

MINUTES FOR THE NW ROWING COUNCIL

November 11, 2007 at Lake Washington Rowing Club

Council Members in Attendance: attendance was taken and attendance sheet will be attached

Meeting called to order at 2:40 p.m. by Jenny Simon, President.

Motion to move discussion regarding Lake Stevens proposal to split Regionals into sweep and sculling regattas to the Juniors breakout session. Seconded, approved.

Motion to approve agenda. Seconded, approved.

Motion to approve minutes from January meeting. Seconded, approved with 10 day contingency period in place.

Treasurer's Report: \$12,500 in account. James Rawson stated that the region is owed money from both regional championships in 2006 and 2007 and is anticipating we'll receive \$11,000-12,000 at the end of the year.

Regatta Box: added radios for stakeboat holders this year. That's the only change made to the Box.

Board Initiative Report: Jenny Simon

We had three initiatives we were instructed to work on this year. All three were done.

1. McQuaid Relationship: Board spent a lot of time with this and we have a written agreement about how he would be using our name, and now the RowNW website will have his press releases up, and any news stories that come from McQuaid & Co.
2. Coaching Proposal: Still in progress, but Karen provided her written proposal to the Council.
3. Grant/Loan Proposal: Handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Tom Fuller drafted the proposal. Jenny Simon stated that we have two issues to resolve: the first is whether we are going to give any money as straight grants, or if we're only lending money, and the second is how decisions about how our money should be spent should be made, by the Council as a whole or by the Board. Discussion ensued about this later.

Moving Elections to January: Board decided to move them to January, Masters, Juniors and one At-Large position will be open. Please start thinking about joining the Board.

US Rowing Report: James Rawson

Junior Regionals: James said that the entry reduction did ease the running of the regatta, but only by 65 entries, which shows that the region is still growing. It has been four years since a fee increase but US Rowing is trying to keep us commensurate with SW Region; US rowing will let the region know what it decides.

Masters Regionals: had 900+ entries and was very long. BID PROPOSAL for MASTERS: Jay Schindler (Klamath), PVRA (uncommitted but willing). Bid Packet will go out in the next few weeks. Jenny commented that Dexter Lake/OAR was interested but no one from that club was present.

US Rowing Report: Others

ID Camps: Jason, Nick and Ed indicated that there will be ID camps in January, same as in the past. There will probably NOT be a 2K erg test, probably rather a series of 500m pieces. Same coach, same staff, same deal.

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Referee Report: Rachel is retiring as representative, there will be a new NW representative as of March 1 2008. Ballots will come out in the next few months. Andy Everett is interested. Restructuring at US Rowing is going on, due to some outside factors (USOC, etc) there is now a Referee Committee of 5 (used to be a Commission of 9). 3 are at-large reps appointed by the US Rowing Board, 1 is an athlete representative, and 1 is a regional representative elected by the entire group of regional representatives. There will still be the 6 regional referee representatives that are primarily interested in keeping regional regattas safe, and in recruitment and training of new referees. If you have issues with referees or rules, the Chair of the Referee Committee is Joe Carlson, you can contact him through the US Rowing website. There will be a Referee Committee meeting at the Annual Convention this year. There will be no NW rep at the Convention because Rachel can't make it, but she can email issues to them to discuss there.

Race Review: Rachel stated that at Head of the Lake that morning there was, a coach on the Pocock docks who was ignoring instructions and having crews crossing the finish line and creating a safety issue. Coaches and crews need to work with the referees especially on a day like today with bad weather and wind conditions. Thanks to Rome/LUC for letting the officials use her weather station for updates. The biggest safety issue was that many rowers were on the water in unisuits and cotton shirts without spare clothes. They were inadequately dressed for the conditions, which creates a safety hazard. There were hypothermia cases and they were due to the lack of clothing.

Rome raised the issue of the long delays at the start; Rachel provided the facts from this morning that the delay was caused by the bad conditions and some communications problems regarding the long vs. short course. Both Rachel and Jenny commented that the coxswains generally did a phenomenal job and stayed calm.

USRowing Reports ended.

U.S. Masters Nationals: will be in Long Beach in 2008, and as usual there is a 6 race limit. Snorts of disgust from the junior coach peanut gallery were noted.

Regional Championships: Jenny asked to open the discussion about Regional Championships that are region-wide. Issue was raised regarding the availability of warmup and practice areas in both Regional championships. Issue was raised regarding previous discussions about having clubs join together to run Regional and National regattas. It might be a good idea to have a second organization to provide backup on running the event to help alleviate the fatigue caused by course setup, staging and cleanup afterward would be helpful. Discussion ensued. Conclusion was that everyone will have to agree and "sign on" to the arrangement and be willing to accept consequences for failure to hold up ends of the bargain. Agreed to keep the discussion going over the next few years.

Regatta Calendar: Peggy Tosdal raised the issue that there are more clubs in the region, some of whom want to run regattas and duals, there's a regional calendar with some long standing regatta dates, but there have been more Dual Meets that have sometimes conflicted with already established regattas. Small clubs are seeing a decline in attendance at their usual regattas. Peggy is sensitive to the fact that the small clubs are not being invited to the duals, or that these duals and private races are being scheduled at the same time or in conflict with regional regattas. Also, scheduling regattas in a way that provides a double race weekend makes it easier for teams that travel, so it might be good to have a central coordinator for the regional regatta calendar. Andy added that we should coordinate with the college regattas because when there's an overlap in the schedule, there aren't enough referees to staff both regattas.

Discussion regarding having a Regional Regatta Calendar Committee. This would be an advisory committee, not with any authority. Committee created to have a more complete and informed regatta

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calendar and to discuss some of the conflicts that have arisen in the Region. There were objections to the idea that the committee would have any authority. Further discussion was held. Conclusion: Peggy Tosdal will work with Kathy McCormack on this issue and send out notices and information as it arises.

Coach Mentoring Program: Karen Crouthamel wants people to start taking advantage of this program. It's designed for new coaches the opportunity to have a mentor coach come and visit and give them some training. New programs and clubs who want to help recruit and get new coaches up to speed. There was a question last year about whether any money from the Council should go toward paying for these things; Karen thought that money raised through the program could become a scholarship fund for paying for coach costs for clubs who can't afford it. She solicited for coach mentors and she can be contacted here: rowkaren@yahoo.com. Ideally we would want coaches from Oregon and Washington as well as the other states in the Region. Mentor coaches would be paid a travel fee and stipend.

Grant/Loan Proposal: Tom Fuller put together the proposal, it's basically a way for clubs and organizations to submit applications for loans. Two issues opened for discussion: 1) do we do grants or only loans? 2) would the Council decide or does the Council want the Board to decide?

Rome Ventura a permanent racecourse which would cost \$25,000 minimum. So she wants us to spend our money in a big sum on that project. Discussions ensued about location and logistics. Other ideas such as having a regional fleet of boats that would be available to start new programs in the region such as Boise, Pasco, and other areas.

There was a motion to continue the discussion in January regarding grants and loans because there are some nuts and bolts that need to be worked out.

Steering committee: Jenny moves to establish a steering committee, seconded, passed. Who wants to be on the steering committee?

Rome Ventura, Jay Schindler, Karen Crouthamel

NW Award Nominations: Kathy reported on the Nominations, they will be open, need to make it clear that voting is done by Members of the Council. Comments solicited:

NW Awards Party: Motion to approve budget for Margaret Christopher to organize the NW Awards Party, seconded, passed.

NW Rowing Calendar: Kathy reported on the calendar and on new clubs. Renton Rowing, Fosse Rowers, and Pelouse Community Rowing in Pullman, WA. There are Level 1 and Level 2 clinics scheduled for January for new coaches.

Ergomania: Scheduled for February 2. Our next meeting on February 2 at Lake Union Crew. It will be held somewhere close to LUC and the meeting will start one hour after Ergomania is over.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:13 p.m.