

## 2023 Winter Meeting Minutes

**Start time** – 9:04

1) **Appointment of Secretary** – (Karen Melnik)

2) **Roll call** (see list from State Reports)

3) **Review agenda – motion to waive reading of minutes** (A. Craig moved; D. Olinger second; no objection; motion passes)

4) **Treasurer Report** (Heather Burroughs)

a. Review 2022 year-end; reviewed Executive Summary, cash flow: projected a loss but had a surplus of \$3800. Top reasons were some unplanned fundraising (went to Jr. Dev. Account), and main operating account came in below budget because there was no Jr. travel expenses submitted for reimbursement. The Region supported 89 clinic attendees. Total expense \$4200 (biggest expense was for Nationals webcast – AWSA recognizes that this expense is not sustainable).

b. Budget Items for 2023 - \$1,000 budgeted for EVP discretionary spending; otherwise, kept budget similar to 2022. Guidebook expense removed. Motion for travel of National Directors to AWSA/USA-WSWS Winter Meeting (\$500/per Director): M. Byrne moved; D. Robbins second; no objection; motion passes. Discussion of 7.1 Fund Balance Policy; EVP to create a Special Committee to discuss possible use of surplus funds. Renewal of web domain and budget funds for web hosting approved; Jr. Dev. travel (\$3,000 budgeted or 2023); discussion to raise ER contribution to Jr. Dev. clinics; Heather indicated that making it a recurring cost will cause the ER to run a budgeted deficit. Jr. Dev. funds can be utilized by LOC at Regionals to host events for Juniors. The Jr. Dev. account currently has \$11,661.18 (not commingled with ER budget). However, the Jr. Travel falls under ER general account.

- D. Robbins moves to acknowledge 2023 budget; M. Byrne seconds; no objection; motion passes.

5) **Rules Committee** / Rules Proposals (David Allen) – See Rules Committee Report. Clarified eligibility for foreign skiers participating at US Nationals and setting records. Currently, foreign nationals are not eligible for Nationals if they competed for another federation where US team participated in those events in last two year. Because Covid caused the cancellation of some events, some skiers didn't participate with their foreign federation, but had previously done so and would in the future. World Championships: if skier participated in last event under a foreign Federation, then not eligible until after the next one that skier did not participate. New rule takes out specification of two-years' limitation and substitutes it for event to event. Skier must be US citizen to participate in US Nationals. There is still some discussion about whether foreign skiers can participate in U.S. Nationals, but not for placement (LOC's discretion, must be in bid proposal). Changes in speed slalom; ramp heights, e.g., men's 9 to increase speed (approved

recommendation to full AWSA Board). Survey being conducted to determine the interest of those participating in M9. Question regarding whether AWSA is going to adjust to conform with IWWF max speeds. Because of zero-based scoring, AWSA Rules Committee does not feel the need to conform to IWWF. Issue raised regarding whether Junior age divisions will remain. There's no structured proposal at this time. The Rules Committee is waiting to see how things go.

## 6) Regionals

a. 2024 – Timberlake Bid (Jim Powell)

b. 2023/24 – Avon bid (Matt Byrne)

Avon needs 2-year commitment; however, is willing to amend current bid to 2023 and 2025, if guaranteed to reserve the right to revisit entry fees for 2025. Everything else would stay the same. Avon is not paying for housing appointed officials, but agreed to discuss with club whether some officials could be hosted at club members' homes. Rule 7.3.5 (for promoting Juniors at regionals, reduction of 25%). Avon's bid is as presented, but may be adjusted for a 25% reduction for Jr. per the P&Ps. Jon Thacher raised that Avon's bid is contrary to the P&P3.1.3 because it does not provide for officials' housing.

Motion to accept the bids as written, but with the adjustment that Avon's bid is for 2023 and 2025 (rather than 2024), with stipulation that Avon reserves the right to revisit 2025 entry fees, and noting that Avon's bid does not comply with P&Ps as it does not include officials' hotel accommodations. Timberlake's bid for 2024 with adjustment for Jr. entry fee being reduced by 25%. Tonya made motion; second Justin Campfield second; each council member voiced their individual approval of the motion; motion passed unanimously.

## 7) Vote on Officials – (Teller: T. Maurer)

a. 2023 Regionals Officials (in addition to Chiefs):

i. Judges (6 app't: R. Hall, E. Robbins, C. Jones, G. Vosburgh, B. Cirilli)

ii. Drivers (3 app't: D. Robbins, D. Warner, C. Maurer)

iii. Scorers (2 app't: T. Maurer, R. Bartlett) Karen moves to accept; Amy seconds; no objection; motion passes.

iv. Safety (1 app't: J. Wilkins) K. Melnik moves; A. Craig seconds; no objection; motion passes

\*aspiring official: Scott Bellefeuille

b. Nationals Officials

i. Judges (R. Hall, D. Knight, \*B. Cooper (if we don't get two ER volunteers) K. Melnik moves; D. Robbins seconds with latitude for EVP to appoint another 3-event Senior; no objection; motion passes

ii. Scorer (R. Bartlett, D. Allen) K. Melnik moves; J. Wilkins seconds; no objection; motion passes

iii. Drivers (D. Robbins) – M. Byrne and D. Warner will consider volunteering. Karen moves as to D. Robbins; Amy seconds; no objection; motion passes

**\*\*LUNCH BREAK – 20 minutes**

**8) AWSA Eastern Region Committee Reports (Council Members in italics)**

a. Regional States

- i. CT *Matt Byrne*, (reported on tournaments) Hutch Haines, Pat Byrne, Dan Warner, Tonya Warner, Bill Cirilli
- ii. DE *Don Nichols*, (preparing for regularly scheduled tournament) Susan Maximus
- iii. MA *Dave Allen* (held MA State tournament for first time in few years; no plan for 2023 at the moment; have many skiers, but not an active tournament site), Mike Tilton
- iv. MD *Diana Olinger* (reported by Karen Melnik: Md States held at Lake Chaney; plans to host it again; asked about splitting MD championships between sites so that jump can be included as Lake Chaney doesn't have a jump)
- v. ME
- vi. NH *Scott Behner* (added an all-women's tournament; Mastercraft as promo in NH; Chip Jones provided Malibu – Bartlett is new promo person; Behner will have Nautique for Regionals – the only Nautique available in ER; hosted Jr. Dev. clinic and hope to continue), Becky Bartlett
- vii. NJ *Bill Fosbenner* (have 3 active clubs; no promo boats in our general area; Dividing Creek site available for sale)
- viii. NY *Erin Peckam* (five lakes hosting; a sixth lake built and getting ready for tournaments; another new lake near Syracuse forming, 12 tournaments in 2022, dam at Twin Lakes replaced and skiing resumes), Dean Rudy, Mike Schelhamer, John Wilkins
- ix. PA *John Davis* (2023 will host 5 tournaments, three will be 3-event) Gary Noll, Don Christman, Doug Robbins
- x. VA *Amy Craig* (7 tournaments planned, possibly 9; will host Jr. Dev.; Bear Lake Princess tournament – all women will be back in 2023; Ken Mead Memorial tournament will be now a 3-event Pioneers (Legends) Tournament to honor those who made significant contributions to our sport; lost two this year – Jerry Stansberry and Ron Ramsey; stellar Jr. athletes who are participating in international events and in the Jr. Dev. program), Steve & Ann Lohr, Al Harris, Roger Hammel, Jim, Powell, Heather Burroughs, Adele Caputo
- xi. VT *Justin Campfield* (hosting State Championship weekend before Labor Day; administer Alan Rossi fund – looking to host Jr. Dev. clinic; looking to develop new officials); Dave Allen noted Justin's hard work on the Northeast Slalom Series, which culminates in a head-to-head competition at Pangea on Labor Day weekend. Justin notes Dana Hinman and Scott Behner's contributions.

b. Regional Jr Development (Rebecca Bartlett) kudos to TG Powell for helping with transition to Becky; 2022 Regionals helped raise money to fund Jr. Dev. party for 2023; creating a new poster to include all of the juniors; trying to develop clinic for northern part of Region, perhaps at Pangea; All-Stars team won first place at Nationals for last two years; trying to procure swag for these junior skiers; only Region that doesn't send juniors to warmer climate in Spring for a clinic; EVP to appoint Special Committee on how to spend Jr. Dev. money.

c. Regional Nominating (John Wilkins)

- Treasurer – Adele Caputo (D. Allen motion to accept nomination; M. Byrne second; no objection, motion passes (and she's a 3-event Senior Judge)

d. Regional Records (Chip Shand) refer to TC report; (Tonya indicates that TC clinic on February 18, 2023 (online)

e. Regional Search/Site (John Davis) Need to appreciate that ER has a commitment for the next 3 years for Regional Championships – never happened before. Looking to encourage more clubs to host Regionals. Becky inquired about running a Regionals in NH area at two LOCs.

f. Regional Tournament Coordinator (Bill Fosbenner) please put sanctions online so Bill can put together a calendar. We had 48 tournaments in 2022; had 50 before Covid so close to pre-Covid numbers

## 9) AWSA National Committees

a. Executive (Karen Melnik) – size of Nationals moving forward; asked for people to send thoughts by email. Do we want it to be more elite? Should qualifying be made more difficult?

b. Awards (Rebecca Bartlett) AWSA expanded awards to having both top female and male categories for each discipline - slalom, trick, jump

c. Boat Drivers (Al Harris) policy manual update: masters rated skiers to take fast-path; March 11 Driver's Clinic (hosted online by Al and Marie Fields) at 10:00a.m. An email will go out to all ER drivers; can serve as maintenance clinic. Project underway for portal to allow people to pull up their own Sure Path results (in very early stages) and perhaps be visible to others on a need to know basis.

d. By Laws (Mike Tilton) added Announcer's Special Committee to AWSA P&Ps.

e. Insurance Advisory (Jeff Hardin) not on call; D. Robbins reports that it was fairly dormant as no pressing issues.

f. IAC (Doug Robbins) ER has done very well in international competitions; Elite Worlds in 2023 at Jack Travers;

g. Judges & Scorers Qualifications (TG Powell) D. Allen noted Judges & Scorers Clinic on February 19, 2023 at 1-3pm; encouraging Drivers and Scorers attend because a lot of moving pieces to Sure Path; in the process of updating the Regular and Senior Scorers tests; updated release of WISTEMS. D. Rudy noted that issue arises where judges are rated, but do not know the rules. Committee trying to come up with ideas for testing/validation that the judge still has the skills; perhaps like continuing education. T. Maurer noted that it would be helpful to have statistics on officials' ratings, so we can encourage folks to upgrade, and also see how many we're losing and gaining.

h. Safety (Pat Byrne) raised the issue of whether there should be any additional safety protocols in light of fentanyl; Committee concluded that it's beyond the scope of water skiing tournaments.

i. Seeding (Jennifer Frederick-Kelly) not on call

j. Show Skiing (Pat Byrne) no update

k. Skiers Qualification (Dana Hinman) – not on call

l. Technical (Chip Shand) see report

m. Towboats (Matt Byrne) nothing new to report; no testing this year

n. Waterways (Amy Craig) nothing from the National Committee. Amy advises that if you ski on a public waterway, try to be diplomatic as the ability to water ski on public lakes is diminishing.

o. Announcer's (Jim Powell) – Chair of AWSA Announcer's Committee; going to start training program.

10) **USA-WSWS Executive** (Doug Robbins)

a. Membership cycle – Show Skiing trying to align membership dates with calendar; safe sport/MVR renewal – basis of ask is go back to annual renewal; the reason it went to rolling is because newer members only got a half year and no way to pro rate the membership. It can be done differently by sports discipline. Respond to survey or send D. Robbins an email.

11) **Regional recommendations** for AWSA Board Meeting (Jan. 28, 2023)

Regional rec. for submitting requests to Rules Committee: requests should go to Regional Rep of the Rules Committee of the respective region first, then Rules Committee rep. can present request to the Regional Council, before submission to the National Committee.

12) **Old Business** – evaluating Regional awards (the physical awards) – TG/Karen working towards having a master plaque to replace individual big physical awards

13) **New Business**

a. **Policy & Procedures** (Karen Melnik) – nothing in P&Ps and Bylaws regarding how appointments to National Committees are made. D. Robbins moves to amend P&Ps to permit EVP the authority to appoint representatives to National Committees (Council approval not required), T. Mauer seconds, no objection; motion passes.

b. modifying P&Ps regarding number of officials LOC must host during Regionals (not addressed at meeting)

c. EVP to appoint Special Committee to consider how to spend portion of cash reserve pursuant to P&P 7.1 Fund Balance Policy

d. Funding Directors' travel to Winter Meeting- budgeted for 4 people (approved under Treasurer's Report)

13) **2024 Eastern Region Winter Meeting** – location? Zoom meeting preferred

14) **EVP Awards**

Super Beast Award presented to the young adult that has shown the highest level of volunteerism through the season or at the Eastern Regional Tournament. Need not be an AWSA official. This years' recipients are Marissa and Stephanie Shand for their outstanding contributions to the 2022 Eastern Regionals and other Virginia tournaments throughout the 2022 season; and Victor Moisan, for his outstanding contributions to the 2022 Massachusetts State Championship and other tournaments in New England throughout the 2022 season.

2:56pm Doug moves to adjourn; Tonya seconds; no objection; motion passes