

2020 Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Alberta Whitewater Association
2020 Annual General Meeting

March 8, 2019
10 am – 4 pm

Chair – Kurtis Broda
Secretary – Kim Casemore

MEC South Calgary
710-19587 Seton Crescent SE, Calgary, AB T3M 2T5

Attendance

Name	Organization
Chuck Lee	AWA/POCC
Mike Holyroyd	ASCK
Kimberly Casemore	UAPS / AWA
Shane Peterson	ASCK
Martin Plojhar	AWA
April Noack	Waterwerks
Blair Brandon	AWA/UAPS
Morgan Minty	Cottonwood Canoe/Kayak Club
Mitch Raynard	Sundre Paddling Club
Jeff Boyd	Bow Waters Canoe Club/ASCK
Liam McGowan	UAPS
Brittney Perry	UAPS

Sarah Marsanich	UAPS
Kurtis Broda	AWA
Elissa McColl (online)	Bow Valley Kayak Club
Robyn (online)	Fort Smith
Angie	Rocky Canoe Club
Matthew Corbet	ACPA
Lori Davis	Schools in Pools/Rocky Canoe Club
Sara Jordan	
Trevor Zaharichuk	ACPA/Calgary Kayak Club
Simon Coward	Aquabatics
Mark Taylor	Waterwerks
Laura Sydenham	BVKC
Brett Miles	Paddle Junkies

Informal Discussion

10:00 - Introductions

10:15 - Canoe Meadows Campground

- Constructions at Canoe Meadows and Widow Maker. Closed March 1 until mid June
- Only access is at Barrier Visitor Center. If people would like to use the river, they have to park at the visitor center and walk up the river walk trails to Hollywood hole and walk back
 - We have expressed our concerns to Parks about the closures and they have not changed their plans for the closures and access at Canoe Meadows
 - AWA will be sending a newsletter stating what areas can be accessed during the construction. The organizations stance is that anyone wanting to use the river needs to park at the visitor center and use the riverwalk to walk up or down to put in and take out
- New shelter at Canoe Meadows as part of the construction

- We will have some work
- At Widow Maker they are putting in a new road and put in for the rafting companies with a locked gate so only commercial outfitters can access
 - May 22 will be the opening date for Widowmaker parking lot area

10:30 - Schedule of Festivals, Races, and Events

- Review events that are currently posted on the AWA calendar
- If any other clubs have events they would like posted on the calendar on the AWA website, send them to Chuck
- Women's Whitewater Weekend is looking for more female leads. Contact Sarah or Elissa if you are interested in helping out
- Slave Paddlefest needs the proof of insurance for the club for grants by March 30. Chuck will send the information to the club.

10:45 - Alberta Summer Games

- Spaces for 64 athletes. Would like athletes from all 8 zones
- Funding from the government is unclear for Alberta Summer Games at this point. If funding from the government is cut for the event or pre-camps, the AWA will look at the budget to see if the organization can cover the costs or if the costs will have to be passed onto the clubs or athletes.
- Pre-games camp will be held around Pincher Creek
- Since the AWA funding in part comes from Alberta Sport Connection, it is important we fill all the zones as this is one of the funding criteria from the province
- For zones that do not have athletes participating, the biggest challenge is having a club champion in that area. Schools in Pools program is helping expand to other communities
 - Access to kids equipment is another challenge
 - Travel logistics is another challenge (Ex clubs from the NE traveling to Lethbridge this year will be a huge trip)
 - Could look at better outreach. There is a section on the website for starting a kayak club with resources.

11:00 - Schools in Pools

- Lori Davis has been running this program for 4 years with great success
- The AWA has a business plan that we present about how this program can be successful
- We have a fleet of boats that travels to the different communities and we train people in the communities, such as swim instructors and lifeguards, that can teach the basics of paddling. They are used to instructing so they are very good at making these introductory programs fun and engaging to youth
- The AWA needs to look at how we can continue to fund these programs as initial grant money has been used
 - Major costs are transport and learning facilitator costs
- Depending on the community, Lori reaches out to community recreation directors or school representatives
- Although there are many kids that go through the program, other clubs have not seen payoff of these kids joining clubs later on. We need to define a next step (mainly with parents) that links these beginner programs to defined clubs or actual paddlers in the communities

- Parents see cost and safety as concerns and hesitancy for them personally paddling. Awareness is the biggest help with addressing these concerns. Clubs are an excellent example of the safe knit communities that are available

11:40 - Youth Development (Simon)

- How do we grow the sport across all clubs and organizations
- Aquabatics kids programs started 4 years ago
 - Grew from 8 kids to 60 throughout the program
- Looking how to get through the noise and make paddling a priority to the parents
- What are we trying to achieve?
 - Build the community
 - Huge intimidation factor, perception problem
 - Create future community champions
 - ASCK wants to make slalom kayaking viable in Alberta
 - Create opportunities for athletes to go to the Olympics at the highest level
 - Create general skills and lifelong paddlers that enjoy and paddle slalom
 - Polo
 - Need to feed at the grassroots level so there is long term sustainability of the sport
 - From a high performance view, needs to start young so they can keep moving through development
 - Exposure so people are aware of the general paddling skills polo can develop that transfer to other disciplines
 - UAPS
 - Hasn't been super family oriented in the past. More young adults developing hobbies historically
 - Wanting to develop opportunities for families to keep paddling so they don't drop out once they start families
 - BWCC
 - Kids need to be active in the process, not just cargo so they become bitter about paddling
 - Waterwerks
 - Need to focus on the families and make sure there are opportunities so it is just as easy for the parents to be involved in paddling as the kids
 - Multi sport families with competing priorities
 - Kids also want to do it all and not be committed to just one activity
 - How do we make an impact?
 - Could look at opportunities to have other sports or planned events at paddling events (hikes, biking, camping etc) to engage all family members
 - If you don't get the parents involved, you won't keep the kids
 - The families where the parents paddle, don't necessarily need a club to go paddling. More important to get non-paddling parents involved

- How do we approach this?
 - Sharing everyone's programs?
 - Newsletters should still be used, but not relied upon as they get lost in the noise of email spam
 - Communicate to key components (club leaders) that can then send out to their groups
 - Making the information targeted and easy to pass on
 - Have facebook posts and emails drafted before sending it to the clubs so it is easy for them to post and share
 - Clubs should pass people on to the club that is the best fit instead of every club trying to have every type of program
 - Recipe
 - How do you run a program at each level?
 - What is the best method for this? What has worked in the past
 - Badges worked really well to keep kids engaged and focused on building skills
 - Specifics
 - Age
 - Evaluation
 - Length of program
 - Location
 - People
 - How do you access information
 - AWA website?
 - Communities
 - Leaders
 - They need to be the contact person to pass along information to their groups
 - Shadow teaching for people who haven't taught kids before
 - Actions
 - Need implementation of paddling passport
 - Simon will work on this
 - Clubs running youth programs
 - Waterwerks, Bow Valley KC, Aquapatics, Rocky, Innisfail, Sundre/Olds, Pincher Creek, EWP, Grande Prairie, ACPA, ASCK, Lethbridge
 - Reach out to these group leaders and create a targeted contact list
 - AWA Rec or Education director to head AWA sub-committee for this?
 - Chuck can make separate calendars on the AWA website for youth events and courses

Official AGM

1. Call to Order at 1:00 (Quorum of 25% of clubs met)
 - See attendance above
2. Approvals
 - 2.1 **Motion** by Kurtis to amend the agenda to include Safesport to new business and to update the positions being elected. Seconded by Brittney
 - 2.2 **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the agenda, seconded by Brittney. Motion passes
 - 2.3 **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM, seconded by Blair. Motion passes
3. Reports
 - 3.1 Financial reports
 - 3.1.1. 2018 financial statement audited by Laura and Claire from Bow Valley Kayak Club. Reviewed by Chuck
Note: Our assets are not insured. Would be worth looking into the cost of insurance. Action item for board to look into this
 - 3.1.2. **Motion** by Kurtis to approve the 2018 audited financial statements, seconded by Blair Brandon. Motion approved.
 - 3.1.3. Review of 2019 financial statements
 - 3.1.3.1. 2019 financial statements
Motion by Kurtis to approve the 2019 financial statements, with the provision that they are audited with no concerns from the auditing club. Seconded by Blair Brandon. Motion approved
Motion by Kurtis for Paddle Junkies to audit the 2019 financial statements. Seconded by Lori. Motion approved
 - 3.2. Club Reports
 - 3.2.1. Rocky Paddling Club – 311 members in 2019. 8 corporate memberships, including 2 First Nations organizations. A lot of public programming, targeted at families
 - 3.2.2. Waterwerks – Went to Texas for spring break, tons of events. BBQ night at Harvie Passage on Wednesday nights. There is a Salmon River trip this summer. More participation in ASCK and province wide events. Skiing and climbing events hosted during off season to get group together.
 - 3.2.3. Innisfail Club – 29 members this year (which is a big increase) Consistently 10 people for polo on Friday nights. Sunday drop-in attendance has also increased
 - 3.2.4. Sundre – Friday evening drop-in sessions with varying attendance. Saturday morning sessions running through the winter. Planning on doing

Tuesday evenings in the summer and Thursday night river runs. About 30 members. Pool sessions are running out of Olds as Sundre pool is unavailable.

- 3.2.5. Paddle Junkies – 112 members (33% female, 47% were new members). Ran about 20 official river trips
- 3.2.6. UAPS – Maintaining summer programs (BDP (beginner), Class 3 Club (intermediate), WPP (intermediate-advanced). Hoping to pilot womens specific advanced program. Running 1 night a week drop-in pool sessions. Also have winter paddling programs (Stroke improvement/polo, intro courses, rolling clinics, freestyle). Improved social media to include Facebook page and Instagram. Also updating the website. Membership is just below 100.
- 3.2.7. POCC – Wednesday pool sessions with about 10 people attending every week. In spite of the weather, still had a successful 3 river rendezvous. Hoping for better weather this year. Ran 3 fundamentals camps that were mainly full (7-11 year olds). Club bought a trailer to store equipment. Can store 30 boats and gear and have used it to run school lake programs. Challenge will be on getting summer instructors
- 3.2.8 Calgary Kayak Club – Runs Kanfest and polo programs. Tried to launch a youth program that wasn't well attended in the fall. Lost the SAIT pool which was detrimental to the pool programs. Hoping to get summer programs running at outdoor facilities
- 3.2.9 BVKC – Weekly pool sessions on Friday nights. There are Calgarians attending since the SAIT pool sessions are closed. They are losing the lot that their secant is parked on so they need to find a new location. Club coach will be staying on.

3.3 Director Reports

3.3.1 President – Kurtis Broda

-1200 members, 2000 educational

3.3.2 Vice President – Denis Jasinsky (absent)

-Great job

3.3.3 Treasurer – Blair Brandon

- Concerns with cuts from government funding. Have found a couple of small efficiencies but still need to look at increasing revenues. Look at membership fees and camping fees.

3.3.4 Communication and Marketing –Kate (absent)

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3.3.5 Secretary – Kim Casemore

- Finance sub-committee working on budget concerns

3.3.6 Recreation Development – Martin

- Nothing to report

3.3.7 Member at Large – Lee Green (absent)

3.3.8 Environment - Joel (absent)

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3.4 Discipline Director Reports

3.4.1 ASCK – Have a full slalom course in Calgary at Harvey Passage

3.4.2 ACPA – Had AGM yesterday. Main goals are supporting grassroots organizations and maintain national programs. Women and Mens team both attended in Brazil. Women won a spot at worlds and the Mens got a wildcard for worlds in Rome in the fall. Maintained running tournaments all around the province. Working on a new website.

3.5 Executive Director - Chuck Lee

Facilities:

1. Kananaskis. The plan to renovate the Canoe Meadows facility is a go. The province is going to spend \$1.6 million for Canoe Meadows and \$1.2 for WidowMaker. Revenues were down in 2019 due to loss of contract with Cadet camp for mid-week bookings, no big events, cooler than normal weather and a shortened season for a planned fall construction that did not occur.
2. Harvie Passage. Meetings with Calgary Parks and the SoBow condominium developer has resulted in progress towards getting road access and parking on a Municipal Reserve property close to the take out.
3. Boulder Run. No progress on getting Alberta Parks to allow for the installation of slalom gates on this site.
4. Lethbridge. A committee has been formed to investigate the feasibility of modifying the weir on the Oldman River in the river valley as a paddling/surfing park.
5. Cochrane. Town Council has moved river recreation forward to the top of its agenda for Cochrane. Looking at plans for a surf/paddling park east of Highway 22.

Events:

1. Three River Rendezvous. Despite unseasonably cold weather and low water conditions, 280 people showed up for this annual kickoff to the paddling season. The AWA offered free NCCP Evaluations for Leaders and Instructors at the event.
2. Grande Cache Wild River Rendezvous. A small but loyal following of paddlers attended the event hosted by Jean Bourdua at the Grande Cache Hotel.

3. Sundre Paddlefest. Moved to Panther River retreat and combined with Women's Weekend. With 60 attendees, the AWA posted a small profit. Stroke Improvement, Freestyle and swiftwater rescue courses were run along with a free NCCP Evaluation.
4. Toby Creek Classic. The AWA provided the Event Trailer to support this ASCK/Aquabatics event in BC.
5. Slave River Paddlefest. Another big success with good attendance and fun for everyone from novices to experts.
6. Kanfest had 220 people attending and was very successful in hosting Alberta's best paddling party at Canoe Meadows
7. Alberta Master Games. The inaugural Games were held in Rocky Mountain House and included a voyageur canoe race, downriver canoe race and canoe polo tournament with 60 participants and great work by the host club the Rocky Canoe Club.
8. Provincials. Best turnout in a decade over the September long weekend. Lots of youth paddlers were able to participate at different levels. The point system for event participation and placement encouraged kids to sign up for more events
9. Fraser Fest. The Bow Valley Kayak Club organized camping and meals for people going to paddle the Fraser on the September long weekend. This is the first year it has been organized and was small but successful in supporting this annual gathering.

Clubs:

1. Summer Club Staff: The AWA hired 7 staff, 2 for Fort Smith, 2 in Grande Prairie, 1 for Central Alberta and POCC, 1 for Canmore and 1 with Waterwerks with Canada Summer Jobs grants. ASCK hired 1 assistant coach with CSJ, Canmore hired its own Head Instructor, and Calgary hired several summer instructors.
2. Online Club registration process. The program now covers 12 of the 19 Alberta clubs and we are endeavouring to make it easier to set up and administer into the future.
3. The AWA added the Wood Buffalo Paddling Society in Fort MacMurray and the Medicine Hat Canoe Club in 2019.
4. The AWA was able to procure and support 2 pools (Stettler, Three Hills) to acquire their own boats and equipment to run their own kayaking programs. Another 2 pools (Edson, Drumheller) bought their own boats after being introduced to kayaking through the Schools in Pools – Kayak for Life program.

Administration

1. The AWA streamlined its bookkeeping service in 2019 with the plan in 2020 to reduce the delays in getting timely reports for the Board.
2. As a Tier 2 Sport, the AWA received extra funding in 2019 from Alberta Sport through the Association Development Grant.

Participant and Leadership Development

1. Schools in Pools is now returning to many communities that we saw in 2016-17-18 in the launch of the program. There still is interest in the program but the number of new Instructors is dropping off. School Budget cuts are also impacting our success in building the program. In 2019 we were in Lacombe, Ponoka, Nanton, Calgary Winter Club, Sylvan Lake

and Canmore. Pool people from Red Deer, Eckville, Rocky Mountain House, Fort MacMurray and High River attended these courses.

2. Two Lake Kayak Instructor courses ran in Grande Prairie and Edmonton
3. One L2/I2 course was held in Lundbreck for 3 Instructors.
4. One Swiftwater Rescue was held at the Kananaskis.
4. Old Business

4.1 Membership Rates

Currently \$3 for club members and \$10 for non-club members. With \$3/member we lose money when people sign up due to insurance, CKC membership fee, and admin fees from the online signup system.

Finance sub-committee proposed increasing the fees to \$10/adult and \$5/youth to increase revenues from membership fees.

- Concerns about people who join multiple clubs paying the fee multiple times
- Can be fixed with an administrative process

Reasons against

- Concerns from clubs about where exactly the money is going to
 - Need to promote services that the AWA provides
- Worried that people will stop joining clubs

Motion by Kurtis to increase membership fees to \$10/adult and \$5/youth. Seconded by Blair.

For: 10

Against:22

Motion does not pass

Needs/Wants

- Kan repairs
- Loss of funding
- Want the whitewater center

Motion by Chuck (POCC) to make a club membership \$5 for all club members and \$15 for event members. Seconded by Laura (BVKC). None opposed. Motion passes.

4.2 Castle and Bighorn Wildland Park - Not relevant anymore.

5. New Business

5.1 - Alberta Sport Funding and grants

-Funding from Alberta Sport Connection was expecting to move from \$50,000 to \$57,000. Worried that due to government cuts this funding will not increase and may decrease.

5.2 - Canoe Meadows Individual Campsites

-Walk in camping only (no trailers). Will be prebooked. Can make it an AWA membership privilege to get early access

- \$29 for non AWA members to book the individual campgrounds, \$26 for AWA members with priority book available

5.3 - AB Parks closure of Kananaskis Info Center

- Would be a lease from the AB government.
- Will it be used by paddlers as it is not at the put in/take out
- Licensed section?

5.4 - AB Parks closure of Parks Recreation Areas

- A lot of sites that the government is looking at off loading
- Need to look at what ones actually our river access

5.5 - Safesport

- CKC interpretation of federal government mandates will create issues for how we run our programs.
- Gender balance of coaches, struggle to get 1 coach let alone 1 of each gender
- Will continue working with CKC as this develops

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

6.1. Election of Directors (all 2 year terms unless otherwise noted)

President – Sara Jordan

Vice President – Kimberly Casemore (1 year)

Treasurer - Liam McGowan (1 year)

Secretary - Kurtis Broda

Education Director - Mark Taylor

Communications - Kate Niegel

Recreation Director - Martin

Motion to let Blair resign by Kurtis, seconded by Blair

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

7. Adjournment at 4:15

Note from Matthew Corbett: Concerns about conditions on the Kan. River surfers were able to complete their construction without issues, AWA should be able to maintain the river (slalom gates, features,). He has concerns about the safety of the gates as they are in their current condition. Believes we need to look at how we can better our relationship with Parks. Should be reaching out to invite more organizations to the AGM.