

SOD Board Meeting 2015-12-09

Present: Patricia MacDonell, Richard Lemoine, Colin Rhodes, Ken Norris, Connie Ohrling, Marilyn Suke

Absent: Peter Daleman, Gord Kerr

Called to order: 8:00 p.m.

Review of Agenda – 2 items added at Marilyn's request – under other business

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes – Spelling corrected on Patricia's last name. Moved by Richard Lemoine to accept the minutes. Seconded by Ken Norris. Carried. Gord Kerr to post on SOD site.

Action Items from last meeting – Marilyn accepted to serve as HP Chair, Colin accepted to serve as University Chair. Patricia has prepared letter to CCO regarding feedback from SOD AGM and will send to CCO tomorrow.

Financial Report – Richard sent out budget to actual prior to the meeting. Jackets for SOD team added to budget. His summary e-mail is attached to the minutes. We can afford a small deficit this year. Zone 4 is remitting directly to us but with the new system we have no idea how much to expect. Also incurring extra bank charges so Richard will speak with Dan at Zone 4 to try to have only once a month remittance. Ken asked about the Jackrabbit subsidy from CCO. It is \$3 per registrant. Colin noted that camp subsidies need to be added to the SOD team budget. Different from the subsidy to the clubs. Patricia needs the attendance list for the 2 camps this summer (Hardwood, Highlands) so that she can identify the SOD Team athletes who are eligible for the athlete subsidy. Richard will amend the budget and needs the names/addresses of those who are eligible so that he can prepare and mail cheques. Move to accept report by Marilyn Suke, seconded by Connie Ohrling.

SOD Race Series – Colin Rhodes

- document to hosts was sent out, all hosts have accepted the criteria
- hosts lined up, committed to hosting requirements
- confirming dates of Hardwood races before announcing series - will be 2 races rather than their request for 3 so that the series isn't weighted too heavily towards Hardwood
- Al White will take care of points
- Finale is March 13th in Midland
- Colin is preparing a separate announcement for the website for the public
- budget: decrease prize money to \$900 = $250/125/75 \times 2$ (instead of last year's $500/125/75$ which was set in error) and keep \$1000 for t-shirts and series finale BBQ

SOD Race Team – criteria is work in progress – we need to commit to what benefits will be offered for 2016-17

- still need to confirm Ron for team 2016-17 (confirmed for team 2015-16)
- budget for FY 2015-2016: jackets \$2800, camp subsidies (still to be paid from summer/fall 2015): $20 \times \$50 = \1000
- should survey the team members at the end of the season to determine if it is working and what can be improved.
- Colin sees it as a summer/fall emphasis rather than winter
- if someone is subsequently named to the Ontario talent squad, they are no longer eligible for the SOD team since the SOD team is meant to bridge the gap
- still need to get the team information and pictures onto the website – Patricia will handle content and get it to Gord

Other reports – Youth – Connie Ohrling - Kelly Sinclair is working on a website "connecting Ontario's youth". Connie has sent the link to Gord to be added to our site. Also a video by some Track Attack athletes and a kilometre tracking spreadsheet. Connie will share the link with all of the board. Please share it with your clubs. Highlands is hosting ICC/CCC training this weekend (theory) with on snow portion another weekend (when there is snow). Huntsville and Parry Sound are also holding courses this weekend. There will also be a course in Haliburton.

Requests for Coach Subsidies: SOD will subsidize any coaching course. This was confirmed by a review of the minutes. Richard said they need to apply for Coaches Association of Ontario, CCC and CCO first and then get further subsidy from SOD. Coaching Association of Ontario subsidizes 70% so SOD will subsidize 30% of whatever is not otherwise subsidized. Patricia will collate all subsidies so that we can determine what would be paid by SOD.

ParaNordic – Ken Norris - There was a camp about a month ago. Trying to do “Soldier On” program again. Want to approach high schools. This year we have 2 students identified.

High Performance – Marilyn Suke noted that SOD athletes doing well at Silver Star. CCO is working on international support subsidy and we should see a policy soon. Camp Fortune has been abandoned (no snow).

University – joint camp with U of Toronto/U of Waterloo/U of Guelph at Highlands is coming up – hoping for snow!

Items from CCO Meeting – Hearing good things about new CCC CEO. Reviewed CCO Strategic Planning session. Province of Ontario has announced changes to funding for amateur sports including funding for national events.

Club Survey – see e-mail dated December 9th from Marilyn Suke. We need to promote the website better. Only clubs who attended the AGM filled in the survey. Should we contact other clubs?

Athlete Support at Ontario Cups – Was there any activity in trying to match athletes? Patricia will check with Ron when they meet tomorrow.

Other Business –

Katja's role at Nationals – Katja is going to be an additional coach/wax support at Nationals for Ontario athletes. Marilyn and Katja have been talking about Katja's role and how should she be preparing. She needs to promote the “Ontario spirit” – top 30 finish to get points, we want the provincial banner. What did CCO envision when they created the position for Nationals? Communication to others to promote Ontario (including university) results – using social media in a manner similar to what Quebec is doing at Silver Star now. Recruiting potential for universities. Ontario has about 2/3 of the university skiing in Canada - the only province with a ‘circuit’. Disseminating wax information and, generally, communication with Ontario coaches. Attend team captains’ meeting and communicate to other coaches so that they don’t all have to go especially if there is travel involved. Communicate with Ontario webmasters - SOD, NCD, etc. Marilyn will ask the other 3 districts for their input as well (through CCO HP call).

CCO Strategic Plan Weekend – Two day meeting to set priorities and set action steps. Working on finalizing a document. Not much has to change from what was done at the May session. Target is for the report to be finalized in early January. Mission, and vision, Priorities – Ontario athletes need to perform at a high level which is dependent on funding at all levels. How can CCO make that funding happen? How to grow the sport? HR review. How should we be organized? Communications. How to get non-racers connected. Recognition that fees are probably at a tipping point. Great energy at the session. Good to be with people who are all committed to skiing.

Other: Any communication sent to member clubs should be copied to all Board members. Richard will send a list of club contacts to all Board members.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 19th 8 p.m. – after World Junior Trials in case subsidy decisions need to be made

Move to adjourn by Richard Lemoine. Seconded by Connie Ohrling at 9:15 p.m.

Attachments which are part of this document – financial statements sent separately, explanatory e-mail from Treasurer below, survey e-mail from HP Chair below.

Approved:

Patricia MacDonell, President

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E-Mail from Richard Lemoine – December 9th – Financial statement/budget

Last month was the first time that I circulated a budget and didn't look for approval. Hopefully you have all had a chance to look at it and may have some questions for me at tonight's meeting.

The one item that we had approved but didn't make it into the budget was the cost of the SOD jackets. These came in at almost \$2,800. I have amended the budget to reflect this cost. That increases the budgeted deficit to almost \$4,000.

There are extra costs in the budget for the TD training this year (\$3,000) and with no O Cup we lose about \$3,000 in revenue. The TD cost will likely be a bi-annual charge and hopefully we will get back to having an O Cup every year. Taking these into consideration we should have a long run balanced budget over the years. Fortunately we have a significant surplus that we can use to fund the lows.

Speaking of funds will do have over \$120,000 in cash and investments.

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Email – December 9th from Marilyn Suke to the SOD Board – Club Survey:

At the SOD AGM I circulated a preliminary copy of a club survey (seems it is the survey now). From the 7 surveys returned I have summarized the information provided.

Clubs range in size from 50 to 630 and most do not ski on trails fully owned by club but rather have agreements with landowners and municipalities.

All clubs operated with a large volunteer component. One pays a coach, some pay groomers.

2 clubs are racing clubs only. All others but one have Jackrabbit programs.

Barriers to youth programming identified as:

- lack of leadership or difficulty training coaches
- lack of snow
- cost of equipment

Strengths of clubs identified as

- proximity to large populations
- ability to host races
- coaching development
- social interaction for seniors

Challenges Include:

- loss of trails to urban expansion
- making skiing affordable
- keeping youth skiers engaged who do not want to race

Perceived Advantages to belonging to SOD, CCO, CCC include:

- Programs
- Coach Training

- Insurance
- Continuity

Suggestions for SOD support include

- better communication (an email list suggested) Also posting minutes as well as a newsletter
- trail maintenance and development workshops
- marketing

Only one club does formal trail exchange days (BSC) but some suggested SOD could organize this

Most rarely use the SOD website. Those who do use it for race information and points