback as to the success/failure of the format. Notable concerns are available officials and resultant performances.
    - Vote on all items but #1 and #3. All in favor, those remaining proposals pass.

- Proposal #1: None in favor; Proposal #3: favor 5; opposed 6.
- Directors are to vote no on Proposals #1 and #3 and yes on the remaining Proposals.
- Barry asked why the time difference for Eastern vs earlier time zones was not addressed for online tournament entries. Somewhere it was thought that this was handled.
- Judges & Scorers: Deb Parsons
  - New chair Gordon Hall and Tom Nathan
  - New scoring program will be live for 2011 and is to be used at the discretion of the chief scorer.
- Boat Drivers: Pat Rogers
  - Working on clinic materials with Will Bush; rewrote drivers test to be more ZO specific and have more practical driving points. Practical portion of driving was heavily weighted on timing; revised that to have less emphasis on times.
  - Joe Nolan was approved as Emeritus driver but somehow it missed going to summer meeting. Bring up to winter BOD.
- International Activities: Mike Hayes
  - No more team trials; teams will be picked off of standings list; information under Athletes Resources on USAWS website.
  - 25% of Junior Team from West: Steven Brooks, Makayla Haw and Erika Lang represent Junior Team
- Technical: Phil Yastrow
  - Trick course change: single buoy and which side the boat can go on.
  - Records: 25 national records approved
  - TC controller maintenance: judge's clinic will suffice as long as there is discussion of computers and TJS requirements.
  - Recording times for slalom: Still required
- Safety: John Crivello
  - Nothing to report
- Towboat/ Speed Control: Will Bush
  - As reported
- National Seeding: Laura Johnson
  - Thank you to Judy for stepping in as seeding rep; Laura remains on as non-voting chair.
- Skiers Qualification: Erik Kosney
  - Discussion of zero scores on ranking list and qualification for Regionals and Nationals
  - Training of scorers to not include scores for below minimum speeds
- Grass Roots/National Ski League: Kay Goodfellow (no report)
- By-laws
  - Report from Jeff Clark
  - Dana Garcia stepping in as rep from West
- Announcers: Tom Mecham (no report)
- National Junior Development: Charlene Brown
  - As reported
- National Nominating: Barry Young (no report)
- Awards: Debbie Badal (West)/Randy Hocking (AWSA)
  - Where should we store the retired Award Plaques?
  - Western Region Merit Award: TC Boice
  - Western Regional Tournament Award of Merit: Janie Fausold
- AWSA Pro Am: TC Boice
  - Separation of pro/elite athletes from amateur competition. Result is rule proposal 3.03 going before Board.
- Task force - Regional Realignment: Tad Sharpf (no report)

12. Old Business:
  - Action Items-None from summer meeting
13. Budget: Tad Scharpf
  - See report. Brad Jamieson seconded. All in favor.
14. New Business:
  - We need to have help in recommending new people to replace exiting or non-interested committee and council members.
  - Trying to establish some sort of official's clinic to be sponsored in a way and held at the regional tournament. Suggestion to have Tom Nathan facilitate the planning of a clinic. Lisa Wilson offered her home as a location to hold it.
  - Discussion regarding 2012 Winter Meeting Date. Group was split between January 7 and the 14, 2011. We'll leave it up to the next EVP to decide.
15. Recommendations to National Board of Directors
  - Pat Rogers of the Western Region Drivers Committee is recommending that we establish a national driver selection committee. We as a region would select three drivers for consideration for nationals and then the committee would pick its ten drivers regardless of the regional they're from. This helps to pick the best drivers, regardless of region. Pat will also bring this back to the Driver's Committee; Jerry Bautsch (committee chair) is bringing up at SC Winter meeting this weekend. Discussion followed – skier feedback; who is on committee; regional representation.
  - Recognition of Elite level attainment is currently sent only to the skier. Dave Vogt is suggesting that the recognition is public to create enthusiasm, in something like the E-blast from HQ, an "elite skier" sticker, regional website announcement.
  - Tad seconded motions, all in favor.

Other Notes

  - Joe Nolan was approved as Emeritus driver but somehow it missed going to summer meeting. Reminder to bring up at winter Board meeting.
  - Directors are to vote no on Rules Committee Proposals #1 and #3 and yes on the remaining Proposals.
16. Motion to adjourn at 3:25 pm by Sam Lee; seconded by Brad Jamieson.
17. 6:30 pm Dinner