

AWSA WESTERN REGION WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2016

El Dorado Hotel, Reno, Nevada

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order at 9:08 am
2. Introductions
3. Council approval to allow substitutes (for this meeting for non-attending Councilpersons)
 - a. Judy Stanford for Kevin Bishop, Area 2
 - b. Tad Scharpf for Louie Vidmar, Area 5
 - c. No replacement for Steve Ware, Area 7
 - d. Motion by Greg; seconded by from Richelle. Approved.
4. Establishment of a quorum
5. Assignment of Parliamentarian – TC Boice
 - a. Motion by John; seconded by Barry. Approved
6. Review and Approval of Minutes from 7/20/2015 Summer Council Meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Tad; John seconded. Approved.
7. Consent Agenda Reports Attached (*items that do not require action by the Council, and/or reports that have been previously submitted with funding requests matching prior years*)
 - a. Regional Committee Reports
 - i. Regional Membership – Barry Young (no report)
 - b. National Committee Reports
 - i. National Announcers: Ryan Nason (report included from National Package)
 - ii. National Awards: Randy Hocking (report included from National Package)
 - iii. National Bylaws: **No Current representative** (Brad Conger) (report included from National Package)
 - iv. National Nominating – Barry Young (no report)
 - v. National Grassroots: Matt Brandt (no report)
 - vi. National Safety: Harley Wallace (report included from National Package)
 - vii. National Technical: Phil Yastrow (report included from National Package)
 - viii. National Towboat: Will Bush (report included from National Package)
 - ix. National IAC: Mike Hayes
 - c. John motioned to approve; Barry seconded. Approved
8. EVP Report – Owen Letcher (**verbal report**)
 - a. Discussion of changes at National and local level, including proposed Regional Team competition and other proposals made by President Jeff Surdej. Thanks to all who are in attendance today and participating in the meeting.
 - b. Owen has started a new job and lives in the San Jose area during the week and commutes back to Sacramento on the weekends.
9. Treasurer's Report 2015 - Tad Scharpf
 - a. Tad has prior year records if anyone is interested in reviewing.
 - b. Discussion of expenses and Junior Development. Report attached
 - c. Motion to approve Barry; Brad seconded. Passed.
10. National Executive: Barry Young/Owen Letcher (**report attached & verbal**)

- a. Discussion of what the National tournament should be; Regional requirements. Team format raised to bring new energy to the Regional and National tournaments. President Jeff Surdej has a lot of experience with the collegiate arena and sees a vast difference in participation and energy.

11. Council Area Reports – Area 1 through Area 9

- a. Area 1 Brad Corbin: 21 tournaments; None in Hawaii this year.
- b. Area 2 Judy Stanford (for Kevin Bishop): Kevin requested an exception for tournament late fee. Owen had requested that AWSA extend the December 31st late fee to January 8th due to HQ being on vacation the last week of the year. The programming did not get changed so people were charged. Phil will run a report so we can determine who was affected by this. The Western region will most likely refund the late fee. This will apply to other areas besides Area 2.

Santa Clara still has no water; members have joined Berkley. Still functioning as a club however.

- c. Area 3 Tim Vaio: Tournaments consistent with last year's numbers. A couple of new lakes dabbling with tournament scene, including the Chico area.
- d. Area 4 Larry Laughlin: Same number of tournaments as last year.
- e. Area 5 Tad Scharpf: Nothing to report
- f. Area 6 Christine Gulley: Down one tournament this year. Planning some grass roots tournaments and considering putting them in the regional guide. Had a Wednesday night fun tournament last year. Doing four next summer. Tommy's Slalom Shop offering prizes. Discussion about how to promote; possibly add a "Fun" section to the website and Regional guide.
- g. Area 7 Steve Ware: No report
- h. Area 8 Brad Jamison: What does the council think about "Invitational" tournaments? Discussion about perception of the tournament and its reputation for adhering to rules. Also exclusion/inclusion of people and what it does to our goal of bringing people into the sport. Invited officials should be aware of deviations from rules or other issues and communicate with the EVP.

Brad also raised issue that there doesn't seem to be enough Fun tournaments.
- i. Area 9 Sam Lee: No activity in Area 9. Other than the 2016 Regionals and Nationals.
- j. Directors: We're working closely with our new AWSA President to make things more fun for everyone.

12. Regional Committee Reports (committee reports come as a motion for approval – Tad seconded.

- a. Regional Awards – Richelle Muhlitner: Congratulations to Sam Lee on winning the Regional Outstanding Tournament Official Award and to Gail Heinrich who won the Western Region Merit Award. Richelle will be collecting nominations for merit awards.

If anyone is interested in the Regional Awards position, it's available.

- b. Regional Drivers – Greg Badal: Trying to come up with different ways to encourage drivers to become three event drivers. We do not have a lot of new drivers – we need to build our pool of drivers. We need local senior drivers to mentor and groom new and up and coming drivers.

Ham Wallace is taking over as Chair of the National Drivers Committee.

- c. Regional Junior Development—Tim Vaio, Randy Hocking & Brett Klinchurch: Compared the number of skiers in the Western region to other regions and found that we're behind in numbers. Discussion as to where regional funds should be spent – on top level skiers or build the pipeline of new skiers. Committee developed a revised mission statement that addresses development of new skiers along with supporting existing camps. The committee added one more Best of the West camp to focus on skiers with potential for development. Camps based on maturity and skill level (tiered approach). Goal is to increase accessibility to camps and support local clinics.

Discussion raised about perception of it being the same kids going to the Best of the West camps. Also, there are other good junior skiers that may not be three event skiers but that should be included in camps. Single event kids that are exposed to three event skiing at camps tend to become excited about three event skiing.

Perception problem with respect to the difference between National, Regional and Local Junior Development programs. We could do a better job of communicating the difference between each and how to support the local clinics to help build the base of skiers.

Committee proposes a two-year plan to fund the local camps and make available \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year in total from the operating reserve of the Western Region to fund the clinics/camps. Dave Vogt discussed having only Best of the West camp and use funds beyond that to support the local camps.

Issue raised that money is going being paid from Western Region budget for Regional Junior skiers who are not even attending the Regionals.

MOTION: The Committee is requesting an increase in funding to the Western Region Junior Development budget from \$20 to \$40 per Western Region Junior Development Team member (our junior skiers qualified to ski in the regional tournament). Barry seconded. Discussion followed, including do we have the money. 11 in favor. Motion passed.

- d. Regional Guide—Tyler Vaio/Owen Letcher: Discussion of difference between USAWS and regional ads and national sponsorship packages. Gina Odegard is still our regional advertising contact.

Printed guide will remain for time-being. Majority of regions still want them.

- e. Regional Nominating----Dave Vogt: See 2016 ballot. Encourage people to get involved and run for office or committee. Job descriptions are available on the website. Report comes as a motion. Tad seconded. Motion passed.
- f. Regional Records-Amy Scharpf (by Tad-report attached): Change in maximum speed for Men 11. Previous record to be retired. Barry seconded. Motion passed.
- g. Regional Webmaster – Louie Vidmar (verbal report by Tad): Louie is taking over the hosting of the website.
- h. *Any Regional committee report pulled from the consent agenda*

13. 2016 Western Regional Tournament Update – Broadside Harbor (Sam Lee)

- a. Appointment of officials (Announcers, Drivers, Judges, Scorer, Safety & Technical)
Report attached
- b. Review of tournament announcement
 - i. Tournament Event Classes - change verbiage to say “will follow National Tournament classification”.
 - ii. Lower the entry requirement for all divisions to Level 5 for individual events and Level 4 for Overall skiers.
- c. Motion from Sam; Tad seconded. Motion passed.

14. Western Regional Tournament Bids

- a. 2017 Regional Tournament Bids – Wet Set (Frank Harrison)
 - i. Discussion about what to offer officials as far as accommodations, entry fees, etc.
 - ii. Discussion about award medals and should there be a council stipulation/criteria as to what their format. Criteria to include labeling/engraving, size, quality, etc. Is it possible for the council to offer a grant for regional tournament medals provided that they meet council guidelines? Mike Hayes and Frank Harrison will formulate a paragraph to be included in the regional tournament bid package that outlines the Region’s expectations.
 - a. Mike Hayes and Frank Harrison submitted the following verbiage for the medal guidelines:

“Award medals will be constructed of metal electroplated to indicate placement (gold/first place, silver/second place, copper/third place). Placement may also be indicated by various neck ribbon color. Medals will contain information regarding event (STJ), Division (B1, G1, etc) & Placement (engraved or labeled).

Medals should be a minimum 2 ½” diameter. Any other shape or configuration will be approved prior to the tournament by the Western Regional Council.”

- i. Brad Corbin motioned to accept the proposal; Sam Lee seconded. Motion passed.
 - iii. John Goodman motioned to accept the proposal for the Wet Set bid; Barry Young seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. 2018 Regional Tournament Bids
 - i. No interest has been expressed as of yet. Council members are encouraged to recruit bidders.
 - 1. Discussion regarding what incentive is there for sites to bid for the Regionals.
15. 2016 National Tournament – Broadside Harbor, Caldwell Idaho – Barry Young
 - a. Discussion regarding tournament schedule, local hotels, RV parking, practice at nearby lake. Jump at Broadside is being revamped with Terry Goodman. LOC is doing the event medals, as opposed to HQ.
 - b. Official Recommendations (Announcers, Drivers, Judges, Scorer, Safety & Technical) Report attached
16. 2017 National Tournament Bids
 - a. Bell Acqua is considering putting in a bid for Nationals. All three lakes would be included in the bid.
17. Other Sports Divisions
 - a. National Collegiate - Harley Wallace & Jeff Rush
 - i. New club Cal State Long Beach with thanks to Jay Fitzpatrick and the Canyon Lake Ski Club.
 - ii. Alumni collegiate regionals was a success; most likely will do another.
 - iii. 10% growth in participation; finally seeing an upward trend after seeing a several year decline.
 - iv. 2016 major Western Region Collegiate events: Borderline will host the All Stars, Night Jump and Team Trials for University World Championships; NCWSA Nationals at Imperial Lakes
 - v. Officials Incentive Program: \$1500 prize purse split among top performing teams. Still struggle to find Chiefs and boats from time to time.
 - vi. Significant disappointment that the collegiate scholarship went to Erika Lang, but she skis for Rollins. Ellie Horton received the award in the South. Happy that skiers received it but question eligibility for skiers choosing to stay home. Money that we give should stay in the region. Bringing up with AWSEF.
 - b. Disabled Skiers – Matt Oberholtz:
 - i. Disabled Worlds held at Shortline Lake
 - c. Other sports disciplines – Wakeboard, Show Ski, Hydrofoil, Kneeboard, Barefoot– No report
 - d. HQ looking to move to another location in Polk City/Lakeland area and possibly sell the building.
18. National Committee Reports

- a. National Boat Drivers: Greg Badal (report attached)
- b. National IAC: Mike Hayes (report attached)
- c. National Judges & Scorers: Tom Nathan (no report/see National report)
- d. National Junior Development: Jim DeVito/Shannon Reese (no report)
- e. National Rules: Richelle Muhlitrer/Dave Vogt (report attached): All items approved.
Note amendments:
 - i. #20 Amend to boat driver/judge
 - ii. #29 Amend to with same boat and crew
- f. National Skiers Qualification: Brandy Nagle (report attached)
 - i. Change qualification methodology as noted in report. Tad seconded. Discussion as to intention/goal of ranking list. Ranking list is not necessarily motivating people to go to the Nationals. Would ability-based increase motivation/participation. Motion passed.
 - ii. Goals for Nationals – we'd like a larger Nationals but are there any other sites capable of hosting a larger Nationals other than West Palm.
- g. National Tournament Seeding: Judy Stanford (report attached)
- h. National Coaches: Terry Goodman (nothing to report)
 - i. Coaching level tests and information available at USAWS.org.
- i. USA WS - Connie Bergmark
 - i. Largest challenge is money. Moving HQ is biggest discussion, along with staffing. Also, addressing liability issues. We typically have a major accident every three years.
 - ii. Insurance task force set up last year to evaluate current insurance coverage. We have never been a good risk for an insurance carrier. This year we finally had a \$13,000 saving. Policy we have now is good and fair price.

19. Old Business

- a. Online Tournament Sanctioning & Payment for 2016 Status – Council
 - i. Approximately 130 tournaments including six novice and one class X.
 - ii. Late fees will be worked out.
 - iii. Sanctioning did not work with Win10, Chrome, Apple. Must use Firefox.
- b. Recommendations for Regional Guide Advertisers for 2016 and 2017 forward to Gina Odegard.

20. New Business

- a. Treasurers Report 2016 – Tad Scharpf (see report)
 - i. 130 2016 tournaments x \$135 = \$17, 550 in income. Down by ten tournaments this year; advertising is down as well.
 - ii. Recommendation to rent shade tents at Nationals motion and approved.

- iii. Amend budget to replace regional flags. They're are tattered; it's time to buy new ones.
 - iv. Discussion regarding allocating surplus funds to grow sport and offset annual loss – and for how long do we do that. Will continue evaluating return on investment in growth of sport/membership each year so we don't run reserves dry. At some point if tournament numbers don't increase, we'll need to consider increasing sanction fees.
 - v. Motion to approve a deficit budget of \$8,275.55 (see final report). Barry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- b. Approval of 2016 tournaments that have been submitted. Brad Corbin motioned approval; Brad Jamison seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- c. Team Skiing Regional and National (see attached from Tonya Maurer)
 - i. Discussion about how to select teams – by area, state. Owen is suggesting by council area. Team should be set a month prior to Regionals. Email EVP with suggestions for team members. Barry motioned; Tad seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- d. Appointed Officials skiing at the Regionals – Louie Vidmar
 - i. Qualification levels have been lowered, shouldn't be an issue. Rules has an option as well.
- e. Officials Maintenance Requirements (Drivers) – Greg Badal (report attached)
- f. National Junior Development – Shannon Reese appointed by Jim DeVito
- g. National Safety – Harley Wallace replaces John Crivello
- h. National Skiers Qualifications – Brandy Nagle now Chair
- i. Appointment of Alternates for National Winter BOD meeting: None needed (Owen Letcher, Barry Young, Richelle Muhlitter, Laura Johnson)
- j. Western Region Mid-Summer Meeting - July 19th, 2016, Broadside Harbor, Caldwell Idaho
- k. AWSA President Jeff Surdej's survey getting great response. (report attached)
- l. Official's maintenance package
 - i. Dave Smart, a driver from Northern California, was one of many people who received a downgrade notice. He recommended that one you obtain an assistant driver's rating, there should be a minimum amount of classroom clinic time to maintain that rating. As you increase your ratings, requirements should increase. His feeling is that clinics/maintenance requirements at that level are redundant. Rebuttal is that officials need to stay current with technology, rules, etc. and that we only require a clinic every four years. Shouldn't be too much to

ask of officials. Discussion about loss of officials due to downgrades. Tad motioned that we re-write the requirements; Barry seconded.

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

22. Motion to Adjourn at 5:40 pm.