

**2010 USA Water Ski Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
USA Water Ski Headquarters, Polk City, Florida
January 31, 2010**

(Minutes recorded by Melanie Hanson and edited by Don Bucher and Jim Grew)

Board Members in Attendance: Brenda Baldwin – AAC Rep. (substitute for Alex Lauretano), Rhoni Barton Bischoff – AAC Rep, Don Bucher – Chair, Sara Chappell – Secretary/Treasurer, Gene Davis – AWSA S (incoming), Tom Ghiloni – VP/HND, Jim Grew – President, John Haile – AAC Rep, Randy Hocking – AWSA W, Mike King – NWSRA (substitute for Gary Heinbuch), Dan Levine – USA-WB, Gerry Luiting – NSSA, Bob Mayhew – AWSA SC, Joe Ray – AAC Rep, Doug Robbins – AWSA E, Mike Royal – WSDA (incoming), Sherm Schraft – NSSA/HND, Brad Scott – USHA, Roger Skalko – NCWSA (alternate), Dale Stevens – ABC (incoming), Kenny Stuart – AKA (incoming), Jeff Surdej – AWSA MW.

Absent: None.

Committee Chairs in Attendance: Jeff Clark – Bylaws/HND, Tom Ghiloni – Ethics/Nominating/Time & Place, Jim Grew – Executive, Leon Larson – Waterways, Sherm Schraft – Awards.

Honorary National Directors in Attendance (in addition to the above): Andrea Plough.

Headquarters' Staff in Attendance: Scott Atkinson – Communications Director, Melanie Hanson – Membership Programs Director, Steve Upp – Director of Business Development and Partnerships, Brandon Wolf – Competition Director.

Affiliate Organizations in Attendance: Larry Meddock – WSIA.

Alternate Board Members in Attendance: Janifer Ellis – USA-WB.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

1. Opening

2. Call to Order

3. Announcements, Introductions and Roll Call

Board members introduced themselves and stated their position on the board.

4. Appointment of Parliamentarian

Jeff Clark was appointed as Parliamentarian.

- **Motion** to allow committee chairs, Headquarters' staff and alternate board members to join the meeting as necessary – **approved.**

- **Motion** to allow any action items coming from committee reports to have an automatic second – **approved.**

5. Announcement of Quorum and Number of Votes

Jeff Clark, Bylaws Committee Chair, noted the following voting changes for 2010-11: ABC – 3 to 2 votes, AWSA – 40 to 39 votes, NCWSA – 4 to 5 votes and NSSA – 21 to 22 votes.

6. Review and Approval of January 2009 Board Minutes

- **Motion** to accept January 2009 Board minutes – **approved.**

7. Ratification of Mail Board Ballots

- **Motion** to ratify mail board ballots – **approved.**

*** New directors took their seats.

8. Bylaws Committee Chair Special Report – Policies and Procedures Review

- **Motion** to accept all action items as presented – **approved.**

9. Review and Approval of Agenda

- **Motion** to accept agenda – **approved.**

10. Nominating Committee Report – Tom Ghiloni, Chair

a. Election of Officers

Chairman of the Board – Don Bucher
President – Jim Grew
Vice President – Tom Ghiloni
Secretary/Treasurer – Sara Chappell

Don Bucher requested nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

- **Motion** to approve the slate of officers as presented above – **approved.**

Honorary National Directors (HNDs)

Doug Koch (ABC)
Jim Jaquess (AWSA)
Doris Rohner (AKA)

- **Motion** to approve the slate of Honorary National Directors as presented above – **approved.**

Jim noted that USA Water Ski congratulates these individuals and thanks them for their years of service.

b. **Seating of New Officers** – They were seated.

11 & 12. Former and New President's Report – Jim Grew, President

Jim stated that with Steve Locke's weekly reports, his report two weeks prior to the meeting and the most comprehensive packets ever - one sent out after the Executive Committee meeting before Christmas, the second ten days ago for this meeting on Jan. 20, the BOD has never had so much information. With thanks to Steve Locke, he believed that communication and transparency have been much improved over the past two years.

13. Executive Committee Report – Jim Grew, Chair

Refer to written report included in the BOD packet.

- **Motion** to approve the Guest/Basic Skills Membership Consolidation proposal as presented – **approved**.
- **Motion** to approve the revised towboat license fee structure proposal as presented – **approved**.
- **Motion** to approve the elimination of family supporting dependent memberships as presented – **not approved**.

TASK: HQ's Membership Department will reinstate the family supporting dependent membership type as soon as possible.

TASK: HQ's Membership Department will conduct a comprehensive review of USA-WS' membership structure and fees, with input and suggestions from SD Presidents and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for consideration at their April 2010 meeting and subsequent BOD approval, for implementation in 2011.

- **Motion** to approve the NGB name change proposal as presented – **not approved (46 in favor, 53 against)**.

14. Executive Director's Report – Jim Grew, President

Jim provided the BOD with an update on the Executive Director search. The Search Committee has conducted numerous phone interviews and, as a result, narrowed the pool of over 120 applicants to four potential candidates. The committee will be conducting in-person interviews at USA Water Ski HQ on Feb. 16-18, 2010. A majority of the USA-WS Executive Committee members will be on hand for the interviews, and USA-WS HQ staff will also have the opportunity to meet with the candidates. Following the interviews, the Search Committee will select a candidate for approval by the Executive Committee and BOD. A conference call is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 18, in the afternoon. The

BOD will be notified in advance and sent the necessary information as determined by the Search and Executive Committees in time for that call. Once the candidate has been approved, the Search Committee will move forward to present the candidate with a job offer.

15. Treasurer's Report – Sara Chappell, Treasurer

Refer to written report included in the BOD packet.

- **Motion** to approve the 2010 proposed budget, in concept as a balanced budget, as presented – **approved**.

Gene Davis asked if it were possible to receive a budget divided out by SD particularly as refers to the National Championships. Jim assured Gene that Bobbie Razor would try to provide Gene with whatever info he was seeking upon request.

16. Committee Reports

All committee reports were unanimously approved by the BOD as submitted unless otherwise indicated.

- a. Awards** – Sherm Schraft, Chair: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Sherm thanked his committee for their prompt responses. Don congratulated everyone who had a part in the organization of the excellent Awards Presentation the prior evening.
- b. Bylaws** – Jeff Clark, Chair: Review written report included in the BOD packet.
 - **Motion** to approve the proposed changes to the USA Water Ski Bylaws as presented – **approved**.
 - **Motion** to approve the proposed changes to the USA Water Ski Policies and Procedures as presented – **approved**.
- c. Ethics** – Tom Ghiloni, Chair: No Report.
- d. International Activities** – Frank Harrison, Chair (absent): No Report. Jim stated that the next Pan Am Games are taking place in 2011; and both AWSA and USA-WB would be submitting team selection procedures for BOD approval early next year if not sooner.
- d. Judicial** – Jeff Smith, Chair (absent): Review written report included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew added that HQ's Competition Department is in the process of putting procedures in place to keep this situation (a tournament going forward without final approval, i.e., unsanctioned) from occurring again in the future.
- f. Risk Management/Safety** – Jeff Smith, Chair (absent) presented by Tom Ghiloni: Tom passed out the committee report. He apologized for not providing the report to the BOD in advance of the meeting, but the committee just met face-to-face at HQ on Friday. This report will be distributed with Jim's immediate post meeting summary.

- **Motion** to approve the committee’s recommendation on the USA-WS driving certification program as presented – **approved.**
- **Motion** to approve the committee’s recommendation on the USA-WS safety coordinator certification program as presented – **approved.**

Jim Grew added that, with Brad Scott’s assistance, USA-WS is applying for a \$42,000 grant from the U.S. Coast Guard for the creation of new materials for the classroom portion of our existing safety course and offer it online.

Leon Larson noted that, as approved by the BOD in 2009, the annual safety statistics summary/overview was not included in the committee’s Midwinter meeting report, rather will be compiled around March 1, 2010 and distributed to the BOD. This extended deadline allows HQ additional time to collect any missing or incomplete safety reports and present more complete and accurate statistical data.

g. Time & Place – Tom Ghiloni, Chair: Review written report included in the BOD packet.

- **Motion** to approve Jan. 29, 2012 as the date for the 2012 USA-WS BOD Meeting, to be held at USA-WS Headquarters in Polk City, FL – **approved.**

h. Towboat –George Lindy, Chair (absent): Review written report included in the BOD packet.

i. USOC Centralized Funding/USOC Status – Frank Harrison, NGB/USOC Representative (absent) and Rhoni Barton-Bischoff, AAC/USOC Representative: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew congratulated Regina Jaquess, the recipient of the USOC’s prestigious Jack Kelly Fair Play Award based upon an act of sportsmanship she displayed at the 2009 U.S. Water Ski Team Trials in June 2009. The award was established by the USOC in 1985 to honor the late USOC President and Olympic medalist Jack Kelly. Each year, the award is presented to a single athlete, coach or official in recognition of an outstanding act of fair play and sportsmanship. This was a first for one of our athletes and was the lone award presented at this particular awards ceremony, quite an honor for our sport.

Jim assured the BOD, that although Steve Locke has resigned as Executive Director, Steve will continue to work toward regaining funding from the USOC for Pan Am Sports. Jim added that Andres Botero, a long time supporter for the full participation of water skiing in the Olympics and the prior IWWF President, was recently elected to membership in the International Olympic Committee. Andres communicated to Kuno Ritschard, current President of IWWF, that the organization should make every effort to be more “green” and environmentally friendly. As a result, he feels that, at this point in time, cable skiing and wakeboarding would be our best opportunity for becoming part of the Olympics. Rhoni affirmed that, as the USOC Representative, she never received this information and asked that she and Frank be copied on all such correspondence.

TASK: Jim Grew will ensure that Rhoni and Frank are provided with all relevant information from the IWWF concerning Olympic participation and related matters.

- j. **Waterways** – Leon Larson, Chair: Review written report included in the BOD packet.

TASK: HQ Competition Department will ensure that they continue to include the IWWF Environmental Brochure in all tournament kits mailed out from HQ. Leon will provide more copies as needed.

17. Sports Disciplines' and Related Organizations' Reports

- a. **Athlete Advisory Council (AAC)** – Freddy Krueger, Chair (absent): No Report.
- b. **American Water Ski Educational Foundation (AWSEF)** – Carole Lowe, Executive Director (absent) presented by Jim Grew: Review written report and membership form included in the BOD packet. Jim requested that the sport discipline boards of directors make every effort to distribute information to their respective constituents on the scholarships available through the AWSEF.
- c. **Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)** – Larry Meddock, Executive Director: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew thanked Larry for his attendance at the meeting and conveyed how much USA Water Ski appreciates his valuable input. Jim stated that USA-WS is supporting, as a sponsor, WSIA's 2010 Summit in the Snow to be held Feb. 22-24, 2010 in Park City, Utah.

Larry also provided the following two suggestions:

- Given the fact that tube sales account for 40% of the equipment market, USA-WS should contact their insurance underwriters to inquire whether they would be willing to offer a "rider" to those individuals who purchase tubes to buy additional liability insurance as they ride the tube. Larry also suggested that there be a prerequisite that these individuals become members of USA-WS on some basic level to be eligible for this benefit. USA-WS could provide a hang tag or some other form of information to the tube manufacturers that would explain the benefits of this program.
- The BOD knows that the USCG is pushing very hard for hands-on education. The BOD also knows that Shannon Starling has a USCG and NASBLA approved hands-on education program available (iDrive). Again, Larry suggested that USA-WS contact its insurance underwriters to inquire whether they would be willing to offer boat drivers who take a USA-WS endorsed iDrive course a discount on the cost of their insurance. The driver would be required to join USA-WS at some special rate for this benefit. Larry knows that the boat companies would be in favor of this kind of program because it drives customers through the dealer. It would also help the boat manufacturers with their own liability if the boat manufacturers can show their underwriters the steps they are taking to minimize boating accidents.

Larry stated that USA-WS would have the full cooperation of the WSIA if they were to pursue any or both of these ideas.

TASK: HQ will forward Larry's suggestions to ESIX, USA-WS's insurance agent, for their review and recommendations with regard to the feasibility of implementing these two programs.

- d. **American Kneeboard Association (AKA)** – Kenny Stuart, President: Review written report included in the BOD packet.
- e. **USA Wakeboard (USA-WB)** – Dan Levine, USA-WB BOD: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Dan stated that USA-WB is strongly supporting cable wakeboarding and will be sending a team to the cable worlds this year. He added that there are six new cable sites currently under construction in the U.S.
- f. **American Barefoot Club (ABC)** – Dale Stevens: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew congratulated Keith St. Onge on being awarded the 2009 IWWF Male Athlete of the Year. Keith was chosen from the winners out of all IWWF disciplines. This is the first time Keith has received this prestigious award and the only barefoot athlete to win the award to date.
- g. **National Collegiate Water Ski Association (NCWSA)** – Jeff Surdej, National Chairman: Review written report included in the BOD packet.

TASK: Jeff Surdej will form a working group to determine whether a method can be devised to more accurately calculate NCWSA's and other sport disciplines' true membership numbers since many athletes participate in more than one sport discipline but only have the option to designate one primary sport discipline preference when they join. Any such method would not allow a member to be counted more than once in our raw membership numbers. However, there might be a way to allow our voting allocation and SD funding distribution methodology to better reflect true participatory numbers in all SDs.

- h. **National Show Ski Association (NSSA)** – Gerry Luiting, President: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Gerry provided more details on the Wisconsin Water Ski Convention & Expo (WWSC&E) to be held Feb. 26-28, 2010 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. He added that this event offers both classroom and hands-on instruction from top instructors for nearly every water ski discipline as well as seminars and forums on team management, fundraising, insurance, officiating, basic skills clinics and much more. The event is the world's largest indoor water sports educational experience and affords fun for the whole family with Chula Vista's indoor water park. He invited fellow board members to attend this one of a kind experience.

Jim Grew again requested that NSSA work closely with WSDA with regard to the Basic Skills clinics they hold for the disabled.

TASK: HQ will add a space to the Basic Skills Clinic sanction form to indicate which SD(s) are involved with the clinic. Once received, HQ can send out the rosters of these clinics to the relevant SD President(s) to allow the SD(s) to communicate with these potential members.

- i. **National Water Ski Racing Association (NWSRA)** – Gary Heinbuch, President (absent) presented by Mike King: Review written report included in the BOD packet.
- j. **Water Skiers with Disabilities Association (WSDA)** – Mike Royal: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Mike emphasized WSDA’s ongoing quest to find an LOC for the 2011 World Disabled Water Ski Championships as the U.S. had already missed its place in the confederation rotation for this event in 2009.
- k. **U.S. Hydrofoil Association (USHA)** – Brad Scott, President: Review written report included in the BOD packet. Brad noted that USHA will be unable to host the second nationals this year as stated in his report but hopes to be able to do so in 2011.
- l. **American Water Ski Association (AWSA)** – Gene Davis, President: Review written report sent out separately.
- m. **Pan Am and IWSF Updates** – Jim Grew, IWSF VP: Review written reports included in the BOD packet.

18.Old Business

None.

19.New Business

None.

ADJOURN

- **Motion** to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. – **approved.**