

**2007 AWSA Winter Board of Directors Meeting
Polk City, Florida
January 27, 2007
8:00a.m.**

- 1. Opening and Call to Order:** Jeff Smith called the meeting to order at 7:59

- 2. Introduction & Roll Call:** President Jim Grew, Secretary-HND Janet Piercy, Vice President Don Bucher (NSL/Nominating), Bob Mayhew (SC-EVP), Pat Holland (SC), Jerry Bautsch (SC), Ron Ives (SC), Doug Robbins (E-EVP), Roger Hammel (E), Pat Byrne (E), Jon Thatcher (E), TC Boice (W-EVP), Gaile Heieck (W), Merle Vasbinder (W), Mike Hayes (W), Freddy Krueger (AAC), Karen Truelove (AAC), Rhoni Barton Bischoff (AAC-USAWS), Brandi Hunt (AAC), Scott Ellis (AAC) arriving late, leaving early, Carey Zimlich (S-EVP), Jim Jaquess (S), Lyman Hardy (S), Jack Travers (S), Jeff Surdej, (MW-EVP/Skiers Rating), Chairman Jeff Smith (MW/Judges & Scorers), Treasurer Tom Danford (MW-Rules), Dave Clark (MW); HQ Andy Jugan, Lisa St John, Roger Skalko, Lindsey Lauck; Committee Chairs & HNDs: Jeff Clark (Bylaws/HND), Sherm Schraft (HND/Cable), Gene Davis (HND/Technical), Mark Crone (HND), Jim Babcock (Safety), Dick and Willy Nock (HND), Hank Longo (Announcers). Mike Smith with Global Marine Insurance made an appearance as Global will be handling our towboat insurance.

- 3. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Agenda Review:** Jeff Clark was duly appointed parliamentarian. **Action item #1 - Tom Danford moved that all committee chairs be allowed to sit in the meeting. Seconded by Dave Clark. Motion passed.**

- 4. Announcement of Quorum:** There is a quorum with 24 members present.

- 5. Review and Approval of the August 2006 Board Meeting Minutes:** **Action item #2 - Pat Byrne moved to accept. Tom Danford seconded. Motion carried.**

- 6. Ratification of Mail Board Ballots:** None.

- 7. President's Report:** Jim Grew gave special thanks to **Carol Boice** for her efforts in the redesigned, updated tournament kit you will see coming from HQ. The 2007-08 Committee Directory (in our packet) will have one change: Kerry Morgan (S) will replace John Worden (S) on Junior Development. **Action item #3 - Tom Danford moved to approve the AWSA Committee Directory, Pat Byrne seconded. Motion passed.** Jim reminded the committees that, if a task is given, it is up to the committee to make sure it is carried out.

We now have our own check book thanks to our Treasurer Tom Danford. AWSA's 2007 allotment is around \$40,365.

- 8. Executive Director's Report:** Extensive written reports are included in the BOD packet. **Andy Jugan** explained some of the insurance program changes. We are moving our insurance program to Esix, from a non-rated to a rated company (A- to an A+). Global Marine Insurance is paying for the supporting memberships for those who buy insurance and also looking at other insurers to address problems such as the exit of certain insurers from the Florida marketplace. The Girl Scouts will try including water skiing in one of its Florida programs, an attempt that, if successful, may result in national implementation next year.

The USAWS contract with the Outdoor channel will result in 13 – 26 half hour, primetime shows. We are negotiating for four ads per show. There will also be airings of 13 shows on the Water Channel. The Outdoor channel is ahead of ESPN in terms of the demographics we want to target. We hope to start with the Masters and finish the year with the US Open.

For the 2008-09 Nationals, AWSA needs formal bids by March 1st. Known 3-4 lake sites have been sent letters asking for interest. HQ has received four letters of intent thus far, from Okaheelee (West Palm Beach, FL), Ski West (Bakersfield, CA), Mystic Lakes (Wichita, KS) and Princeton Lakes (near Dallas, TX). Mystic would only be interested for 2009 depending on the success of the MW Regionals there this year.

9. Treasurer's Report (Tom Danford)

2006 Year End Review: AWSA specifics were not provided.

2007 Proposed Budget Review: AWSA will use all its funds.

2007 Sport Division Funding Budget – The funds budgeted for this year (Sport Division funds plus Dave Hunter's accumulated \$30,000 donation) should cover our 2007 expenses other than the Can Am Challenge which will be self-funded, e.g., will not receive AWSA financial support. Note that, when we look at the 08 budget, we do not have the Hunter pledge which is only earmarked for the Elite Worlds, and we currently anticipate a shortfall from now on. Tom Danford put out a challenge to the other regions, for the Midwest donated \$1500 to the Elite Team and \$1000 to the General Fund for a total of \$2500. Jim Jaquess said that the Southern Region would also like to donate but was not sure of the process, so the region has not yet voted on a specific amount. If a donation is made, it should be sent to Tom with the stipulation as to what program or activity, i.e., Junior Development, Elite Team.

10. Executive Committee Report: Jim Grew gave a verbal report. **Action item #4 - Motion to approve December Executive Committee report. The 2006 December Executive Committee Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Lyman Hardy seconded. Motion passed.** Jim Jaquess asked about event management i.e., US Open. Andy explained that, if our name is on the event (USAWS), we should have some say as to how the event is run. HQ is not hands-on but helps the LOC and local community blend their resources. There needs to be a standard contract and process with a check list and timetable. The effort HQ makes in finding the additional resources would also necessitate a small administrative fee.

On the Trophy Lakes situation, Tom Danford, Chairman of the investigative committee, went strictly by the Bylaws. Given what has transpired prior to today, our task is how to address the future. Much discussion followed.

Action item #5 - Jim Jaquess moved to not take any action as to the activity on the "Record" lake. Seconded by Don Bucher. Motion passed with one opposed.

Action item #6 – The investigative committee moved to downgrade the "Class C" lake to Class F. Tom Danford abstained from voting. Seconded by Bob Mayhew. Motion failed with a vote of 10 for, 13 against. Furthermore, no action would be taken against any of the officials.

Discussion followed on what we would like to do as a response to this issue with the following results:

a) **Jeff Smith** will review our disciplinary procedures to ensure that they cover all necessary steps for proper and effective implementation of those procedures and are clear.

b) **Jim Grew** will send a certified letter to all the TL officials who received the original letter of "intent to reprimand" letter, setting out the final decision.

c) **Jeff Smith and Carey Zimlich** will correspond to put together a letter that all five EVPs can post on their regional websites, mail out, etc., covering the issues needing to be addressed that came out during the investigation and its follow-up. That letter will be sent to Jim to send to the BOD.

d) The **EVPs** will correspond to ensure a consistent message.

e) The **Officials' Committee Chairs** will incorporate this issue into their educational/instructional and clinic materials.

f) **Rules** will look into what the basis is for a proposed downgrade of a tournament, whether that possibility is adequately covered in the rules, etc.

g) **Rules** will also look at the specific rules governing driving with the input of the chairs of all officials' committees to determine if further clarification is needed to ensure that the intent of the rule (driving actual times) is clear. Break 10:45

11. National Championships

2007: No issues were brought up.

2008 & beyond: Bids are due to the BOD by March 1.

12. Organization Reports

a. **Athletic Advisory Council (Freddy Krueger):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. There were no board action items. Jim Jaquess asked if the '¾ buoy' is getting looked at. It is. From the competitive standpoint, the athletes are interested; but, because it was a safety issue at the IWSF level, the ¾ buoy didn't pass.

b. **Pan Am & IWSF (Jim Grew for Jeffrey Armstrong):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jim Grew reminded us that there are 1,2 and 3 event Pan Am judgeships.

c. **USOC (Rhoni Barton-Bischoff):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. The USOC-AAC meeting in Washington DC covered general 'athlete' issues, with a lot of attention on anti-doping. **HQ and EVPs** will work to educate our athletes through clinics and online communication.

The NGB Magazine that the USOC is developing will include all NGBs. USA Water Ski will have eight articles. Scott Atkinson will be putting in the articles. **Action item #7 - Jim Jaquess moved to send a message to HQ that all the NGB submissions from USA-WS cover only AWSA skiers. Seconded and motion carried. Rhoni will let Jim Grew know how the BOD can sign up for the new NGB magazine.**

Rhoni said the skiers competing in the Pan Am championships will be eligible for insurance. **Action item #8 - Jim Jaquess moved that we recommend that all Elite Athlete Health Insurance slots be awarded to AWSA skiers. Seconded by Doug Robbins. Motion carried.**

13. Committee Reports

a. **Awards (Jim Grew for Nikki Lee):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Sherm Schraft is the new Chair. **Action item #9 - Bob Mayhew seconded to recommend that the Chief TC not be eligible for the Nationals TC award, to be consistent with the other Nationals awards. Motion carried.**

- b. **Bylaws (Jeff Clark):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. There were no issues requiring BOD action. The committee is working with TC Boice on the Western Region dual Regionals proposal for 2008.
- c. **International Activities (Frank Harrison, presented by Jim Grew):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. **Action item #10 - Motion to approve report, seconded by Tom Danford. Motion carried.** Discussion surrounded the number of officials needed for all Team Trials and Junior Team Trials qualifications. The former was sent back to committee. **Action item #11A - Jack Travers moved to modify Junior Team Trial qualifications. (20 minute break for lunch) Action Item #11B - Jack Travers moved that B2/G2 slalom and jump skiers should qualify at their age division speeds. Jack & Jim Grew were authorized to prepare final qualifications standards consistent with this proposal. Seconded Bob Mayhew. Motion passed.**

2007 Pan Am Team Selection: Action item #12 - Moved to approve revised selection process due to the elimination of overall. Seconded by Tom Danford. Motion carried.

- d. **Judges' & Scorers' (Jeff Smith):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jeff thanked Carol & TC Boice for setting up the Senior Clinic to be held February 23-25 in Sacramento, CA. **Action item #13 -There were three applications for Emeritus: CW Lowe (S/J), John Reid (S/T/J) and Herb Wexler (S/T/J). Seconded by Dave Clark. Motion carried.**
- e. The written report is included in the BOD packet. SR had no pull outs but wanted clarification as to when the Rules would go into effect. The CTF changes will go into effect with the end of 07 Nationals while the other proposals would go into effect upon publication of the Rulebook. MWR had no pull outs but wanted clarification on what the BOD desired for awarding National Ranking List Champions each year, calendar year or ski year (Nationals to Nationals). Proposals pulled out for discussion were: Proposal #3 (1.14), Proposal #14 (10.12c), Proposal# 15 - Overall and Proposal #9 (13.02 - Head-to-Head). **Action Item #14 – Motion to approve all proposals not pulled out. The motion was accepted and approved.**

After discussion on Proposal #3, BOD wanted to take the burden off the President. **Action item #15 - Lyman Hardy moved to change the last sentence in new rule 1.14: “Upon such request being initiated, both the Technical Committee and the Rules Committee will review the matter and with no less than two-thirds agreement of the members of the respective committees make a recommendation to the President of AWSA *who will then proceed in accordance with the AWSA Bylaws.*” Seconded by Gaile Heieck. Motion passed.**

Discussion on Proposal #9, **Action item #16 – The following was approved to replace the proposal:**

At Record Capability tournaments and below, with the express approval of the Regional Executive Vice President (cash award requires approval of the Executive Committee), Head-to-Head Competition may be held. A preliminary contest for seeding may be held, or seeding can be based on previous performances, Regional, National, or World Rankings.

- (a) Rounds: The tournament shall consist of *no more than* three *preliminary, non-elimination based* rounds *and no more than six total rounds. Scores obtained in*

any round may be included in the ranking list in the same manner that non-elimination based tournaments are included (IE generally the best round score).

- (b) Cutting Procedure: *Each elimination round shall reduce the field of competitors advancing to a subsequent round by 50%.*
- (c) **Recommended Procedures:**
 - (i) Pairings: The top skiers are paired high score against low score. The high score skier may choose to go out first or second at each pairing. In Slalom, all skiers must start at the same predetermined speed and line length (see Head-to-Head Diagram in the Appendix).
 - (ii) General: In each head-to-head pair in slalom, the first skier shall attempt a pass followed by the second skier in an alternating manner until a skier misses or falls. Jumping and Tricks events may be run in the same manner.
 - (iii) Boats: Two alternating boats and drivers *may* be used in all events. The order shall be determined by the Chief Judge.
- (d) Placement: Placement shall be determined by final round scores only (see Rules 9.13, 10.13, and 11.13). The contestant with the most consecutive points, longest jump or highest score in each head-to-head pair shall be the winner of that pair. The contestant winning the pairing in the *final* round shall be the winner of the event. The other skier in the final pair shall be considered as the second place skier. *Third and fourth place may also be determined in an additional pairing.*
- (e) Ties: Ties shall be determined on a round-to-round basis only and run off if required under Rules 9.14, 10.14, or 11.14. In Slalom, if the skier going second fails to exceed the score of the skier who went first, the skier who went first wins the round.

Seconded by Jim Jaquess. Motion passed.

Discussion on Proposal #14, Rule 10.2 c: **Action item #17 - Pat Byrne moved to eliminate proposal #14. Seconded.** More discussion on the safety aspects took place. **Motion failed with 8 for, 14 against, thus the original proposal stands.**

Discussion on Proposal #15, **Action item #18 - It was moved to change the overall scoring to the smooth NOPS progression. Seconded by Bob Mayhew. Motion passed.** Jeff Surdej pointed out how much work Dave Clark had done on this proposal and Dave's efforts were applauded.

Action item #19 - Bob Mayhew motioned to approve adopting the recently IWSF approved narrower tolerances in slalom for Class C & E tournaments. There was no second, and the Tech Committee was asked to look at this for later presentation to the BOD.

- f. **Technical (Gene Davis-verbal):** This committee will be co-chaired with Tom Dusin, with Tom processing all record applications.
- g. **Coaches Advisory (Jim Grew): No Report**
- h. **Junior Development (Debbie Lamb, given by Jim Grew):** The written report and addendum are included in the BOD packet. Debbie sends her regrets; her daughter was involved in a serious accident. Charlene Brown from the West is co-chairing with Debbie this year for a smooth transition in 2008. Jim Grew read the addendum handed out at the meeting and commended Debbie for the great job she has done.

- i. **Safety (Jim Babcock):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. He is seeing cooperation at all levels and thanked Leon Larson for putting together the annual stat reports.
- j. **Seeding (Laura Johnson, jointly presented by Dave Clark and Mark Crone):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Only one recommendation was presented and it was handled through Rules (New Rule 1.14). **Action item #20 - Doug Robbins said the skiers in his area want weighting of tournaments and would like the committee to look at this issue again. Bob Mayhew seconded. Discussion. Motion carried. Jeff Clark asked that the Seeding & Skiers' Rating Committees be combined now that AWSA will be using the Ranking List to qualify skiers for Nationals. Jim will look into this.**

Action item #21 - Bob Mayhew moved to delegate to the Rules Committee the issue of weighting. Seconded by Doug Robbins. Motion failed.

Mark Crone presented the new online system for skiers to register at Nationals, starting with this year.

Action item #22 - Move to approve that skiers would only show up on the Ranking List in their current age divisions. Seconded by Jeff Surdej. Motion carried. The BOD was reminded that the Ski Year runs from the end of one Nationals to the end of the next so that the Nationals is the last tournament of the year.

- k. **Skiers' Rating (Jeff Surdej):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jeff asked our preference for showing percentages in the Regional Guide or not. The BOD preferred that they be included. Tom Danford further suggested instead of "Ratings" call it "Performance Standards" for Open & M55k. **Action item #23 - Moved to accept revised, as per Tom Danford, Proposal #1. Seconded by Dave Clark. Motion passed. Action Item #24 - Proposal #2, that the annual Ranking List champions be chosen based on the Ski Year (Nationals to Nationals). Discussion, Action item #25 - Jim Jaquess called for the question; Rhoni Barton-Bischoff seconded. Passed. Proposal #2 passed.**
- l. **Boat Drivers (Jerry Bautsch):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. **Action item #26 - Applications for Emeritus were presented for Larry Cox (T/J) who will remain a Senior Driver in slalom and Bill Stratton (S/T/J). Seconded by Doug Robbins. Motion carried.**
- m. **Towboat (George Lindy):** The written report is included in the BOD Packet. Doug Robbins has asked HQ to include the towboat request form with our online sanctioning. Jeff Smith asked if the GPS systems are approved with the answer being that they are still being evaluated. Jeff also asked about putting weight in front of the boat with George stating that theoretically only if approved with that weight when actually tested.

In that light, the Board asked that the Towboat Committee review placing into its policies the stipulation that each manufacturer will bring the boats to the AWSA/USAWS towboat tests and specify how, where and when the added fore and aft weights are to be used in their towboats.

- n. **Cable (Sherm Schraft):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. There were no action items.
- o. **NSL (Don Bucher):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Jennifer Lowe may no longer be in charge of Grassroots at HQ. Consequently, the AWSA volunteers will have to be the ones to build this program. Don wants to work towards a 2008 NSL Nationals. HQ and Don will look at creating such an event, possibly combining with the Wakeboard Ski League.
- p. **Announcers (Hank Longo):** The written report is included in the BOD packet. Hank thanked Carol Boice for having the tournament kit updated to include announcer guidelines. He also wanted to thank HQ and Jim Grew for their continued support.

14. Regional Recommendations

a. East:

- 1) Establish differentiation in skier status between pro and amateur: **Rules & Skiers Rating.**
- 2) Allow the ranking list to have an additional input, selectable when membership is done or renewed, that shows the state where most of the skier's "time on water" is done and where that skier wants his or her scores to be accumulated: **Mark Crone/Tom Danford.**
- 3) Establish mechanisms in the sanctioning process to integrate with the officials' database so that the ratings and current membership status of officials can be verified prior to the event and, after the event, which officials actually worked.

b. Midwest:

- 1) Consider whether an official who serves as Chief Judge at a Regionals can count that as his or her renewal clinic: **Judges & Scorers.**

c. South:

- 1) Adopt $\frac{3}{4}$ buoy slalom scoring in conjunction with the IWSF and reconsider adopting IWSF slalom gates rules: **Rules.**
- 2) Create a committee to raise funds for the four U21/Junior teams: **Carey** will get back to Jim Grew with more specifics as to composition, a committee chair, etc.

d. South Central:

- 1) Bob Mayhew affirms that tricks judges must be able to see the ski when videoing from the boat. Bob's proposal will be sent directly as written to the Chief Judge and Tech. Committee Chair copying Bob, COB Jeff Smith and Rules Chair Tom Danford.

e. West:

- 1) Consider fast tracking individuals on an individual (applicant by applicant) rather than a group (elite athletes) basis: **Judges & Scorers.**

Updates:

- 1) The region is offering \$25 to any tournament organizer that shows proof of publicity (article in magazine, newspaper, etc.) to encourage promotion.
- 2) The region intends to follow the steps for hosting the 2008 Dual Regionals as approved by the EC. If the region is able to do so, it will host the two Regionals. If not, the region will stay with its current single Regionals

15. Any Other Business: There was none.

16. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Tom Danford, seconded by Gaile Heieck. We adjourned at 4:50 PM.