

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 8:07 am

1. Announcements & Introductions
2. Assignment of parliamentarian: TC Boice
3. Council approval to replace area representatives
 - Will Bush for Owen Letcher
 - Randy Hocking for Stacy Holbert

All in favor. Passes

4. Review & approval of previous minutes
 - Randy Hocking motioned to approve; Connie Morris seconded. Motion carries.
5. Treasurer's Report: Tad Scharpf
 - Review of Western Region checkbook – see report
 - i. We had to reimburse four tournaments for sanction fees because of missing guide page.
 - ii. Largest expense was international/IAC travel for non-skiing officials
 - iii. Didn't spend from contingency fund this year

Sam Lee seconded motion to approve Treasurer's Report. All in favor.

- Discussion about Western Region scholarship fund. AWSEF has not asked for funds from the West in the past year. Jeff Rush will do some research on recipients and funds.
- Junior Development Checkbook – see report
 - i. Fundraising efforts not as fruitful as in past years, assumed due to the economy.
 - ii. The Western region will contribute \$20 to each junior clinic camp participant.
 - iii. Other funds are raised through contributions from records and regional tournament entries.
 - iv. Lisa Wilson: Additional funds are outstanding and will come in from the 2009 regional Junior Development banquet. Steve Garcia is handling collection.

Brad Jamison seconded motion to approve. All in favor.

6. Regional committee reports

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- Executive Vice President: Barry Young
 - i. Thank you for all of your work and efforts. Problems with officials not being prepared for a tournament. Discussion about a Northern California tournament. Several people attested that a long handle was used and not verified. Chief judge was not available to measure/verify. Competitor left with handle before it could be measured. Score was pulled from the scorebook. Per discussion from last summer, some tournaments are getting lax. We need to be sure that officials and sites are prepared and operate according to the rules. Barry will send a letter to the competitor on behalf of the council addressing the situation and advising him that his score was pulled.
- Regional Records: Connie Morris - see report
 - i. One record was late and therefore won't be considered.
 - ii. 16 new Best of the West records set
 - iii. Richard Doane will take over Records from Connie

Will Bush seconded motion. All in favor

- Regional Guide: Laura Johnson
 - i. Please have everything for inclusion in the guide to Laura by January 15th.

Tad seconded. All in favor

- Regional awards: Richelle Matli/Debbie Badal
 - i. Gaile has asked to be replaced. Richelle has helped out and Debbie has agreed to step in as Awards Coordinator. Gaile will create an outline for guidelines, notably Rich Slingerland Award.
 - History of Slingerland Award - John Goodman: anyone can put in recommendation and a committee of three (from different areas) would discuss nominations. It would be good for councilpeople to be proactive and solicit nominations ahead of the regional tournament.
 - Suggestion to go back and look at previous criteria and perhaps rethink or retire award. Thought is that it might be more meaningful if recipients had known the person who the award is named for.
- Webmasters: Phil Yastrow/Laura Johnson/Larry Goodwin
 - i. Phil handles the sanctioning side of the website. There were a "few" issues with that. We need to keep pressure on HQ to clean up sanctioning process before they go global with it. Jim Meis, the programmer, has been very responsive in making changes and updates. New system streamlines process.

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- ii. Laura handles basic design and uploads. Larry handles the content. We can always use more if you have it.
 - iii. Blog didn't have much response. It does give us a place to have history of content.
 - iv. We also have a Facebook page.
 - v. We upped the amount of space on Picasa for photos. Everyone is welcome to post photos there.
 - vi. Report included shows website traffic statistics.
- Regional Junior Development: Lisa Wilson
 - i. Funds are low this year so we need to do some major fundraising.
 - ii. Exciting things happening for next year's junior development banquet that will help offset costs.
 - iii. Also looking for silent auction items – that's the largest fundraising item.
 - iv. New committee member – Rob Scholl from Washington.
 - v. Banquet at Laku was a big hit. Down \$1700 in fundraising however. Funds from the silent auction as well as the items themselves are still in need of being reconciled. Going forward we need to have funds and awards reconciled more quickly.
 - vi. Brenda Baldwin has a new clothing company for team sports. We can put a link on our website and receive a donation back for junior development for those items purchased.
 - vii. Committee consists of Lisa Wilson, Randy Hocking, Steve Garcia and Rob Scholl. They'll be having a conference call shortly to discuss upcoming year and team criteria.
- Nominations: Dave Vogt
 - i. As reported
 - ii. Tad Seconded motion. All in favor.
 - iii. Andrea recommended that councilpeople start grooming their replacements. Mike asked that job descriptions be posted so people know what is expected of their position. More people may be willing to participate but don't know how to do it. Make note that there is some financial assistance to help with travel as well. Brad Corbin suggested that we make Council/Committee options as a clinic agenda item to help spread the word about involvement.
- Membership: TC Boice /Larry Goodwin
 - i. Committee was dissolved years ago. Nothing to discuss.

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

7. Regional Tournaments

- Regional tournament officials reimbursement/assistance: Frank Harrison
 - i. Last year we had a lot of discussion about helping officials with regional tournament travel expenses. Several members discussed thoughts and ideas. Randy Hocking had a spreadsheet with officials. He included what the individual's cost (ie entry fee, hotel, camping) vs expense. Appointed officials within club did not have expenses offset other than junior banquet. Total cost was about \$5500 for appointed officials. Region contributed \$2500 towards that. Frank stated that the region should not help underwrite that cost for the LOC. There's a lot of money going out right now. We don't want to get out of hand. The other issue is fairness of distributing funds towards the official's expenses. It's the LOC's responsibility to accommodate the officials to the best of their ability. The committee's opinion is that the region should not be involved with this.
 - ii. Barry, as a member of the 2010 LOC, would like an idea of the expectation of officials when they commit to the Regionals, especially housing/accommodations. They don't want someone to feel like they're volunteering and won't have somewhere to stay. At some point the council should clarify the expectation in the bid package so when an official is asked to participate in the Regionals, they'll know if they have to spend X amount of dollars on hotel expense or that they'll have a place to stay.
 - iii. Brad Stevenson recommended that we add to the official's section of the Western Region bid packet and outline what the LOC will do to provide accommodations/housing for officials. Randy Hocking suggested that we include guidelines to consider. Sam Lee asked that the committee provide a "best practices" of what people expect. Brad made a formal motion of above; Mike Hayes seconded. Additional discussion followed. All in favor.
- 2010 Regionals – Broadside Harbor: Sam Lee, Deb Parsons, Barry Young
 - i. Sam Lee: many site improvements; held a record tournament last June. Had a lot of great suggestions for improvements and changes. More grass areas, activity is consolidated at one end of the lake, food vending near start docks. Camping is at one edge of the property. More trees have been added. Jump ramp improvements including a new surface. We're ready to go. Temps are mid-90's to 100 and light until late. They'll have the county come out and spray for mosquitos. There are still mosquitos – campers at dusk need to be prepared for that. There are high speed trains on the way into the site. There is not a crossing guard there. This spring they'll contact the local authorities for adding additional signage for tracks. Andrea suggested adding note in guide about mosquitos.
 - ii. John Goodman noted that the Canadians are paying \$250 per person for their provincial tournament. Families are paying that per person. Brad Stevenson noted that maybe we should consider raising the entry fee for future Regionals.
 - iii. Review of Regional guide announcement

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- Discussion about having awards for “Masters” group – competition for those not qualified for nationals – within the larger groups. Similar to what Cheyenne Lake did a couple of years ago. Tom Mecham asked about dealing with juniors. Award is intended to encourage people to compete that might not have been interested in going, not necessarily juniors.
 - Discuss when boats need to be on site prior to tournament, use at practice, etc. Nick feels that the boats don’t need to be there until Monday at noon.
 - Additional discussion regarding announcement specifics. Changes will be made and posted in the guide.
- iv. Chief Judge: Laura Johnson; Appointed Judges: Brad Hartwell, Mike Hayes, Richelle Matli, Sally Mecham, Andrea Plough. Jack Hanna - alternate
 - v. Chief Driver: Nick Ithomitis; Assistant Chief Driver: Will Bush; Appointed Drivers: Randy Hocking, Merle Vasbinder, Mark Roske, Brian Holm, Barry Young, Deb Parsons, Dee Johnson. Brad Conger and Dave Vogt - alternates
 - vi. ACJ’s: John Goodman, Janie Fausold, Scott Milewski, Todd Yokum
 - vii. Scorers: Judy Stanford – Chief; Gail Heinrich, Lucie Goodman
 - viii. Announcer: Craig Phillips – Chief. Appointed - Tom Mecham
 - ix. Safety Director: Janice Bachmeier
 - x. Technical Controller: Owen Lechter

Brad Jamison seconds motion to approve announcement with corrections. All in favor.

- 2011 & 2012 Regional Tournament Bid
 - i. Bell Acqua, Sacramento/Rio Linda, California, Lake One & Two. Lake Three is a possibility for practice. Proposal shared by Randy Hinkle. Discussion regarding second year that both parties have the option to decline second year. Randy indicated that their proposal is for two years because of their agreement with Lake One. Brad Stevenson motioned that we approve bid for both years with an option for both parties to decline for second year. Brad Jamison seconded. Discussion followed. Sam motioned to amend that motion that we accept bid for two years. Greg Badal seconded. Randy Hocking clarified that we’re not approving the details in the proposal; those will be discussed at length next year. All in favor for approval of Sam’s amendment. All in favor of accepting Bell Acqua for two years.

8. 2010 National Tournament

- Proposal for International Open Skiers at Nationals
 - i. Nationals LOC is trying to bring back the US Open at the Nationals, which includes international skiers. They are looking to allow international open skiers within Nationals as a qualifying round. International skiers will need to be

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

sanctioned as Class F. Concern is having tournament within a tournament. See proposal.

- Discussion: Will Bush raised the issue of potential rain and timeframe being tight for completion of Nationals. John Goodman questioned where the American Open skiers are going to ski. Their ride during Nationals will count as their qualifying score for the US Open. Richelle is concerned that it's not fair that we're giving our US skiers an advantage over the International skiers.
- Laura Johnson suggested that the International skiers be allowed to ski within the Nationals Open division, but not for placement at the Nationals. Concern is for time constraints and toll on officials. Open has already been moved to the end of the day so it would not affect other divisions that particular day. Richelle reviewed rules and the International skiers would not be eligible to ski in our Nationals. Mike Hayes said we need to encourage the International skiers to compete and do it fairly. Concern is getting skiers there, being fair, timeframe to complete all events, burden to skiers. LOC is trying to generate excitement for Friday night finals. We don't want to kill that enthusiasm but we want to follow the rules. Eric Kosney suggested that we make it more of a US vs the World, but promoter may not be in favor of that. Andrea would like our directors to go to BOD meeting and listen to feedback there prior to making a decision. Brad Stevenson moved that we table the discussion and eat lunch.
- Appointed officials from Western Region: Judges: Mike Hayes & Jack Hanna; Scorers: Gail Heinrich & Martha Selsor. Drivers: Barry Young, Mark Roske and Randy Hocking
- Assigned officials from Western Region: Judge: Sally Mecham

9. Local Tournament Sanction approvals

- Approved tournaments by Council Area
 - i. Collect lists, Safety forms, AWSA & Regional sanction fees
 - ii. Connie motioned to accept as submitted. Brad Jamison seconded. All in favor.

10. Other Sports Divisions

- American Wakeboard Association – Andrea Plough
 - i. Paradigm shift – wakeboarders show an overwhelming majority over skiers in the US, based on usage figures from Water Ski magazine, Wakeboard magazine, Facebook and MySpace.
 - ii. Name change proposal from USA Waterski to USA Waterski and Wakeboard. Hope that those looking to become involved will seek and feel included more so with a more dynamic and encompassing organization name. Other national governing bodies around the world have also added Wakeboard to their monikers

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

with positive results. Request for someone to make a motion to accept name change. IWSF has also added wakeboard to its name, IWWF. Will Bush motioned that we accept it. Tad Scharpf seconded. Discussion: Brad Corbin asked about cost to make change and what about our other sports divisions? Wakeboard is recognizable on public waterways, easily accessible. All in favor.

iii. Waterski Hall of Fame is inducting its first ever wakeboarder, Darin Shapiro.

- Collegiate - Jeff Rush
 - i. 14 WCWSA teams, two teams are inactive. Looking at 8 start up teams. Teams represent over 200 skiers.
 - ii. Nationals held in Bakersfield, hosted by Cal State San Luis Obispo. Thank you for the support.
 - iii. Collegiate Team Trials and All-Stars coming up this year in the west. The west is holding 6 national events.
 - iv. Three western skiers received outstanding leadership awards. Cal State San Luis Obispo is receiving the outstanding team award at the end of this month.
- Water Skiers with Disabilities Association - Steve Hornsey
 - i. Disabled team won the worlds this year.

11. National Committee Reports:

- AWSA Executive - Barry Young: as reported
- USAWS - Randy Hocking
 - i. Thanks to Steve Locke's weekly director's reports have been a valuable source of information as to the status of the organization. Hopefully his replacement will continue that. Steve was valuable in streamlining our organization and balancing the budget.
 - ii. Search for new Executive Director is in process. Will Bush is on the search committee. They've started telephone interviews. First round of interviews should be done by the board meeting this month. Top candidates right now are people involved in other sports disciplines. Looking for someone to think outside of the box, promote our sport, negotiate sponsorships and run the association. Hopeful to have someone in place by March 1st. Jim Grew is the acting Executive Director.
- USAWS Ethics - Larry Goodwin: as reported, no changes for this year.
- Rules - Richelle Matli and Dave Vogt: see report
 - i. Items to pull out for discussion: #3, #5. Will Bush seconded approval for all other items. Discussion: #17b1 – clarify "Major Tournament". All in favor.
 - ii. Greg Badal – item #3: Concern about C vs Record tournament quality and conditions. Preference is to have a "rating" for Open. Pacific Northwest is surveying all of their courses to ensure accuracy. Need to balance volunteer sport

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

with integrity. Public is likely to drive the integrity of events because it affects other competitors via the ranking list. Brad Jamison seconded Greg's motion to exclude this rule. No further discussion. All in favor of declining this rule.

- iii. Randy Hocking – item #5: Tad seconded. Discussion followed. EVP excuse could apply without approving this rule. All in favor of declining this rule.
- Judges & Scorers - Deb Parsons
 - i. Gene Davis is acting committee chair. They are looking for a replacement.
 - ii. Emeritus status approved for Wayne and Barbara Canfield.
 - iii. Officials renewals: Problems last year should be resolved. Officials status should be posted on website. January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010 – we're going back to old requirements for advancement, working four tournaments in two years.
 - iv. Fast tracking for Open Overall senior judge – you must have an open rating in each event to qualify.
 - v. Senior judges must be supervised when taking a written test.
- Boat Drivers: Pat Rogers
 - i. WWWD: What would Wayne do? Integrity, leadership and fairness.
 - ii. When you want to test for a driver's rating, contact your committee member prior so that the best venue and testing can be arranged. Consider testing outside of your own site or your own ski partners.
 - iii. Joe Nolan is requesting senior driver emeritus status. Connie motioned to approve, Brad Corbin seconded. All in favor.
 - iv. Step in and get involved with international events. It's a lot of fun.
- International Activities - Mike Hayes/Barry Young
 - i. Refine procedures for entering team trials to allow more competitors – allows more competition and experience and better for the LOC hosting the event.
 - ii. West was well represented on the US Teams. Janie Fausold and Connie Morris are on the Over 35 and the Pan Am teams. We have 25% of the national junior team: Steven Brooks, Makayla Haw and Erika Lang.
 - iii. Move to eliminating elite team trials beyond 2011.
 - iv. Mike Hayes, Pat Rogers, Barry Young and Laura Johnson have been selected to officiate at several different events. See report for details.
- Technical - Phil Yastrow: as reported
- Safety - Larry Goodwin
 - i. USAWS Risk Management was asked to consider whether modifications should be considered to safety training program. Should clinics be more accessible and easier to complete? We don't want to compromise integrity of program.

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- ii. Mike Hayes promoted the idea of helmets for junior skiers. An e-blast was sent out to parents. We need to make Western Region aware that helmets are available.
- Towboat/ Speed Control - Will Bush
 - i. Report of approved boats for coming year.
 - ii. Charges to manufacturers for boat testing discussed; potentially raises the barrier to entry for a new manufacturer if fees are increased.
 - iii. Asked to go back to Zero Off to go to an rpm overlay and a power factor in slalom.
 - iv. Discussion from Brad Stevenson regarding Zero Off and discontent from skiers with it. Committee tests what is brought to them from the manufacturer. Gripe is mainly that ZO is not available for older boats. It's harder to train for tournaments that use ZO. Tournament numbers could drop as a result because of lack of desire to ski with ZO. Barry indicated that we could have educated people better with the situation and that it's not something that is a result of USAWS. There is another speed control manufacturer in Europe working on another system.
 - v. Towboat usage changes: boats can now be current year and three prior years. And they will receive credit towards Regionals and Nationals. Ideally the boat should have the latest operating software installed.
 - vi. Asked by the Board to look at towboat assignment and draw for Nationals. Considering rotating assignment by year so that skiers are not randomly skiing behind the same boat year after year. Going before the Board for a vote this month.
 - vii. Committee is making considerations to current economic situation, difficulties with towboat teams not being able to sell boats, unavailability of promo boats, etc. Will recommended that LOC's give some sort of incentive for promo boat owners to come to tournament.
 - viii. The Western Region website is available for advertising the sale of promo boats. Please contact Laurie Liddell or Laura Johnson if you are interested in listing your boat.
- National Seeding - Laura Johnson
 - i. Skiers in wrong divisions, especially Masters Men. Please correct prior to cut-off dates.
 - ii. Skiers not qualified because they didn't have scores in previous 12 months – how to handle regionals qualifications.
 - iii. Thank you to Terry and Martha Selsor for manually inserting the US skiers' international scores into the ranking system. The rules provide for the inclusion of their scores in our ranking list. We need to find a seeding committee member that will handle this in the future.

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- iv. Windows WSTIMS – Dave Allen has a new update that is available for testing. We're moving closer to use of the new program.
- v. Statistics from Dave Clark over tournament participation over past four years.
- Skiers Rating - Erik Kosney
 - i. Nothing new to report. Percentages and methodology will remain the same.
 - ii. Erik is now taking over as Chair of the committee from Jeff Surdej.
- National Ski League - Kay Goodfellow: as reported
- By-Laws - Jim Lang: nothing to report
- Announcers - Tom Mecham
 - i. Announcer's Guidelines received from Hank Longo. If your club is interested in the guidelines, please contact Tom.
 - ii. Now an official position within USAWS which brings with it an application. Instructions include read and have a general understanding of the rule book.
 - iii. Announcing is a critical part of promoting our sport. Encourage your club to use one.
- National Junior Development - Charlene Brown
 - i. Julie Krueger is newest member of committee and has great connections to help Junior Development.
 - ii. Biggest opportunity to raise money is the night of the junior banquet. Nationals vendors have also been very generous with their donations.
 - iii. Encourage the older junior skiers to be at the junior banquet to support the younger juniors.
 - iv. We receive a grant of \$3000 each year from USAWS. Provides t-shirts, awards and rash guards.
 - v. Bennett's Ski School offers all junior skiers a discount on ski school. Bennett's has been a long time supporter of the junior development program, along with many others.
- National Nominating - Barry Young: already covered
- USAWS Awards - Randy Hocking: as reported
 - i. Male/Female Athletes of the year; Rising Superstar; Jack Kelly Fair Play Award
 - ii. Award of Merit: Wayne & Barbara Canfield
- AWSA Pro Am Task Force – TC Boice: as reported
 - i. Eliminating pros from amateurs with regards to rules. It could work to simplify our rules and be easier to promote the pros. Difficult to separate Open and Pro athletes because of world ranking list.

**AWSA Western Region
Mid-Winter Council Meeting
January 9, 2010 – Reno, NV**

- Regional Realignment Task Force – Tad Scharpf
 - i. Some people wanted to see a change, but as a whole, people didn't want change. Also what is need for realignment? Should size of or qualifications for Nationals change? Tad doesn't see this committee going anywhere.
12. Old Business
- Andrea reminded council about previous discussion about Nationals in Bakersfield. Brad Stevenson spoke with a member of the LOC. Ski West was willing to rent the lake to the region; Joe Biafora stepped in and wanted to be a part of it and also wanted to have Regionals. From that point on, discussions declined and eventually ceased. Ski West may still have some interest at some point.
13. Action Items
- None from Summer meeting
14. New Business
- Thank you from Barbara Canfield for all of your love and support throughout the years and especially in the past several months.
15. Recommendations to National Board of Directors
- Andrea motioned that our directors recommend at the Board meeting that all AWSA directors support the USAWS name change. Brad Corbin seconded. Discussion followed. Andrea withdrew recommendation because it will already have been voted on at the Board meeting.
 - Greg Badal motioned that we ask safety and rules to evaluate the usage of Goode's new power vest. Tad Scharpf seconded. Use of clincher glove with vest is potentially dangerous and use of the vest could pose an unfair advantage. Nick mentioned that jump sling could fall in same category; Barry mentioned trick harnesses. There are several other mechanical equipment pieces that fall into the safety vs unfair advantage category. 9 in favor; 3 opposed.
16. 2010 Budget – Tad Scharpf: as reported
- Mike Hayes asked about additional Regional Guides as a recruiting means. Request that 10 guides be sent directly to council people. Barry received 50 additional guides this past year. Barry will ask HQ mail the guides directly.
 - Tad motioned to approve; Greg Badal seconded. All in favor.
17. Brad Corbin motioned to adjourn at 4:45 pm; Larry Goodwin seconded.