

AWSA South Central Region
MINUTES: Membership/Council Mid-Winter Meeting
Saturday, 11 January 2014
La Quinta Inn– 10850 Harwin, Houston, Texas

1. Call to Order @ 8:30 AM: Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Gordon Hall, EVP
2. Roll call & introductions (please sign in and update your contact info!):
3. Appointment of Parliamentarian: Lisa Holland appointed as Parliamentarian for the meeting by Gordon Hall
4. Appointment of Secretary: Janet Hooten appointed as Secretary for the meeting by Gordon Hall
5. AGENDA, review and update as needed. No new items added.
6. MINUTES of July 2013 meeting; review and approval: A soft copy of the Draft minutes was included in the meeting handouts. No changes were noted. Motion to approve; None opposed; passed.
7. Councilors and Representation of Clubs - Elgin Faulkner. Elgin reviewed the attendee list and the List of Councilors, and declared that a quorum had been duly established.
8. Regional Recommendations to AWSA Bd. of Directors Mtg.: Julie Krueger volunteered to serve as scribe and record any council-approved recommendations to the AWSA BOD from today's meeting.
9. Treasurers Report - Kathy Ives

1. Who owes Head Tax: As-of today, 25 events still owe regional head tax. About \$2,300 outstanding

2. How to pay head tax. P&P: One check is received from HQ each quarter. Would be nice to have that transmitted electronically. Floyd suggested Pay Pal link be used.

Checking account balance: \$16,000; \$3,500 marked for J.D. After outstanding head taxes collected, should have over \$18,000. The checking account is at TX State Bank; no fees charged.

Joe Darwin - Discussion around reimbursement policy for Directors and Committee Chairs. Is it \$300 per year or per trip? Also what about the \$1 of the head tax that is still listed in the P&P? This has not been practiced for several years now. Council directed the EVP to research the issue and remove the obsolete language and clean up the relevant language in the P&P so there is no conflicting language. (Motion by Bob Mayhew; 2nd by Joe Darwin; passed 13-4)

Minutes, 2014 SCR Mid-Winter Meeting

Motion by Gordon Hall; 2nd by Julie Krueger: clarify that the Director travel reimbursement is \$300 per director per AWSA Board meeting attended. Passes 14-0

Regional Recommendation: Continue to Develop "Go To Meeting" alternatives to in-person meetings, due to significant cost savings.

Budget for 2014: Presented by Kathy. Motion to accept (Jeran; second by Keith Lindemulder); passed.

10. EVP's report – Gordon Hall

- a. AWSA 75th Anniversary – what have we become ??
- b. Renewal rates and attrition
- c. Committees (confirm existing ones; add some new ones: consider adding:
Social Media; Membership Development; Site Risk Management; Regl

Ski League; History):

Guide;

Gordon requested confirmation of all committee heads, and reconfirmation of their desire and commitment to serve as regional committee chairs. Several on the list had not responded to requests for status reports.

Social Media Committee : Motion by Gordon; second by Janet Hooten to create a Social Media Committee that would be responsible for keeping our social media (regional website, Facebook page, and others) active and well populated with frequent content updates and posts. Motion carries. Kathy Ives agreed to chair the cmte. Dan O'Reilly offered to serve on the cmte. Bob Mayhew suggests that council go out and recruit others for this cmte., who are frequent contributors to other social media sites. Suggestions: Jordan Orsak, Todd Leach, Katy Brantley, Melanie Wise, Danielle Dlugosh, Tacey Virgoe, and others.

History Committee: Motion by Gordon to create a History Cmte, with Elgin Faulkner as its chairman and having the title of "SCR Historian." Carries.

Officials Awards: Discussion of status and whereabouts of the perpetual "travelling" plaques for our Officials Awards (Judge, Driver, and Scorers). It was decided and agreed that the physical awards will continue to be awarded. Floyd, as the J&S rep., will take on responsibility for updating and presenting the perpetual "travelling" plaque for the Jeffry Armstrong Judges Award and Scorer's Award. The Driver's perpetual plaque will be similar maintained by Jerry Bautsch. Additionally, the recipients and history of the plaques will be put on the SCR website as a "virtual award".

Regional Guide Committee – Steve Tyler, chair. Production and update of our annual regional Guide.

Membership Development Cmte: After discussion, council decided to incorporate this committee within our existing Grass Roots cmte. To be renamed "Grass Roots/Ski League". Denise Harkins is no longer on the committee. Tacey Virgoe agreed to chair the cmte. Goal being to direct it specifically to grass roots members, and to train new skiers and officials.

10. a. 75th Anniversary of USA WS. Gordon reported on HQ's celebration of our organization's 75th anniversary, and the related initiatives. (Life on the Water marketing campaign).

10. b. Discussion of membership decline. Discussion of why, and how to correct it going forward. Lengthy discussion of ways to market our sport more. Need to provide access to our private sites so that others will catch the bug, just like we did on the public waters of the past. We need to grow, and replace our attrition of non-renewing members with new ones. If not, we will not be able to support our HQ organization, and we will lose the political clout that is so important in preserving our rights to ski on both public and private waters.

11. Committee Reports:

- Waterways

Steve Tyler

In Texas – powerful persons are targeting restrictions on “Amenity Lakes,” saying they should be controlled under extreme restrictions. The planning assumptions that are being used, assume inflated numbers for population growth assumption, resulting in scare tactics arguing that limiting water use is needed now. Private lakes are in the forefront of this discussion. Suggests developing relationships with Groundwater Conservation Districts, Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation District, County Judge... basic any local person or entity that has or may have jurisdiction over your water resources

Also, there is a push in the Texas legislature to put all private lakes under TCEQ rules. May have impact – they want regulatory control of all water in the state (i.e. public and private), with respect to water quality. Presently they do not have this on small reservoirs of less than 200 acre-feet.

Dan O'Reilly told of the issue on Lake Granbury, which has all but dried up as a result of the current prolonged drought in north Texas. It has been considered a constant level lake, but the BRA has over-sold water, resulting in problems. The local ski lake (Lakes at Timber Cove) by working diligently with the BRA, was able to extend water pipes, and actually remain skiable. So working closely with the local authorities is critical.

Stay on good terms with your local authorities.

- Skiers Qualification: Keith Lindemulder

NOPS tables have been adjusted. Use the 2014 tables, now available. Discussion of how overall points are calculated. Cmte looking at different methods to compute rankings for rankings list.

- Judges/Scorers Floyd McCreight

Many accomplishments. The National Sr. Officials Clinic is coming up Feb 8 & 9, in Austin. Virtual Clinic attendance is now allowed and is being done successfully and with great cost savings. Test videos for Tricks – Practical exams have been revamped. Tricks Training videos (over 500 runs) are now available on Gene Davis' YouTube site. New forms for Asst. Judges and Scorers have been promulgated.

Application for Sr. Judge Emeritus for Jerry Woodard: Motion to approve by Gordon, second by Jeran Hooten. Passed unanimously; standing ovation ensued.

Self-Assessments are available online at SCR website; have been updated for 2013. Good to use as a rules refresher.

Requested that Regional council members help to maintain their currency, with both clinic (1 every 4 years) and tournament credits.

Discussed idea of the region buying a Splash Eye system, for use by clubs in tournaments and clinics. Each year's Regionals host could serve as custodian of the system, and arrange loaning it to other sites. Action: will discuss with Peter Dahl (Splash Eye liaison) about this further at the NSOC on Feb 8,9.

Selection of Officials for Regionals: Discussion of names on list, and solicitation of other names to be added (“caucus”) of up and coming, or lesser known officials to include for consideration by the special selection committee, for the last two regional appointed judges positions.

- Rules Bob Mayhew

Presented and discussed the 27 proposals that had been recommended by the Rules Cmte. Lengthy discussion, both pro & con, about the disqualification re-write (Prop. 7); Prop. 11 Boat Path/speed; Prop. 21 Trick course; buoys & who calls bad water.

- Junior Development Julie Krueger for Scott Greenwood

Had 14 applicants received for JD scholarships; results to be announced soon. JD Tournament host for 2014 will be Tri Lakes; date July 11,12, 13, 2014. Raffle underway now; winner to get prize worth \$1000. New member to committee added: Marilyn Larson, replacing Kandise Bertelson.

- Boat Drivers Jerry Bautsch

Jerry discussed the USAWS Trained Driver certification program and how it ties to risk management issues.

Don Butcher has retired his Sr. Driver rating. Many thanks to Don!!

Boats approved for this year: Ski Centurion, MC Prostar, CC200, Malibu TXi

Ron Ives: It is difficult to get the required hours to maintain a Trained Driver rating, since can not drive in tournaments. Asked Jerry to address this with the Risk Management cmte.

- International Activities (IAC) Jerry Bautsch

Sr. Worlds to be at Traver's in Florida. Pan Ams in Bogota, Columbia. Under 13 Team members from SCR: Bailey Grathwohl & Griffin Stange.

- Bylaws Lisa Holland

Lisa is a new member of this national cmte, joining about a month ago, replacing T Caldwell. The Safe Sport initiative of USOC has necessitated some changes to our AWSA bylaws, regarding addition of language to "not tolerate any harassment abuse or misconduct" by coaches or officials.

- Executive Committee (AWSA) Bob Mayhew

GTM (Go To Meeting) conferencing software was used for the recent Exec Cmte meeting; saved an est. \$20K in travel costs, and was well received.

Continuation of earlier discussion on membership decline, and how to invest our resources. We are spending almost all of our allocated funds from USAWS to send the Elite Team to Bogota, Columbia... is this the most efficient investment of our funds? Should part or all of be used on other membership initiatives? e.g. social media, high quality webcast of high end events, reach-outs to boat dealers, etc. Which ones? And who will do it? HQ has said they don't have the money or the human resources to execute.

- Regional Guide Steve Tyler

This year we're offering "Shout Out!" ads or "Way to Go Ads" at reduced prices. Please offer these to your friends and club members. We have again been allocated about \$5K from HQ for printing of the hardcopy Guide, so it costs the region nothing. We get 40 pages in the National guide.

Not present/no report:

- Towboat/speed control Mike Hamilton
- Grass Roots (Novice) Denise Harkins
- Seeding Melissa Peterson
- Technical Jim Thompson
- Safety Terry Dlugosh

12. Other Items:

Online registration: Lisa Derasaugh suggests that skiers must designate their Class (i.e. C,E,L or R) at the time of registration.

2014 Nationals: Contract with LOC (SMRR) should be signed soon; in final negotiations with HQ. The LOC committee (Tina Lindsey & SMRR POA) is meeting regularly and preparing for a spectacular event.

A professional tent vendor is offering nice big tents, available for rent by regions, cost \$625 for a 30 x 30 tent. Steve Tyler motions to rent an SCR tent; Keith L., seconds, unanimously carries. Big Dog finals will be under the lights, will include both men and women this year.

HQ Policies: The online sanctioning system has been modified. Now anyone can put a tournament online; the EVP approval is no longer required for it to be viewed on the web. EVP approval is still required before the sanction is actually approved, though.

Area schedule coordinators: Gordon requested clarification of who the area tournament schedule were and of the process for scheduling tournaments within each area of the region. After discussion, the following list was composed:

Houston – John Giordano
Central Texas – Ron Ives
North Texas – Tom Bugg/Blaine Bridgeford/Linda Springs. Gordon asked that just one person be designated
Oklahoma – Patti Bray
Louisiana – Joe Darwin
Mississippi – Bubba Powell

13. Approval of tournament schedule for 2014

Discussion as to whether it is now necessary for Regional Council to approve the tournament schedule, as required in the P&P. Gordon to present proposed revision to P&P at next meeting.

14. Directors reports/comments:

Joe Darwin – no additional items
Julie Krueger – no additional items
Keith Lindemulder – no additional items

15. New business:

None.

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn (Keith L, second by Jerry Bautsch); carries; adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Janet Hooten; transcribed by Gordon Hall

*** APPROVED BY SCR REGIONAL COUNCIL 7/25/2014 ***