

2022 Eastern Region Winter Meeting Minutes January 8th, 2022

Call To Order

Virtual meeting called to order by EVP Karen Melnik at 9:10 AM.

Meeting total attendees: 43

Council Roll Call

Connecticut - Matt Byrne

Delaware – Brett Brandau

Massachusetts – Dave Allen

Maryland – Diana Olinger

New Hampshire – Becky Bartlett

New Jersey – Bill Fosbenner

New York – Dean Rudy, George Vosburgh

Pennsylvania – John Davis, Gary Noll

Virginia – Amy Craig, Wick Merchant

Vermont – Justin Campfield

Treasurer's Report – Heather Burroughs

Treasurer will complete transfer of treasury to Bank First

\$45,000 total assets, cash flow \$1,700 at the end of 2021.

The single largest expense item was the reimbursement of clinic fees.

Motion to accept report – Ralph Hall, 2nd Bill Fosbener, motion carried

Motion to remove \$250 guidebook fee from 2022 budget – Tonya Maurer, 2nd Matt Byrne, motion carried.

EVP will appoint a committee to look into additional revenue streams.

Motion to accept 2022 budget – Tonya Maurer, 2nd Ralph Hall, motion carried.

Rules Committee – Dave Allen, Gary Knoll, Chip Shand

Discussion and agreement to all rules committee recommendations and full report.

Motion to accept report – Tonya Maurer, 2nd Amy Craig, motion carried

Policies and Procedures – Karen Melnik and Jim Powell

Discussion of council makeup and number of reps per state.

Motion to table – John Thacher, 2nd John Wilkins, motion carried.

Karen Melnik will appoint a committee to consider options for State representation on Council

Discussion of junior qualifications for regionals tournament.

Motion to update junior qualifications as follows: Boys and Girls 4 and 5 – Level 6, Boys and Girls 3 – Level 5. – Tonya Maurer, 2nd John Wilkins, motion carried.

Motion to align regionals qualification cutoff date with nationals cutoff date – Jim Powell, 2nd Diana Olinger, motion carried.

Timberlake Bid for 2022 Eastern Regionals – Jim and TG Powell

Discussion of Timberlake bid

Move to accept the bid – Bill Baker, 2nd Doug Robbins, motion carried

Approved Regionals Officials

Chief Judge – Sarah Lemley (requires permission from SR EVP)

Assistant Chief Judge – Open

Chief Driver – Marie Fields

Chief Safety – Karen Melnik

Assistant Chief Safety – Jeannie Rivers

Chief Scorer – Dave Allen

Chief Announcer – Bill Mahan

Technical Controller – Chip Shand

Appointed Pan Am Judge – Bill Baker

Appointed Judge – Kevin Driggers

Appointed Judge – Ralph Hall

Appointed Judge – Jon Thacher

Appointed Judge – Open

Appointed Judge – Open

Alternate Judge – Wick Merchant

Appointed Driver – Al Harris

Appointed Driver – Doug Robbins

Appointed Driver – Dan Warner

Appointed Scorer – Becky Bartlett

Appointed Scorer – Open

Two additional judges and one scorer are needed, Karen Melnik and Tonya Maurer to pursue eligible candidates

2022 Nationals at Mystic Lakes

Approved ER Nationals Officials

Appointed Judge – Open

Appointed Judge – Open

Appointed Driver – Al Harris

Appointed Driver – Matt Byrne (split)

Appointed Driver – Dan Warner (split)

Assistant Chief Scorer – Dave Allen

Appointed Scorer – TG Powell

Appointed Safety – Karen Melnik

Appointed Announcer – Jim Powell

Two additional judges from ER are needed, Karen Melnik and Tonya Maurer will pursue eligible candidates

Eastern Region State Reports

Connecticut – Matt Byrne

In a challenging weather year, which caused a number of tournaments to be canceled or rescheduled, Connecticut was still able to host a successful regionals tournament. Planning to schedule a record capability tournament for slalom and jump and hope to host a Junior Development clinic.

Delaware – Brett Brandau

Expecting to hold two or three tournaments in 2022. Focusing on officials development. Juniors have been stepping up to take on more responsibility.

Massachusetts – Dave Allen

Pleased to announce that the Massachusetts States will be held in the State in 2022. Planning to do a Junior Development clinic in 2022 and provide financial backing for same.

Virginia – Wick Merchant

Lohr's Lake hosted an R tricks tournament and also celebrated the 50th anniversary of Lohr's Lake. Hosted a well attended Junior Development clinic and safety clinic with over 30 attendees.

Maryland – Diana Olinger

Had a successful State's tournament in 2021 and are planning another for 2022. Working on trying to pull in USA-WSWS non-tournament skiers. Maryland has offered to supply personnel support for the 2022 Eastern Regionals.

New Hampshire – Scott Behner

Held six tournaments with three being full. Planning a schedule of eight tournaments in 2022, including one womens' tournament and a juniors-only tournament. Legislative successes included being able to leave buoys in place, a safe wakes initiative, and additional safety measures.

New Jersey – Bill Fosbenner

Held five tournaments in 2021. Unfortunately, the State lost one lake site. Juniors are becoming more involved in official roles.

New York – Dean Rudy

Held a very successful States tournament linked to a successful Junior Development clinic. Will use the same format for States/Junior Development in 2022. Twin Lakes experienced a difficult season due to construction affecting their water level. Construction is now complete and they are looking forward to a good 2022 season. Pangaea is planning two record tournaments in 2022.

Pennsylvania – John Davis

Hosted four tournaments in 2021 and expect to do the same in 2022.

Vermont – Justin Campfield

Have been emphasizing officials development and hope to add three to four new officials in 2022. The Allen Rossi award went to Chip Jones of New Hampshire. Will be making their annual contribution to Eastern Region Junior Development on behalf of Allen Rossi.

SafeSport

Discussion of impacts of SafeSport requirements. Thank you to Karen Melnik, Doug Robbins, and Jeff Hardin for clarification and explanation of SafeSport policy requirements. Additional explanatory information will be available, such as who will need a background check, after January 31st. No action taken. Karen Melnik will solicit via email the position of Councilpersons regarding AWSA's recommendation to USA-WSWS BOD.

Regional Guidebook

"2021 guidebook only available via PDF from the Eastern Region website. PDF can be printed by individuals but will not be mass-printed." Tonya Mauer will edit language of P&P to account for the elimination of paper guidebook.

Regional Junior Development

Eastern All Star Team won the All Star competition at the 2021 Nationals. The new Junior Development coordinator is Becky Bartlett. Contact Becky for clinic schedule, sanctions and reimbursements for 2022. A big thanks to TG Powell for her contribution to Junior Development in the past years.

Regional Nominating Committee

Motion for election of National Director to be retroactive to 7/23/2021. Motion to have Ralph Hall serve again as director - motion by Bill Baker, 2nd Jim Powell, motions carried.

Regional Records – Chip Shand

The records are up to date as of this meeting. Any additional records set in future can be submitted to him for record keeping.

Regionals Site Search – John Davis

Dave's pond and Pangaea Puddle are considering proposing their sites for future regionals.

Regional Tournament Coordination – Bill Fosbenner

Discussion of deadlines for tournament sanction submissions. Bill encourages States and clubs to submit to him their tournament schedules by December 15th, and to complete sanctioning by January 31st to avoid last minute scrambles.

AWSA National Committees

Executive – Karen Melnik

Discussion of Winter meeting sites live, virtual or combined. No action taken.

Awards – Karen Melnik

Becky Bartlett will replace Karen Melnik as committee head.

Boat Drivers – Al Harris

Driver upgrade test completed paperwork must go through regional committee rep. Drivers now receive driving credit when serving as Assistant Chief Driver if they actually drive in the tournament. Drivers may now earn one driving credit per year for driving in a sanctioned Basic Skills skier clinic or Grassroots event. Foreign certification information has been added to the Drivers' Policy Manual.

Bylaws – Karen Melnik

We need someone to replace Karen for this committee. Updated language in the Eastern Region's Bylaws to reflect an updated USA-WSWS code of conduct will be available soon and will need to be approved by Council.

Insurance Advisory – Jon Thacher

No report, no action taken.

IAC – Doug Robbins

Reported tournament results for 2021.

Judges and Scorers Qualification – Dean Rudy

Revised testing materials are coming. Discussion of judge's info as concerns older and non-US judges.

Safety – Pat Byrne

We've had no response from the national committee regarding our recommendations concerning safety of skier handles. We need to press for a response on this.

Show Ski – Pat Byrne

Pat will report show ski's position on Safe Sport.

Technical – Chip Shand

Discussion of Sure-Path BPMS. Regions were asked to submit their position on requiring use of BPMS for slalom in all record-capability tournaments, and whether it should be used to determine rerides. Motion to require use of BPMS for slalom in all record-capability tournaments, but for information only regarding rerides, except that LOC's may decide to use it to determine rerides if the boat path is out of tolerance at 38 off or shorter line lengths. - Chip Shand, 2nd John Wilkins, motion carried.

Towboat – Brett Brandau

The LOC's responsibility for towboat damage is increased from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 or the towboat's insurance deductible, whichever is less. Any towboat equipped with ZeroOff may now be used for "C" tournaments without towboat committee approval. There was discussion of towboat availability for future tournaments, but no action came out of the discussion.

Waterways – Amy Craig

General discussion, no actions.

AWSA Executive Item – Karen Melnik

Discussion of reimbursement to officials for National meeting attendance. No action as 2022 budget approved for this expense.

New Business

Jim Powell requests all local tournaments notify their participants if the participant's performance at that tournament qualifies them for Regionals or Nationals.

Jim Powell mentioned that there is professional coaching available in Eastern Region at Peace, Love and Waterskiing in Virginia.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Peggy and Al Harris
January 23rd, 2022

