

## 2019 Annual General Meeting

# Meeting Minutes

Alberta Whitewater Association  
2019 Annual General Meeting

February 10, 2019  
10 am – 4 pm

Chair – Kurtis Broda  
Secretary – Kim Casemore

Bass Pro Shop, Iron Mills Shopping Center  
112 – 261055 Cross Iron Blvd  
Rocky View AB

### Attendance

Name	Organization
Denis Jasinsky	Bow Valley Kayak Club
Karla Hardy	Paddle Alberta
Kim Casemore	UAPS / AWA
Joel Gervais	UAPS / AWA (Online)
Kate Neigel	UAPS / AWA (online)
Brandon Willms	Alberta Freestyle rep
Emil Ohler	Waterwerks
Michael Geertsema	Bow Valley Kayak Club
Kurtis Broda	UAPS / AWA
Chuck Lee	Pincho Crow Creekers / AWA
Ehren Wilson	PJ
Amanda Gibson	PJ
Robb Oliver	Waterwerks
Blair Brandon	AWA/UAPS
Mathew Corbet	ACPA

Shelly MacKenzie	PJ
Brenda Boyd	ASCK (treasurer)
Jeff Boyd	ASCK (VP) / BWCC
Lee Green	UAPS (online)

## Informal Discussion

10:15 – Introduction of attendees

### Facilities - Harvie Passage & Boathouse (Chuck Lee)

- River sections are open and running. Posts are up for slalom. High water side – feedback is that it is pretty good at high water, 50 cms is about the lowest you can surf it at and it surges quite a lot.
- Trying to get facility amenities in place – washroom, change room. Proposal to the city to build some sort of clubhouse that is a joint facility with a separate society that owns and manages the facility, that all groups rent through to use the facility for storage. Boathouse would have staff that rent tubes to fund the staff and facility
- \$1.2M to be financed through province and city with grants. We would require to come up with about \$250,000 in funds. Business plan is up online on the AWA. 20 of 10'x20' storage containers.
- It will be a separate society that takes this on with support of the AWA. Each group or the owner would be responsible for insurance on the facility and items that are stored
- Would like the facility to be at the bottom of the low water channel, with access to the boat launch. Would want to keep the main floor high but would have a risk of being flooded. Main floor would be used for gear storage with all the critical infrastructure being above the flood plane
- Would be used by multiple groups, canoe groups, river watch, ASCK, local businesses (Aquabatics, UofC), Paddle Alberta

### Canoe Meadows Campground (Chuck Lee)

- Kitchen center, group campsite, individual campsites, and parking lot upgrades is in the plan.
- Need to do a bigger archeology assessment on the parking lot. Unlikely that there will be any new discoveries but potential for major delays if anything historic is found during digging
- Work is delayed and construction will begin Fall 2019 after September long weekend. Group campsite and part of the parking lot will be closed
- Individual camping is on hold for now, we are going to try and get it going this summer though as it has been approved and there is access currently available

- Campground bookings are basically full for the summer weekends, good mix of paddling groups, adventure groups,
- Board needs to make a decision about how the camping will be booked. Will be decided when the sites are closer to being up and running
- River surfers association have permit for river construction for early May on Surfers wave, Wall wave, and a wave in between the two. The river will be shut down during the day in early May (Mon-Fri) They have a two week window. They need to get in and up the river, but they do not have permits to change any of our features
- We did not go in for a permit with the surfers because we had so many problems in 2014 and 2015 with regulatory infractions. If we received another permit and did anything they deemed outside of the permit, the consequences were too high for the board members and fines for the association (2014 fine of \$5000 reduced to \$1000 and 2015 fine of \$20,000 reduced to \$4000). We will see how the process goes for the surfers and evaluate when we want to apply for another permit
- Alberta River Surfers need to cover the costs of taking the slalom gates down and put back up. Will need to hire someone from AWA most likely for this task. There is a lot of repair work that needs to be done on the gates and with the water off, this is a good opportunity to do that.

#### Schools in Pools (Chuck speaking for Lori Davis who champions program)

- Traveling around Alberta with trailer full of gear to get youth in schools learning how to paddle
- Go into pool, train lifeguards on how to teach kayaking. Leave gear for 2-3 weeks so schools in the area have the opportunity. The life guards are only certified as pool instructors. They take an 8 hour course, half in the classroom and half in the pool.
- Started with the Make-a-Diff grant
- Need to develop champions in each community that can help to keep the programs going each community
- Kate asked about getting corporate sponsorship. We have not looked into it yet but we will need more funding than the AWA can provide
- Matt asks if helmets are provided, could we incorporate polo into this program. Shouldn't be played without helmets because novices are at a higher risk for injuring others with their paddles. Denis commented that they have played polo without paddles with new groups, which has provided a fun novice game
- Emil asked what the bridge is from the pool to get these kids on the river. This is where we need a champion in the community to take on the operation of local clubs. Multiple groups across Alberta commented about the struggle to retain kids. Getting parents on board and equipment are common issues but it is a huge resource struggle.
- Karla commented that Lori has said that a huge success of the program is just exposing kids to a different types of fundamental physical skills that they otherwise wouldn't have, even if they aren't sticking with it after their school program

- Emil suggested a summer camp that is available to be accessed by participants of the Schools in Pools. There are a lot of summer camps that are run around Alberta but we may need to communicate this better to participants
- Action item to Chuck: Provide Lori with more information about the summer programs, local clubs

### Membership Review

- New club in Fort McMurray (Wood Buffalo Paddling Club) that is just approved and in the process of starting pool sessions
- Numbers are basically stationary. Most clubs are signing up online but there are a few that we still need to get on board
- Paddle Junkies: 83 members, all of registration was through AWA website, 30 were new members,
- Bow Valley and Waterwerks were happy with the registration through AWA website
- There was a challenge if you signed up for multiple clubs, you would only show up as a member for one of the clubs
- We need these lists to prove to the province we are above 1500 members for the grants we receive

### Schedule of Festivals, Races, and Events

- Pretty good attendance for most events
- Kanfest plans are going ahead as previously unaffected by the canoe meadow campsite. Individual sites would be booked up by organizing committee
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### Youth Development

- AWA has had a sub committee to explore how we increase youth development. Mike Holroyd has been heading this and has a report of his
- Suggestion for targeted ads on social media to reach youth on the platforms they are on
- Would be good to have an intermediate step between the school programs and the river to introduce the sport to parents of kids, like an open house day. Multiple comments about the need to get parents involved because it is not feasible for kids to do this activity without their support
- Maybe contact MEC about hosting their paddlefest again (haven't done it in the last couple years)
- Karla asked about approaching Junior Forest Wardens because they are a youth group that focuses a lot more on parent involvement with the kids activities
- Discussion of developing an instagram presence through the AWA and local clubs to connect with youth
- Email discusses student program through Volunteer Alberta: government provides honorarium for post-secondary student to do summer internship – his

club used intern to manage and enhance social media presence and disseminate club info online

1. Call to Order at 1:07 (Quorum of 25% of clubs met)
    - See attendance above
  2. Approvals
    - 2.1. **Motion** by Kurtis to move Joel's director report to 1:15, seconded by Michael. Motion passes
    - 2.2 **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the agenda, seconded by Ehren Wilson. Motion passes
    - 2.3 **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM, seconded by Denis. Motion passes
  3. Reports

Environment and Facilities report (Joel Gervais) (moved from 3.3)

    - Updates on Harvie passage and Canoe Meadows discussed earlier.
    - Meeting with deputy minister and Alberta Parks tomorrow about Bighorn Park proposal. We disagree with them requiring permits for clubs to run trips in the proposed park area, similar to what is in place on the Highwood and Sheep. Approach for requiring clubs to permit is causing people to organize trips and paddle not under a club, so this proposal would disadvantage club memberships. The AWA's position is we are in favor of the Bighorn Park proposal except would like them to exclude the clause for permits required for club trips. Recreational groups and commercial outfitters are currently categorized as the same
    - Whirling disease had been detected in Canada a couple of years ago. This is now causing changes to people who are using water bodies in (both individual users and commercial users). Fish and wildlife officers will be able to inspect any users for whirling disease. Will see requirements continuing to develop (clean, drain, dry) for any equipment that has been in the water. Starting to move towards decontamination (disinfecting). Information has been distributed through social media and AWA newsletter. AWA executive has been discussing how to approach this for large paddle events like festivals
- 3.1 Financial reports
    - 3.1.1. 2017 financial statement audited by Lori Travis and Steve Simonds from Bow Waters Canoe Club
    - 3.1.2. **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the 2017 audited financial statements, seconded by Blair Brandon. Motion approved.
    - 3.1.3. Review of 2018 financial statements
      - 3.1.3.1. 2018 financial statements to be audited by Paddle Junkies
  - 3.2. Club Reports

- 3.2.1. UAPS – Continue to run pool courses and open sessions throughout the winter and 3 different levels of development programs in the summer. (4 weekends). Are using a point system for volunteers that they can redeem for courses like SWR, first aid, and instructor training.
- 3.2.2. ACPA – Run outdoor Thursday night polo throughout summer in Calgary. Run two evening winter leagues for training on Tuesdays and games
- 3.2.3. Bow Valley Kayak Club – Last year's big goal was to hire a club coach instead of using contractors which worked well so they will continue with that strategy this year. Consolidated gear storage to two locations instead of 3. Passed the school program onto Lori with Schools in Pools. Ended up with 118 members, 50 were youth. This year the coach is starting earlier so programming is almost all set for the summer. A lot of carry over with the executive which is helping keep things smooth.
- 3.2.4. Bow Waters Canoe Club – Almost entirely new board that has been the biggest challenge this year. Membership challenges, to retain members as more are leaving than are joining. Continue to run the clubhouse in Calgary, with other groups renting from them. Fundraising through casinos still. Full summer calendar of events planned for all classes of water. Planning to take advantage of Harvie Passage with some summer programs
- 3.2.5. Waterwerks – Busy 2018. Penguin race was successful at the start of the year. Huge group attended 3 Rivers Rendezvous. Had participants for the Alberta Summer Games, Provincials, and Nationals. Took a group to the Toby Creek Race, was a fun event that they would like to continue to do going forward. Pool sessions through the winter on Tuesday nights. Did a night run at Harvie Passage, decorated boats with glow sticks. Implemented a badge program for the kids. Camps hosted throughout the summer which were all filled. Going forward, currently have pool sessions with a dedicated night just for training in either freestyle or slalom. Taking a group to Texas for training over spring break.
- 3.2.6. Paddle Junkies – Fun year, started year with no certified leaders but had a strong focus to recertify and expand group of leaders. 3 thorough L3/I3 and 6 thru L2/I2. Used facebook while website was down. 19 organized club trips, total club membership of 83 people. New website is now up and running. Working on new organization system for planned river trips. Ran informal Ladies Nights on Tuesday nights at Harvie Passage. Would like the continued use of AWA registration
- 3.2.7. POCC – 145 members in the club, mainly school kids. 320 people at 3 Rivers Rendezvous. Weren't able to run the Carbondale race due to permit issues. Hoping to be able run it this year, but if not there is a backup location. Run summer camps for kids and adults, all 3 were full. 2 development camps that were not full. Didn't have any kids in the correct age group for the Alberta Summer Games.
- 3.2.8 Freestyle Rep (Brandon Willms) – Been working with Quebec rep to help pilot a coaching certification. Would like to help at provincials to host a

freestyle competition. Attended CKC AGM and is working with Freestyle on a national level.

3.2.9 ASCK – Harvie Passage was a great accomplishment for training. Other big events were Alberta Summer Games, Nationals, and the Toby Creek Race. 8 weeks worth of training camps. 126 participants, 6 athletes in high performance and 2 athletes in high performance light. Highlights were having athletes make the national level teams.

### 3.3 Director Reports

#### 3.3.1 President – Kurtis Broda

- Challenges this year were with the campground host for Canoe Meadows. Alberta Summer games participation were down, we had 1 less zone participate than the year before. Some provincial funding comes from this participation so we need to make sure we have athletes to send.
- Festivals went quite well this year. We had Fort McMurray come on as a new club and have interest from some other smaller communities (Edson, Drayton Valley)
- Upgraded from a Tier 3 to a Tier 2 program for funding from the government
- School in Pools has continued to be a success, would like to set it up to be more self sustaining
- Would like to get back for river improvements on the Kananaskis with the knowledge we have from previous improvement

#### 3.3.2 Vice President – Denis Jasinsky

- Volunteered for subcommittees to support specific discussions
- A lot of events or tasks have been needing support and there are only so many resources of the board's time and money. Need to work on stream lining and long term planning to keep focused on what the AWA's long term goals. Blair suggested to consult the 3 year strategic plan during executive meetings to keep in mind what the association's goals are.

#### 3.3.3 Treasurer – Blair Brandon

- Most items discussed by Chuck and Kurtis in previous discussions

#### 3.3.4 Communication and Marketing –Kate

- Newsletter was opened by at least 800 members. Sent out to all current and past members because there are issues having an updated email list as different clubs use different registration systems. Would be nice to add Schools in Pools participants to email list.
- Started up an instagram, please send photos to her that you would like to see posted.

#### 3.3.5 Secretary – Kim Casemore

-Working on organizing Women's whitewater weekend again.

#### 3.3.6 Recreation Development – Martin

- Continued to attend festivals throughout the summer.
- Canoe Meadows and Harvie Passage discussed earlier

#### 3.3.7 Member at Large – Lee Green

- Sundre was a standout festival, would like to see it continue.
- Need to keep giving ongoing attention to whirling disease

### 3.4 Discipline Director Reports

3.4.1 ASCK – 2018 was a big year! The season started with continued fundraising for Harvie Passage and the installation of all the anchors and a test section of gates. The opportunity that this has and will continue to provide for the sport in Calgary and Alberta is huge.

We were also able to host a series of big events in 2018 including Alberta Summers Games in Grande Prairie, the Toby Creek Race and the National Championships, which for the first time included freestyle, downriver, slalom and slalom cross all in one event. Even when things went sideways for my health in that period the organization showed its depth in picking up the slack and pulling off great events. We were also able to purchase some legacy items from our events like two event tents and an inflatable ramp and poles for slalom cross and Toby Creek.

Our core work continues to be our High Performance Program and hosting Alberta Cup event. ASCK hosted 8 weeks of training camps in Alberta, BC, Quebec, Oklahoma and Europe. The Head Coach along with Junior and U23 athletes also took part in an amazing 3 week trip in Europe, which greatly helped all of them learn more about racing. Athletes from Transformation to Train-to-Win stages were supported as well as club outreach support, which has led to our largest Winter Training Program group ever for 2018/19. Thea Froehlich was our summer assistant coach, along with help from Bryce Shaw and Alison Borrows, and brought lots of energy and knowledge to our programs.

The HP program has a great group of dedicated athletes working daily. In addition the stepped program (HPLite), for athletes from out of town, or those not quite ready for 10x/wk training, can be a part of the program, understanding that they might not be able to attend quite as many sessions. The program's quality continues to be one of the best in North America. TestinG is done in conjunction with Canoe Kayak Canada – Whitewater, the Alberta Sport Development Centre – Calgary & the Canadian Sport Centre – Calgary. By using standardized strength, power and aerobic data, we are able to better monitor the athletes and prepare plans to increase success. The Junior and U23 World Championships were held in Bratislava in July with strong Alberta representation of 5 athletes.

Thank you to the 2017 and 2018 boards & volunteers that make our sport happen.

3.4.2 AFKA – See Brandon Wilms report above

3.5 Executive Director - Chuck Lee

- Sundre paddlefest moved to Panther River retreat. 50 attendees and broke even for the event. Freestyle courses and swiftwater rescue courses were run.
- Used a point system at provincials to encourage kids to sign up for more events
- Mark Taylor took minister down Harvie Passage after it's opening
- Last year we got our GST return from many previous years which was a nice addition to the books
- Ran an event the Friday at Kanfest, Paddle Like A girl. Would like to run it again this year
- Hired 4 staff, 1 for Fort Smith, 1 in Innisvail, 1 with POCC, 1 with Waterwerks with Canada grant. Applied this year for 2 positions each in multiple communities
- Were in Grande Prairie for a week running a precamp and the games this summer
- We have proposed to have 3 age groups instead of 2 to make it more fair for younger athletes
- Weren't able to run the Brierlies festival or go to Edmonton for the EPCOR riverfest.
- Ran L3/I3 course put on by AWA to get more people together, was quite successful with 10 participants.

#### 4. Old Business

Membership Rates – A new fee from CKC that will cost about \$1/member.

**Motion** by Denis for an AWA membership fee of \$3 for a club members and \$10 for non-members. Seconded by Ehren.

Amendment by Michael to propose a family rate. Voted against.

Vote on the motion. Waterwerks voted against, Bow Waters abstained, All others in favor. Motion passes.

#### 5. New Business

- Would like the AWA to endorse the Canyon of the Ram as a wildlife park
- Motion** by Kim to endorse the Canyon of the Ram as a wildlife park to the minister. Seconded by Kurtis. None opposed, Bow Waters abstained. Motion passed

#### 6. Elections for the 2019 Board of Directors (Kurtis Broda)

##### 6.1. Election of Directors

President – Kurtis Broda to remain

Vice President – Denis Jasinsky

Facilities and Environment – Joel Gervais

Director at Large – Lee Green

Director at Large – Michael Geertsema

No one opposed to the nominations, election of the directors approved

#### 7. Adjournment at 4:02

