

SOD Board Meeting 2014-June-17 – Tuesday – by teleconference

Meeting called to order at 8:04 p.m. by Patricia MacDonell.

Attendance: Peter Daleman, Ron Howden, Gord Kerr, Richard Lemoine, Patricia MacDonell, Ken Norris, Connie Ohrling, Colin Rhodes, Marilyn Suke

Appointment and Welcome of Recording Secretary to Board: Debra Friendly

Review of Agenda/addition of items: Camp update, paraffin series update – added by Ron Howden under Other Business.

Review of Minutes of previous meeting: Marilyn noted that #7 – registration for university camp is not on Zone 4 but is on a different system. Gord Kerr moved acceptance of the minutes as amended. Seconded by Peter Daleman. Carried. Patricia asked for confirmation that minutes are OK to be posted to the SOD website. All were in favour. Gord suggested this should only be done once the minutes are approved and he will do so now for the previous minutes.

Follow-up on SOD Bursary Awards: Thanks to Colin, Richard and Connie for reviewing the applications. Colin explained that the committee developed a weighting criteria and evaluated applications. Scott Hill, Julian Smith, Jenn Jackson, Isabella Howden are the successful candidates. Results have been sent to Gord who will prepare an announcement for the website. Patricia has notified all 14 candidates via e-mail. All successful candidates have sent a thank you and have committed to providing a proof of enrolment in the Fall. Patricia will send letters to Gord so that his wording will be similar. We will try to get photos. Next step is to develop next year's criteria. Colin suggested that on the later discussion on strategy, the bursaries will be considered.

Highlights from CCC AGM – Just prior to the meeting, Division Chairs (DCC's) asked Richard to resign as President and not to run for another term. It is a long story. Other than the repercussions of this, the annual meetings were uneventful. DCC's were unhappy that their attempts to ask questions were shut down under the guise of keeping to the scheduled agenda. Own the Podium (OTP) funding has been cut by 25% on able bodied side. Para-nordics experienced no cut to their OTP funding. OTP has cut funding by 19% overall. Self-funding by athletes to events such as World Juniors will be on the increase so SOD may want to look at enhanced funding. (e.g. in 2014 – each athlete going to World Juniors had to pay \$1500 - about 1/3 of the cost; coming year could be \$2500 - \$3000 per athlete. B tour will be much less funded.)

New members from Ontario on the CCC board: Dorothy Lothian, Jen Tomlinson

New President: Jamie Coatsworth

Major discussion outside the meetings: is there a choice required between university or HP skiing? Canada does not have the sport scholarship programmes like the U.S.

There will likely not be a race in 2014 at Sovereign Lake which is a problem for Ontario skiers who usually go there for early season camp and racing. Possibility is to go to the super tour race in Montana. Montmorency has stored snow so may have the Quebec version of Frozen Thunder in November.

Frozen Thunder in Canmore still planned for October 18th. Ron Howden is taking a team to Callaghan Valley in December for camp and race. Some discussion about conditions at CV in December.

Looking ahead for SOD – operating as a board/organization: What is our role as SOD? – The question was raised at the CCO AGM regarding whether we still need the districts (SOD, LSSD, NCD, NOD). BC is also divided into districts.

Ron said that speaking as a coach and former SOD athlete, he was actively recruited by an SOD coach out of high school. SOD should be working with high schools, training coaches, recruiting high school athletes.

Richard has gone both ways. Some districts are not functioning well but on the other hand we are such a large geography in the province that the districts are handy. e.g. awards, banquets to encourage athletes to stay involved.

Marilyn sees part of the role of SOD is to relate to the recreational skier community. It is important to show some obvious benefit to belonging to the larger ski community since fees continue to increase. Ken agrees – need to show recreational skiers

the value-added. Some clubs are discussing self-insurance and withdrawing from SOD/CCO/CCC. Perhaps subsidize training for jackrabbit leaders. Membership numbers are fluctuating.

Patricia asked Ken and Colin about the progress on the survey. Ken and Colin will try to have a survey ready for September. Board members were asked to forward questions to Ken to help in the development of the survey. Need to find out what clubs are doing as well as what they want from our organization. Ron questioned the timing. By the time we get results from a September survey, it is too late for 2014-2015 season. It was agreed that we can continue to plan changes for this year and use the survey to augment and develop for the next season.

Ron suggested a registry for coaches, racers, recreational skiers using software called Team Snap. Patricia asked if the website isn't already supposed to be the source for this information. Ron said that Team Snap works differently so both are good – Team Snap more immediate? Richard asked how Ron uses it. E-mail invitations and reminders are automatic.

It is important that southern Ontario continue to be serviced by SOD. Go ahead with the survey. Paraffin series launch. Start planning now for season ending banquet. Plan a "Jackrabbit Day". What can we do for recreational skiers? Make sure they can find the other clubs! Try to get touring groups together. Ken suggested approaching clubs for a surcharge on trail passes to go back into services from SOD. Ron suggested trying to get discount programmes from regional businesses. Marilyn's club has ski exchange week – reciprocal privileges – between clubs. Richard suggested providing ski instruction to touring groups.

Committee Reports

High Performance –

Next season's schedule: Midget Championships– March 7/8 NOD Ocup – Feb 28/Mar1 OFSSA (Sudbury) – Feb 19/20 OUA Feb 13/14/15 Nationals – March 4-21 so still trying to make a date for SOD Championship (Paraffin Series) and we want to tie in the banquet with SOD Championship rather than end of season. Available dates: February 22nd or March 28th

Midland has offered their location for SOD Championship but they won't have snow at the end of March. This banquet will recognize Paraffin Race series winners. Richard would like to see an end of season SOD banquet which recognizes "best" in several categories. Marilyn said that some districts have their banquet in the Fall. Travel is always an issue. Do we combine it with another event. Quick vote showed that banquet at the end of Paraffin Series was preferred and we would go with February 22nd with an afternoon BBQ focussed on athletes who participated in Paraffin Series. Patricia asked Ron to set up a committee and then proceed with Paraffin schedule.

High Performance has not met since CCO meetings. Colin has been involved with evaluating OCup bids. Canada Games selection date is unknown as yet.

Ron noted that there is a conflict between OCup and pre-qualifying race at Callaghan so he doesn't want December OCup to necessarily be a selection race for Canada Games.

Youth

Connie has nothing to report other than she will have questions for survey.

Para-Nordic

Ken has nothing to report.

University

Colin reported that the camp is this coming weekend and he will report to SOD board afterwards with photos for website. SOD is contributing \$200 to camp costs. Organizers are pleased to have 20 registrations.

Other Business

Membership fee

In addition to membership fees to CCO, there is a fee collected for SOD. Richard noted that he would like to see that continue BUT SOD must, in turn, be able to show the clubs what they are getting for their money.

Motion by Richard: That the fee for 2014-2015 be the CCO fee plus \$1 for each member. SOD retains the \$1 and remits the balance to CCO. Seconded by Colin. Carried.

Camp update: First camp (Highlands) has almost 30 registered. The other 2 camps are now on Zone 4. Ron is organizing the August SOD Camp #2. Toivo is organizing the North Bay camp. Devon Kershaw to participate at North Bay camp. Documents will be added to website asap. URL link on Zone 4 may need to be fixed. Ron will confirm to Debra so that the Zone 4 registrations can be updated.

Paraffin Series: Ron will set up a schedule for Paraffin series based on draft race schedule from CCO.

Next meeting: September or if necessary, earlier

Motion to adjourn: Marilyn Suke. Seconded by Richard. Carried.

Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Debra Friendly, Recording Secretary

Approved by: Patricia MacDonell, President