

2006 Western Region Winter Council Meeting
Saturday January 7, 200
Silver Legacy Hotel
Reno, Nevada

Call to order by EVP, TC Boice at 8 a.m.

Attendees included Connie Morris (area 1/records), Brad Conger (area 2), Owen Letcher (area 3), John Goodman (area 4 for Scott Vanderflute), Tad Scharpf (area 5/finance), Stacy Holbert (area 6), Bobbi Buchli (area 7), Ken Cannon (area 8), Barry Young (area 9/competition task force), Merle Vasbinder (director), Mike Hayes (director/executive committee/finance task force), Gaile Heieck (director/USAWS secretary), Lisa St. John (HQ), Andrea Plough (Honorary National Director/Wakeboard secretary/treasurer and USAWS Executive Committee), Barbara Canfield, Larry Goodwin (national safety committee), Frank Harrison (HND/IAC chair), Randy Hocking (HND/USAWS treasurer), Phil Yastrow (technical committee/web sanctioning), Richelle Matli (rules committee), Lisa Wilson (regional junior development), Charlene Brown (national junior development), Elaine Bush (past director/council/junior development), Will Bush (HND/towboat and speed control committee), Wayne Canfield (HND/drivers committee/towboat and speed control committee), Pat Rogers (drivers committee), Linda Hockenbery (judges and scorers committee), Carol Boice (meeting arrangements/past secretary), Laura Johnson (secretary/seeding committee chair/web site), Jim Lang (bylaws), Steve Hornsey (skiers with disabilities).

Welcome and Introductions. All council areas represented and all directors present. Roll sheet passed. Scott Vanderflute, area 4 represented by John Goodman. All in favor. Lisa St John representing HQ. Mike Hayes assigned as Parliamentarian.

Minutes of summer council meeting approved.

Tad Scharpf – Treasurer’s Report

Tad Scharpf presented the Treasurer’s report. Status quo for what we had in July. Council reviewed income, expenses, and balance. Tad answered questions on the budget.

Major 2005 expense notes include travel, junior development, web, \$1700 in donations over budget. The region chose to supported disabled nationals by donation. Web is \$3600 to good after paying part of 2006 expenses in 2005. Andrea noted there was discrepancy between Bob Cosby’s report and Tad’s. Donations are different on Bob’s report because of it was done on a cash basis, not accrual basis. Rest of numbers correspond.

All in favor of Tad’s appointment to Treasurer’s position.

EVP – TC Boice

Noted major issues to be discussed during meeting, including Competition Task Force proposal and the dual regional proposal. Recognized major contributions of all council, committees, and directors. Special note made of the tremendous contributions made by outgoing and long time Drivers Committee chair, Wayne Canfield and outgoing Treasurer, IAC Committeeman, and USAWS Director, Bob Cosby.

,Jim Grew asked us to move the meeting back one week to get full board report out to us in time. West feels that we have sufficient time to get information out and do not feel need to have board packet. Suggestion to keep the meeting on the same weekend and move the deadline back for reports.

Records – Connie Morris

One Best of the West record was missing, correction will be made. One W4 Slalom record was discussed. Slalom record was set in her last round. Council recommended obtaining report from Chief Judge and Chief Scorer. Discussion as to which records will be approved, whether just the W4 slalom record is pended, or all

records from tournament are pended. **John Goodman moved that we approve jump and trick records from tournament and hold the slalom records, Bobbi seconded. Discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carries.**

For a G1 slalom record application at Winchester, Connie never received course measurements. **Owen motioned that application was incomplete at board meeting, time period for submission had lapsed, no record will be allowed. Brad Conger seconded. All in favor.**

Connie's recommended approval of balance of records, John seconded. No further discussion. All in favor.

Regional Guide – Leora Matranga

Presented by TC: January 30 is Headquarters deadline for submission to the guide. Jeff Gaastra ad sales similar to last year. Need someone to handle photographs of the regional winners for the guide. Gaile Heieck volunteered Brad.

Regional Awards – Gaile Heieck

We have a couple of potential awards to be handled in executive session. Each councilperson is to have a recommendation for the Slingerland Award by the time we get to the Regionals. This would get back to the way it was started and not leave it to come up with at the Regionals.

Andrea Plough says the Koppert award seems to be going to the LOC at the Regionals. Consider having an award that goes to the LOC and free the other awards for other deserving people. Randy Hocking suggested that the council people bring a nomination to the summer council meeting. Brad Conger: can we put it on the website as a reminder and request input from general membership. Andrea also wanted to make sure we as a region honor skiers that make US teams.

John Goodman motioned to take tournament chairman off the eligible list for the Slingerland award. Brad Conger seconded. All in favor.

Barry Young motioned to have a separate plaque for the LOC/Tournament chairman. Merle Vasbinder seconded. All in favor. Discussion as to nature of plaque. Perpetual awards are difficult. Suggestion to do something smaller. **Barry amended motion to do the plaque and make mention in the regional guide. Merle seconded. Richelle suggested adding certificates to homeowners. Gaile will figure out something for homeowners. All in favor.**

Webmasters-Laura Johnson and Phil Yastrow

Laura – Thank you for submissions of news and photos. Please let her know if you have suggestions for the web page. Having the ability to go online at the Regionals is helpful for posting results and photos daily.

Phil – Online Voting: Online voting is working well We need to encourage people to vote. The plan is to continue as we did last year. Tournament schedule and results will remain the same with the Westside site. John Goodman suggested that we change the deadline date for tournament submission back to Dec 10th. This would alleviate some of the pressure that's on the council people to get tournaments submitted due to holidays, etc. TC requested that we get the wording worked out for Summer council meeting. Phil suggested that if we move the date back, we have a specific task list to make things clearer. We need to allow latitude in fee submission when there's confusion and problems with the process as there was this year due to last minute IWSF fee change and miscommunication sent by HQ regarding National sanction payment.

Lisa St John noted the Pan Am \$25 payment still being collected. West does things much earlier than other regions.

Regional Junior Development – Lisa Wilson

A profit and loss detail submitted to council. Junior Development had a loss this year. Another \$1200 is coming from Warman Lake. The Jr. Dev. banquet was the main cause of loss. Tried to keep cost down and pay for kids to eat for free. If we do not make enough from raffle and parents food, we end up subsidizing kids. Part of problem is parents dropping kids off at banquet. Suggestion to require at least one parent there if child is eating free. Also need to have control over banquet because we are paying out of junior development fund. Region gives Jr. Dev. \$20 per junior skier which covers their gift.

Two Best of the West Camps had 24 skiers; Other junior camps and clinics included 176 kids.

Lisa St John thanked Lisa, Charlene Brown, and the Western Region for the efforts with the camps and clinics. And noted we lost our funding from USOC which has put a burden on our finances.

TC said visibility of junior development budget is better, but needs to be complete. Important to clarify funding and expenses. Treasurer needs to have report as it is still his responsibility. Tad Scharpf needs to have a signature card for the junior account so he can access balances. Frank Harrison suggested that details should come from Lisa. Need an explanation of expenses. Charlene and Lisa will work with Tad to provide explanation of reimbursements and will submit at summer meeting.

Nominations – Dave Vogt

Not present. Dave emailed proposed ballot for 2007.

1) Connie Morris, 2) Brad Conger, Larry Goodwin – Brad would like to step down and pass on to Larry, 3) Owen Letcher, 4) Scott Vanderflute stepping down – Nick Ithomitis will run in his place, 5) Tad Scharpf, 6) Stacy Holbert, 7) Brad Stevenson, Bobbi is stepping down, 8) Ken Cannon, 9) Barry Young.

EVP – TC will run for one more year. Anyone else interested in EVP position?

National Director – 3 year term as representative with HQ – Gaile Heieck is running again. Next year Mike's term is up, Merle the following year.

USAWS Director – Bob Cosby is not running. 1) Randy Hocking, Andrea is interested in being an alternate. (Due to conflict of representing Wakeboard Association, Andrea Plough was replaced by Jim Lang following the BOD meeting)

Motion by Ken, seconded by Brad. All in favor.

(Subsequent to the meeting, an online vote of council place Greg Badal on the ballot for Area 2 council seat running against Larry Goodwin.)

Membership – TC Boice/Larry Goodwin

TC – Appreciate everyone calling on the membership non-renewal list last summer (especially Cristi Long of Hawaii). A lot of clubs that are no longer AWSA clubs partly because insurance is not as attractive and not holding tournaments. NSL is a tremendous in-road to get those clubs back, plus a better insurance program. Active membership is down slightly, do not have WR figures yet. Supporting membership down greatly because of insurance issues. Global Marine is working to become quite a bit cheaper over ski safe.

Johnnie Matranga has a calendar from the Southern region. Good idea to feature sites, skiers, etc promoting the region at dealers, etc. Like to have Johnnie work with Brad Conger and Larry Goodwin to come up with a presentation for the council at the summer meeting. Larry stated good opportunity to work with dealers, community service, pr. They're planning a Learn to Ski day at a local lake in conjunction with dealer in the summer. Lisa St. John noted the Southern Region and USA WS have calendars. Randy Hocking suggested doing joint forces on calendars like we do with Regional Guides. **Barry motioned to have Brad and Johnnie go ahead with organizing a calendar. John Goodman seconded.** Discussion followed. Have Johnnie

coordinate with Scott Atkinson at HQ's and compare that to doing on our own. Lisa will find out how many calendars have been sold. Need to determine figures and estimated revenue. Sell on webpage, in dealerships, etc. **Motion includes doing financial planning so approval can include monetary limits. All in favor.**

Financial Steering Committee – Mike Hayes

Progressing. Did not have a meeting this time because we changed treasurer. Committee includes TC, Hayes, Will Bush, Andrea Plough and Tad Scharpf. Committee plans on having a meeting prior to summer meeting. Purpose of committee: we have two CD's due to mature this coming year and need to set a reserve at certain level and determine how best to use discretionary funds.

Dual Regionals – Merle Vasbinder and John Goodman

Merle noted the "spirited" general membership meeting in summer. People have been thinking about it since then. Owen Letcher brought topic up at SACTO meeting. Distributed questionnaire locally to get feedback from skiers. Some clubs are starting to think it is not a bad idea. SACTO pointed out that no Central California site will ever volunteer to hold a regional championship due to the size, length, and wear and tear on their sites and neighborhoods. BOD gave permission last year to explore idea.

Main questions: how do we address having two regional tournaments from bylaws and rules standpoint. Bylaws – requirement is for one regional council meeting and one general membership meeting. We may have to change bylaws for the general membership meeting requirements.

Tournament placements: Thought is that national board will accept exception to rules if we ask for it. Perception is that southern tournament would be more competitive. Online ranking list allowed analysis showing level of competition would not change, volume would. Southern would have more skiers, not necessarily better.

Brad Conger asked how we would handle different sites, requirements of going to site of choice. Connie Morris (LOC for 2007 regionals) said allowing choice makes predicting head count more difficult for LOC. Need to be able to plan. John Goodman noted the original proposal was to split the region, then you would not be as likely to ski out of region. Colorado is the only one that would be in question as to north or south; state may have to decide for itself.

Placements: top five from each regional tournament go to nationals. The south would have more skiers competing. Could add skiers to the Nationals as well. Originally idea for splitting the region came from Montana and Idaho but then the northwest did not have enough officials to handle tournament. They since have grown. Do on trial basis and if it does not work, go back to full region. Significant impact on juniors, allowing more skiers to go to Nationals.

Will Bush said the discussion needs to focus more on geographics and growth of sport and not how many more go to nationals from each region.

Owen Letcher noted no one from his area is willing to put on regional tournament because it is too big for them. It would make a difference if region was split and tournament was smaller. Split would force you to get new officials. Will noted we used to have fewer council positions; growth forced addition of positions. Expansion encourages new officials and involvement.

Mike Hayes – Social aspect of Regionals is a major concern as well. Brad Conger suggested the social aspect might actually be increased because of shorter time period of each tournament. Need to designate what tournament skiers are going to. Can not leave it up to choice. LOC must be able to predict entry numbers.

Randy Hocking's discussion with Colorado skiers is that they would prefer going south. Colorado going north would shift the ratio. If Colorado is willing to bid for dual regionals tournament, consider trying for 2008.

And will the numbers work with a smaller tournament. Consider lowering requirements for entry to increase numbers. Alternative to length of tournament is going back to only two lake sites.

Merle Vasbinder will develop questionnaire to get skier opinion on subject. We have 1500 email addresses, could mail to the rest, based on head of household. Include specifics to share as much information as possible. Council and directors need to see questionnaire prior to distribution. Include Jim Lang in correspondence to ensure that Rules and Bylaws are addressed. The council needs to seek qualitative skier opinions, but the council must make this decision.

Regional Tournaments

Greg Tate Proposals were presented by John Goodman. Suggest shifting the days of the Regionals to not take up two weekends. Move start to Tuesday or Wednesday and go over weekend into following week. Also requested being able to use EP obtained at a tournament between Regionals and Nationals at the following year's Nationals. Current dates erase too many weekends for local tournaments, which is a problem everywhere, but more of a problem in the North because of the shorter ski season. It is another problem caused by our regionals being too big.

Motion for West to make recommendation to Board for Nationals to be considered to start mid week and end mid week. Discussion – resistance will be travel time. 4 in favor, 5 opposed. Motion fails.

Motion from John Goodman to make EP ratings 15 month period to coincide with Open ratings, second by Ken Cannon. Discussion. All in favor.

Frank Harrison/Wet Set Regional Championship: Excited about hosting the Regionals. Tournament Schedule was set up based on the council approving splitting the tournament sanction. Discussion on qualification requirements. **Barry Young motioned to approve entry requirements as stated in the draft announcement (2 masters in class C, etc).** Point made that the women's divisions do not have very many skiers. **Should be excused from the two masters requirements. Barry amended motion: Men 1-5: two masters; W 1-3 one masters; single expert all other divisions as slalom entrance requirements for 2006 Regionals. Conger seconded. All in favor.**

Entry fee bumped up by \$5 to account for increased cost of fuel. Gaile motioned to approve fee section; John Goodman seconded. Discussion. Question from Linda requesting clarifying junior development fees in the announcement. All in favor.

Schedule of Events will change Women 1 Jump to L. This is the recommended Class for Nationals.

Officials - Barry motioned to approve regional tournament chief officials. Ken Cannon seconded. All in favor.

Willing, able, and recommended judges and scorers for the 2006 regionals include:

Appointed Judges: Andrea Plough, Mike Hayes, Richelle Matli, Sally Mecham and Connie Morris.

Appointed Scorers: Barbara Canfield and Judy Stanford.

Gaile Heieck motioned to approve appointed judges. Brad Conger seconded. All in favor

Brad Conger motioned for single sanction of tournament. We have five people who will be on site all week – no reason to split sanction. All in favor. Owen: let's not discourage this thought for future tournaments. .

ACJ's: **Gaile said four is plenty and recommended. Janie Fausold, Shea Heieck, Heather Heieck and Brad Hartwell. John Goodman motioned for approval. Brad Conger seconded. All in Favor.**

Drivers: Wayne Canfield, Brad Conger, John Goodman, Brian Hockenbery (Chief), Randy Hocking, Brian Holm, Joe Nolan, Pat Rogers (Assistant), Barry Young. First alt Janice Garrett, Second Alt Dee Johnson.
Barry motioned to accept drivers. Ken seconded. Motion approved.

2007 Imperial Lakes -Connie Morris: Survived our first record tournament. Chief officials have been selected.

2008 Bids:

Laku Landing - Randy Hocking: Area has grown tremendously. More parking, availability for power. Well protected from wind. Lots of area attractions. Hospitality is an area where they have really excelled.

John Goodman for Scott Vanderflute – Ski Park: Additional camping and golf course work has been done. Part of crew from Warman’s Lake have offered to assist with tournament. Practice available nearby.

In order of timing, Laku had Regionals more recently than Ski Park, but we were in Washington this past year. Vote of council and directors taken: Ski Park first priority, second is Laku.

If we are allowed dual regionals, both sites will be used in 2008. If not, Ski Park is selected for 2008.

Local Tournament Sanction Approvals

Mike Hayes motioned that due to confusion and problems with online process, that **we allow a one week extension for submission of fees and appropriate paperwork – as long as initial information has been input into the computer. Ken Cannon seconded. All in favor.**

Number of tournaments submitted by area:

- 1) Connie Morris - 30 tournaments plus Regionals
- 2) Brad Conger – 12 tournaments
- 3) Owen Letcher – 29 tournaments
- 4) John Goodman – 17 tournaments
- 5) Tad Scharpf – 10 tournaments
- 6) Stacy Holbert – 16 tournaments
- 7) Bobbi Buchli – 8 tournaments
- 8) Ken Cannon - 7 tournaments
- 9) Barry Young – 8 tournaments

Motion to approve tournament schedules as submitted – Ken Cannon. Brad Conger seconded. All in favor.

American Wakeboard Association – Andrea Plough

Third largest membership and fastest growing. Teams won world tournaments in cable and boat events. Won gold for the teams in both cases. Included in Pan American games for coming year. Suffer from same thing that AWSA is, finding people to fill offices.

Collegiate – Gaile Heieck

Bell Acqua is hosting Collegiate Nationals October 13, 14, and 15, 2006. Gaile is not directly with Collegiate anymore, but still helping out.

AWSEF – Bob Cosby

Not Present. Lisa St John discussed the AWSEF lake. The new lake is up and running, but no boat. Official name of lake is Lake Grew. Jim Grew donated a considerable amount of money to the fund. The lake building fund is based on donations and is completely separate from the operating budget. Now it is officially in USAWS hands under the competition department and is to be completely self-sufficient. Intent is to provide

more of the water ski experience at HQ. Visiting members can ski at the site. Must join the club to ski, then it is \$20/ride. Just completed filming a water safety video by and for kids at the new lake.

Waterskiers with Disabilities Association – Steve Hornsey

First sports division to hold Nationals on the new lake at HQ. Thanks to Shortline Lake the association was able to hold a junior development clinic and the Western Regional Championships. Got Sac State students involved and they were a big help. Worlds held in Belgium with the US team taking second. Individually Western Region skiers did well: Chad Guzman won the gold in Men MP3 slalom.

Thank you to Sally Mecham for supporting CARDS. We're still looking for a team manager and team coach.

2006 National Championship Tournament

Appointed judges: Andrea Plough, Mike Hayes, Barry Young

Assigned judges: Richelle Matli, Sally Mecham, Connie Morris alternate

Appointed scorers: Tad Scharpf and Carol Boice. Lucie Goodman as alternate

Technical Controllers: Merle Vashbinder (Chief) and John Goodman

Drivers: Brad Conger, Pat Rogers. Brian Hockenbery as alternate

Gaile motioned to approve. Barry seconded. All in favor.

National Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – Mike Hayes

Active membership is down slightly, supporting is down significantly. Switching from Ski Safe to Global Marine will help. Must be either active or supporting member of USAWS. USOC funding is not going to materialize at all this year, a loss of \$100,000. \$80,000 was for athlete training. \$20,000 was for traveling teams. USOC is focusing on Olympic sports and not Pan Am.

Expenses: lost one employee at headquarters that was not replaced and reduced one salary. Looking to continue direct mailings to encourage supporting members. Global Marine is expected to bring a contest forth for next year to promote membership growth by offering use of a boat for one year. Looking for a marine lending institution hopefully will follow with the membership requirements of Global Marine. Like to have something on every region's website touting benefits of Global Marine and include a link to their site.

Rules Committee – Richelle Matli

Not a lot of proposed changes-as reported. Gates: want to align with IWSF, including for C class tournaments. A lot of debate over it. RC will be recommending changing just the E class requirements. New NOPS calculation designed to make slalom, trick and jump more equal with each other. Recommending using a majority of each buoy where there is less than unanimity.

Council to approve each recommendation individually. All are approved as written with the exception of:

- **10.03: Barry Young motioned to change gate rule to be the same for all classes, including C. Discussion favored having IWSF align with AWSA, but the council certainly does not want C to be a different gate rule than E. All in favor.**
- **11.03c: Immediate video review for tricks – recommend five judges instead of three. No**
- **10.08b: Mandate that video gates be used at Nationals and allow skiers to challenge calls. Phil Yastrow commented on the technical difficulties and on how the video availability actually leads to the judges not watching the gates right the first time. Others brought up the importance of reviewing the “death sentence” of no gates and the poor gate calling at the Nationals in 2005. The council voted not to support mandatory video gates for Nationals.**

Judges and Scorers – Linda Hockenbery

- Committee recommends aspiring senior judges and scorers can obtain upgrade credit for working a regional and national tournament during the same year.
- Revise policy manual to encourage younger officials 13 years old and above by allowing them to complete the requirements for becoming an assistant judge or scorer so they will be immediately eligible for the rating at age 15.
- Revise policy manual to reflect the judge's qualifications in the AWSA rule book.

Linda motioned to approve all recommendations. Barry Young seconded. All in favor.

Boat Drivers: Wayne Canfield

Please have drivers send in boat path tapes and identify the driver on the tape. Please do not use the little 8mm tapes. Issue came up with boat path after jump course at nationals last year. Drivers should go straight through ride-out buoys. Drivers should get familiar with the new PP display. Keep it cool, in the shade or cover with towel. When it gets hot the first thing to go is the time display.

International Activities Committee: Frank Harrison

Bob Cosby is retiring from the committee. Thank you for the great job over the past years. Recommended TC Boice to take over Bob's position. TC and Frank are actively working toward a viable replacement for Bob.

Rondi Huso-Lang is on the Veteran team and the World Senior trophy. There is a good possibility that Storm Selsor will be on the World Junior Team. 17-21 and Junior World Team trials will be held at Cory Pickos' site at the beginning of July 2006. Encourage senior officials to put their names in. We had no one from the West this coming year's team trials.

Technical Committee: Phil Yastrow

Tech committee recommendations to Rules Committees:

- Proposal to adopt a ramp angle of 1 to 2.5 degrees with a recommendation of 2 degrees.
- Adopt IWSF slalom line chart that includes 9.25m (43' off) line length.
- Ramp setting chart is considered clear – no change recommended.
- No: Proposal to add a requirement that the ramp be waxed with a paraffin based wax with a minimum melting point of 150* F.
- No: Proposal to add a time limit for how long a survey is good for. Technical controller's responsibility to ensure that the course is accurate. 90 days is a good guideline.
- No Change: Proposal to require age division records to be accomplished while skiing in respective age division only. This change would remove the ability of an Open skier to apply for the respective age division while skiing in Open. No way to enforce it.
- Proposal to require measurement of Skier-Furnished Slalom Handle, for Class E tournaments. Align with IWSF to eliminate confusion at mixed Class (E, LandR) tournaments.
- Proposal to align AWSA "gate" rule with IWSF "gate" rule. Align with IWSF to eliminate confusion at mixed Class (E, LandR) tournaments.

Safety: Larry Goodwin

Did not receive the safety committee report from Jim Babcock. Not much going on. Needing to update the Safety Manual. There are several items needing updating. Safety is getting better and better. 124 Safety Coordinators in the Region; 63 State Directors; 22 Regional Directors and 3 National Directors.

Towboat/Speed Control: Will Bush

- As of January 1, 2006, Towboat and Speed Control committees will be combined.
- The 2006 Perfect Pass display/user interface has changed and will include more information per screen.
- Towboat tests will be held at Lake Grew.

- Speed control: additional controls for jump. X8U and X8D. Most jumpers will not know the difference. Skiers will be allowed to change X8U.
- Throttle Override – Throttle by wire
- Working on data collection device on what's being delivered by boat, skier size, etc. Figure out what needs fixing prior to going out and trying to solve problems. The intent is to make sure that the jumpers get the best, fairest ride within the rules.

National Seeding: Laura Johnson

Thank you to all the scorers and tournament sponsors for getting results to Laura so quickly. The new online ranking system has been live since Nationals and is working great. It will be more important now that scores are submitted quickly so they can be uploaded to the web. Seeding is recommending within two days of the tournament completion. Laura suggests a week is a more reasonable time frame.

The CTF has discussions of using the online standings list as a basis for qualifications for Regionals and Nationals. This could be a concern in the coming year. Laura would like to see the list in place for a year to ensure we've worked through issues that may arise.

Skiers Rating – Jim Kinney (not present)

Richelle Matli reported. NOPS Open. In Skier's Rating committee for approval, but still in Rules, so not sure on status. NOPS Masters and Expert Rating also in discussion. **Motion by Mike Hayes to allow two open ratings and drag a masters rating to gain a NOPS Open rating. Barry Young seconded.** Discussion as to why would we make this group more elite by only allowing an EP instead of a masters rating. **All in favor.**

HQ/Competition Department – Lisa St John

Everyone invited to come by the new building if they're in the area. Hall of Fame is half of the building. The rest are administrative offices. Steve McDermeit is the Executive Director. NSL numbers have gone up. Almost 1000 events for AWSA in past year. Working with boat dealers to support the Grassroots program. Goodie bags are available for boat shows, NSL and Regional events to promote USAWS. T-Shirts, towels, can coolers have also been developed. Also have the ability to do email blasts for events (two week prior notice).

Pro Am Challenge for 2006 will be on Lake Grew and will not be in conjunction with the Nationals.

NSL – Kay Goodfellow (not present)

Kay was absent as she was promoting waterskiing and NSL at a boat show in San Diego. A written report was forwarded to council following the meeting.

Competition Task Force – Barry Young

Barry thanked TC for allowing him to be on the CTF. The CTF is pushing to eliminate the ratings and move to a ranking list qualification system and will present that proposal to the BOD this month. The ratings list is based on outdated results in that it is based on performances that are two years old. Rankings would be based on more current performances. Skiers on the "bubble" are the ones in question with this system. One of the biggest complaints about using ranking rather than rating is not knowing if you will be qualified until the last minute. Discussion to determine a cut off date, but that may not give some skiers enough ski season and will still make travel arrangements more expensive and difficult for a number of skiers. Discussion followed.

Motion from Brad Conger to say no to this change. Ken Cannon seconded. Discussion: Barry Young suggested we need to look at growing numbers from the bottom up and not the top down. Previous CTF discussion was growth from bottom, but could not get anywhere so they moved to the top. **Amend motion to include: Directors to vote no to rankings for National entry criteria until they can show us how it will encourage new growth in the sport. All in favor.**

By-Laws – Jim Lang

No new suggestions for the BOD meeting. Will send Laura Johnson the current Western Region Bylaws to post on the web.

Announcers – Brad Hartwell

TC Boice for Brad. Congratulations to Tom Mecham for being selected outstanding announcer of the 2005 Nationals. The committee is looking for a Chief Announcer for the Nationals and needs appointed announcers. Tom Mecham will be available to help but has respectfully declined the chief job.

National Coaching Advisory – Terry Goodman

No meeting or communication from committee.

National Junior Development – Charlene Brown

Need more area participation for fund raising. Trying to get donations from throughout the region. Continue 50/50 raffle at Junior Banquet. Juniors make up 25% of the skiers at the Regionals and many are three event skiers.

National All Star team – going to use all skier's scores instead of just top three. West would have won in 2005 using this method.

National Nominating – TC Boice

The West is not nominating anyone for national office.

Old Business

Continuing action items include:

Larry Goodwin continues to work on the Adopt a dealer program.

Dave Vogt will again get a description of each candidate for the guide and web site.

Laura Johnson will add award nominations to web page to go to gaileheieck@yahoo.com

Ken Cannon will find junior development assistant for Nevada. No longer necessary. Lisa Wilson will contact if needed.

Barry Motioned to accept Randy's idea of using windfall money from regional guides to donate \$1000 to offset loses of \$10 clinic fee. John Goodman seconded. All in favor.

New Business

Tad Scharpf displayed and discussed the 2006 budget including additions made during this meeting.

Our 2005 budget showed

Budgeted income: \$12,015 Actual Income: \$19,550

Budgeted expense: \$17,980 Actual Expenses \$15,950

Budgeted net(loss): (\$5,965) Actual Net Income \$3,600

Our projected 2006 budget is:

2006 Budgeted income: \$18,210

Budgeted expense: \$17,180

2006 Budgeted net: \$1030

John Goodman motioned to approve the budget; Barry Young seconded. All in favor.

Owen Letcher motioned to recognize Bob LaPoint and Carl Roberge as being inducted into Hall of Fame – skiers from the West. Connie Morris seconded. Would like the Western Regional Council make recognition of these skiers. **John Goodman suggested putting into the Regional Guide. All in favor.**

Recommendations to the Board:

- Dual Region/Regional Tournament: A questionnaire will be developed with council approval and distributed to skiers in region to obtain opinion on subject. Directors and EVP will work with the BOD and EVP's toward making this possible.
- Rules: Council to approve all rules recommendation with the exception of the following:
 - 10.03: Amend to include Class C. Keep C and E the same.
 - 11.03c: No
 - 10.08b: No
- Judges and Scorers Committee Recommends the following:
 - Aspiring senior judges and scorers can obtain upgrade credit for working a regional and national tournament during the same year.
 - Revise policy manual to allow officials 13 years old and above to complete requirements for becoming an assistant judge or scorer so that they can immediately be eligible to attain their rating at age 15.
 - Revise policy manual to reflect the judge's qualifications in the AWSA rule book
- Technical Committee recommendations:
 - Proposal to adopt a ramp angle of 1 to 2.5 degrees with a recommendation of 2 degrees.
 - Adopt IWSF slalom line chart that includes 9.25m (43' off) line length.
 - No change: Ramp setting chart is considered clear
 - No: Proposal to add a requirement that the ramp be waxed with a paraffin based wax with a minimum melting point of 150* F.
 - No: Proposal to add a time limit for how long a survey is good for. Technical controller's responsibility to ensure that the course is accurate. 90 days is a good guideline.
 - No change: Proposal to require age division records to be accomplished while skiing in respective age division only. This change would remove the ability of an Open skier to apply for the respective age division while skiing in Open. No way to enforce it.
 - Proposal to require measurement of Skier-Furnished Slalom Handle, for Class E tournaments. Align with IWSF to eliminate confusion at mixed Class (E, LandR) tournaments.
 - Proposal to align AWSA "gate" rule with IWSF "gate" rule. Align with IWSF to eliminate confusion at mixed Class (E, LandR) tournaments.
- Skiers Ratings:
 - Allow two open ratings and drag a masters rating to gain a NOPS Open rating.
- Competition Task Force: Recommendation to vote no to basing regional and national qualification on the ranking list instead of the current rating list.

Congratulations to Canyon Lake AWSA Club of the Year.

Motion to adjourn.