

Draft Minutes

AWA Annual General Meeting

February 22, 2021 18:08 – 21:35

Chair – Sara Jordan

Minutes – Darrell Wiebe

Zoom - Join Zoom Meeting (full invite at bottom as necessary)

<https://zoom.us/j/95327727528?pwd=VndOSDFqSGJyZy95aINraWFDVUYwQT09>

Meeting ID: 953 2772 7528

Passcode: 273446

43 People in attendance

AWA Executive and attendance

P – Present

A – Absent

V - Voting

P	Sara Jordan	President	V	A	Vacant	Recreation
P	Matthew Corbet	Vice President	V	P	Lee Green	Director at Large
P	Mike Holroyd	Executive Director		P	Trevor Zaharichuk	Polo Director
A	Liam McGowan	Treasurer	V	P	Shane Paterson	Slalom Director
P	Kate Neigel	Communications		P	Brandon Willms	Freestyle Director
P	Joel Gervais	Facilities/Environment		A	Vacant	Secretary
P	Mark Taylor	Education/Leadership				

Rob Oliver	WaterWerks	V	Lisa	UAPS	V
Karla Handy			Caitlynn	Legris	
Chuck Lee	POCC	V	Dale	O'Brien	
Jeff Germaine	CKC	V	Darryl	O'Brien	EWP
Silvia			David S	Borealis	V
Elissa	BVKC		Paul	Manning-Hunter	
Simon Gibson			Angie	Schroderus	RCC V
Sterling McMillian	BVKC	V	Kristina	O'Brien	EWP V

Paul and Kathryn	Ceyana	V	Andrew Dowman
Chris			Nicholas
Caylie	Paddle Junkies	V	Tanner Fisher
Don Mitchell			David Bullas

1. Call to Order (Quorum of 25% of 19 Clubs met) Called to order at 18:08
2. Approvals
 - 2.1 Motion to approve the agenda **Motion Carried**
 - 2.2 Motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM **Motion Carried**

3. Reports

3.3

- Rocky Canoe Club (Lori)

Successful year despite Covid, received some funding after the Alberta Masters Games. To see more information regarding club activity please go to the Face Book page. Club was active with youth programming, stewardship, Search and Rescue. Saw decrease in membership from 300 to 150. Unique initiative at community Online Safety Day saw youth delivering safety content.

- Bow Waters Canoe Club (Don)

Finding new opportunities during Covid. Trips included overnighting on the North Saskatchewan. New Canadian program provides starting point for up to 40 folks new to the country and new to the sport. Fostering inclusivity and diversity with the possibility of building membership in the club.

- Borealis Paddling Club (David)

Held big hopes for the year but faced challenges beyond Covid when their compound was destroyed. Club was able to merge with Buffalo Club and bolster their numbers by 12 members. New name replaced 'canoe' with 'paddling'. Looking ahead they hope to get use from their 25' voyageur, enjoy local paddling and grow their numbers.

- Ceyana Canoe Club (Kathryn)

Club has been very busy and has secured sites for their gear in 40' Sea cans. This is a Joint Venture with EWP and others. They have lost their previous site. Looking forward to with AWA. Proud to announce that City of Edmonton is considering a proposal for a multi-sport facility in the river bottom within the next 5 years.

- Bow Valley Kayak Club (Elissa)

Group held a very successful Women's Weekend almost doubling participation to 38 people.

- Calgary Kayak Club (Jeff)

Club is usually running the Kananaskis festival but was cancelled due to the pandemic. They also lost SAIT pool which cancelled their polo program. Bright side they were able to hold a virtual Kan fest with video submissions. Looking ahead to better days and getting back to normal. Kan fest may be delayed to the fall. More information forthcoming depending on guidelines from AHS.

- Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers

Club dates back to 1973 with its roots in canoe polo and still holds the largest CP event in Canada with Cup of the North. They were able to offer some intro courses in the spring and the fall and enjoyed some great days on the Lobstick and Red Deer rivers. Also integral in new storage facility as mentioned in previous report. Hoping to hold a National event or possibly Pan Ams.

- Paddle Junkies (Caylie)

Club faced a reduction in overall membership to 78 people. Down from 100 plus members. Still they were able to provide excellent opportunities and did 18 river trips. They also travelled to Edmonton to the wave pool and held a film festival. Working hard to secure access from Trans Alta to the Bow River dam near Cochrane.

- UAPS (Lisa)

Please see submitted report for more details. Club is working diligently on the website. Paid memberships sit at 88 and they have been innovative at finding ways to get together and stay active and connected through platforms like Zoom. They are also politically active and have been lobbying the provincial government with their concerns over mining and park changes. Their emails have changed due to a domain change now please reach them at .com instead of .ca.

- Cottonwood kayak Club - No representation
- Sundre Kayak Club - No representation
- Wapiti Whitewater Club - No representation
- Medicine Hat - No representation
- Pincher O' Crow Club (Chuck)

Patiently waiting for pools to open. No festival this year but folks still turned up out of habit. Their 3rd quarter casino did not happen but the club still flourished holding camps for 70 kids and 30 adults. They were able to purchase a trailer and dry suits with money from existing grants. The dry suits made a huge difference allowing teaching in comfort despite the lack of pool availability. When asked about shared suits and cleaning protocols, Chuck explained he received direction that week long loans and cleaning of equipment with soap and water would safe guard against cross contamination of virus throughout participants.

- Waterwerks (Rob)

Club had a good year with approximately 100 members with the majority under 18 years of age. Club members did face some disappointments such as the cancelation of a trip to the States. Positives included Clash of the Creekers series and trips to Kananaskis, Red Deer, Kicking Horse, Nahatlatch, Thompson, and Kootenay Rivers. This club also made good use of Harvie Passage over the season and although they lost the use of the Inglewood pool they were able to secure another.

Question was asked if clubs are insured to travel to the United States. Answer by Mike H. Yes.

- Airdrie Kayak Club - No representation
- Somba Ke Paddling Club - No representation
- Fort Smith Kayak Club - No representation

- BS Paddlers - No representation

Question by D. O'Brien, Where are Somba Ke and BS Paddlers from? Answer by Mike H. Yellowknife and Calgary.

19:00 - 19:30

3.4 AWA Reports

3.4.1

Sara: Acknowledgement of the good work done by the current and outgoing executive. Please see the finished survey posted on the website. Also information regarding the Town hall meetings. Water parks are listed as a top priority.

Spoke of the opening on the board for Executive Director and the high number and quality of applicants (~80 people). A shortlist of 6 applicants was further cut to three people. Proud to introduce Mike Holroyd as the successful candidate. Turned over to Mike for an update.

3.4.2

Mike:

- Some programs were unable to come to run this year including Schools in Pools.
- Casino will be delayed by 1 year.
- Regrettably AWA saw the cancellation festivals slalom and freestyle events.
- His role as coach was also affected as he took on more duties. He was still able to reach out to athletes during small club trip and some coaching was administered online with virtual workouts.
- Kananaskis campground opened in July. Restriction due to Covid made for less overall revenue but the lack of large group bookings were offset by growth in individual site bookings.
- Acknowledged the good work of the Kananaskis campground host, Keith and the facility maintenance undertaken by the youths from Canmore.
- Has spent time in his new position learning and streamlining the backend of the website in hopes to simplify the campground booking process.
- Reviewed the membership surveys from AB summer games and the town hall meetings.
- Once again AWA was able to hire 6 summer staff to help with programs across AB
- Happy to announce that Brandon Willms joined AWA and filed papers to form Alberta Playboaters League.
- Liaison with Waterwerks club to hold provincials
- From feedback received from the membership is working collaboratively to address whitewater parks in conjunction with LKRUA, Surfers, MLA, Cochrane and Lethbridge city council and interested parties.
- Some successes include the Coast to Coast challenge and a record number of NCCP courses.
- Two million dollars government funding was put into Canoe Meadows with significant upgrades to parking and the cook shelter.
- AWA supported Bow Valley and Edmonton with storage facilities.
- AWA is working in conjunction with various wave and weir projects throughout the province.

- Administration was involved with grants for AB Sport, Safe Sport, and the New Canadian initiative.
- AWA received a CBA loan for \$60000, \$40000 of which is payable December 2022 to the federal government.
- A grant was issued for a HP boat house concept
- AWA will be conducting a membership drive before May. This will be supported by Aquabatics in the form of a discount code.
- AWA continues to work in supporting recreational and competitive paddlers with programs and services.
- Important to provide a positive feedback loop.

Questions for Mike; None

Sara:

Attended an insurance presentation in January

- Insurance remains Commercial General Liability with \$5 million. Protects you from third-party accountability claims. This may include bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, and defense costs of legal action, depending on outcomes.
- Advised that clubs consider (\$400/ club), Directors and Officers insurance with Paddle AB.
- Equipment Insurance covers Canoe Meadows.
- Insurance companies won't cover Covid costs, watch your risk!

Questions, Lisa

1. D&O Liability? A, deals with administration errors.
2. What kind of insurance needed for high value theft ie, Seacan?

*parking lot

Karla – looking into getting a quote

Mike Corbett – reminder to all to add Covid to your waiver.

3.4.3 Financial reports

Review – 2019 reports were audited by Paddle Junkies (Brett and Caylie)

2020 – Ab Sport insists on an external audit. AWA has decided to have both years audited.

3.4.3.2

In Liam's absence Sara and Mike presented to those in attendance the financial statement for the year 2020.

3.4.3.2.1

Motion to approve the 2020 financial statements. **Motion Carried**

19:30 – 19:45

3.5 Discipline Reports

- ASCK (Shane)

Focus on being there for the athletes. Group was able to make it safely back on the water as the season progressed, held 3-4 camps and a couple of races with the total number participants at 79. No Toby creek race meant the numbers were down. Having access to the HP facility was great. The Kananaskis River was not utilized as much as usual. Shane indicated that it needs some upkeep. Group has unfortunately lost its Performance Coach grant but took advantage of some Covid grant money. Group is working to support Hailey's overseas. Positives for the year include, lots of young participants and an every growing SUP group. Mike is stepping away as a coach and they are actively looking for someone to fill that role. The group is meeting tomorrow (Feb 23, 2021) to discuss the upcoming season.

Comments and questions; none

- ACPA (Trevor)

The positives; The Cup of the North did take place. Group was able to hold their casino prior to the Covid restrictions. They were able to purchase boats and upgrade their nets. Group was able to subsidize 8-10 members for NCCP courses. Negatives, all programs shut down so they've offered limited support to clubs. Youth tournament was canceled. Group is looking toward fall to reschedule. They hope to add equipment this year. They are holding their AGM next week and currently seek help.

Comments and questions; Big Kudos from RCC! They were able to use ACPA equipment and manpower this season.

- APL (Brandon)

Has filed the paperwork with AWA to bring Freestyle back as an active Discipline. During the 2020 season Kalob G offered a freestyle workshop at the Kananaskis. Event was well attended and he will be back this July. Next ALP project is to form a board to help revive interest in playboating. Hoping to gain traction with youth and adult leagues. Proposing a series where youth could compete in teams toward a cup. Also 3 level of adult playboaters with meet ups on Tuesdays. Different tiers will allow for workshops and more competitive events, Kan, HP, North Sask all bringing awareness and fun back to kayaking. APL is positioned to take over AFKA. AGM March 9, requesting help.

Motion to instate APL. **Motion Carried.**

Comments and questions;

What happened to AFKA? Does AFKA still exist? Why do we need ALP as a discipline?

A 1&2, Chuck L; AFKA dissolved 7-8 years ago. Project was handled by a guy Chip, a fella Griffon tried to revise the society but couldn't. A 3, Mike H; If ALP is a discipline it then eventually qualifies for a casino like the other disciplines.

19:45 – 20:30

4. 2021 Key Priorities (Sara)

- 4.1 AWA is working on a collaborative and comprehensive strategy for the future. Currently looking for a facilitator to help with planning the next three years. AWA will be reaching out to all digitally.
- 4.2 Safe Sport training is an important issue for AWA in 2021 and going forward. This nation-wide initiative is being led by Canoe Kayak Canada. This is seen as important for safety, ethical decision making. Board members and coaches will be required to take training. People new to, or renewing their NCCP certifications will also require this training. If you are only dealing with adults you can do a self-assessment and police check. If you are coaching minors you require an enhanced police check. NCCP modules include Respect in Sport and Code of Conduct. Modules are free if you are a volunteer for a nonprofit. This initiative requires oversight to address complaints.

Motion: Add Discipline Chair to the role of Director at Large. **Motion Carried**

*parking lot, this will need a change in Bylaws. To be undertaken by executive at a later date.

* parking lot, Mike looking into Police checks for AWA (sometimes free for nonprofit?)

4.3 Whitewater Park Development was the key issue from the AWA membership survey. The river surfing group has been working diligently with local and provincial government advocating for more whitewater parks. These projects take a lot of work and often require a local champion. AWA continues to push for better access at Harvie Passage. The Cochrane wave project was initiated by a local citizen and has gained traction with their municipal planning group. Projects such as the Calgary River wave at 10 Street, Lethbridge weir renovation, Bow River Access at the ghost dam and others require champions and local action groups. AWA wants to work collaboratively with this group to further our common interests.

Comment; Chuck Lee, Boulder Run near the 3 Rivers Dam should be added to the list. This park may be delisted as a park and POCC has money set aside for improvements and hopes to become stewards of the area.

Motion; AWA members support working with Alberta RSA to develop multi-use waves and whitewater parks. Motion countered to read, AWA members support working with Alberta RSA "in principle" to develop multi-use waves and whitewater parks.

Motion Carried

4.4 2021 Events & Programs – Covid – Mike, note to clubs that this will likely be another confusing year and that we must continue to follow the guideline set forth by AHS. The 50 person limit per event is still in place. Please refer to the guideline and use the templates provided by CKC. Club micro events are encouraged so please continue to be creative with event planning and learning opportunities. Yuri and Mark have educational opportunities up on the website.

Comments and questions; David, Does AWA have a work around for current instructors to gain experience? What timeline? A, Mike or Mark - committing to May for recertification

Comment, D O'Brien – Courses should be offered by the club with AWA representation. AWA agrees and will help coordinate.

4.5 Website Update, Will be updating website to integrate camping and platform.

5. New Business – None

20:53

6. Elections for 2021 Board of Directors (Sara Jordan)

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

Outgoing

- F&E Joel Gervais
- R D Jamie Hennesey
- Comm Kate Neigel
- Secretary Vacant

Voting as per Alberta Whitewater Association Bylaw 4.3.5

Vice President – Matthew Corbet

Treasurer – Jamie Hennesey

Secretary – Darrell Wiebe (1 year)

Communication – Simon Gibson (1 year)

Facilities and Environment – Andrew Dowman

Recreation Director – Connie DW (1 year)

Director at Large – Lee Green

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

7. Adjournment at 21:35