

**Southern Ontario District Board Meeting -
Wednesday, February 18th, 2015, 8:00 p.m.**

Minutes

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

Recording Secretary: Debra Friendly

Review of agenda – approved as issued

Approval of minutes – Gord moved approval of the minutes of January 14th meeting. Ken seconded.

Actions arising from minutes –

Letter to clubs: Did not get sent out. Marilyn will redraft with SOD policy on coaching support and perhaps some course dates. Richard will get it out since he is the only one with the e-mail contacts.

SOD subsidies to athletes: They were notified that they would be getting money. Thank you notes already received from both. Gord will post parts of the thank you notes on the website.

Wax guidance: Gord still trying to track down the standard so will post as soon as he can find the CCO standard. (Ron found it and sent it to Gord during the meeting.) Masters are ignoring the wax restriction for the Paraffin Series. Some discussion about exempting them but Colin pointed out that this isn't fair to the rest of the athletes in the Open categories. Ron pointed out that there is a reason it is called the Paraffin Series.

SOD officials training: Patricia notified CCO of SOD's policy and suggested it be considered by other districts.

SOD Race Series Discussion

- Summary by Ron on this season to date/Midland Champs: Overall it was a good series. Awareness is good. Midland championships have 50 people so far. Budget was for printing, plaques, medals, BBQ and prize money (\$900). Ron ordered T shirts instead of medals and plaques. He is short money for the BBQ because prize money was printed as a bigger amount than budgeted (instead of \$250 Open Men, \$250 Open Women site says \$500 each). Ron is asking for an additional \$500 for the BBQ (which is advertised as free for registered racers). Richard moved that the budget be increased by \$500. Seconded by Gord. Carried. Marilyn pointed out that the race notice doesn't mention the BBQ. Action: Gord can get some information onto the website. Action: Ron - Organizers need to know to have lunch tickets ready to go with bibs and sell tickets to non-racers. Action: Results to date need to be updated. (Patricia) Standards are posted at <http://xcontario.com/category/sod-race-series/standings/>

- Lessons learned to date – Results need to be in a common format in order to collate results. Later start time. Standardize categories. Action: Ron will accumulate other suggestions and provide a summary at the next meeting.

- Proposal by Richard for next year – Nationals 2016 are in Whitehorse starting around March 19. Numbers were down significantly the last time they were held in Whitehorse (2010). Only 84 athletes from Ontario attended. The cost of airfare may result in even lower numbers in 2016. Richard is proposing that SOD have their championship in early March to give our local skiers something to keep aiming at so that they don't give up on the season after the last O Cup (especially if they aren't going to Nationals). If held, March 5 and 6th it could also be a good tune up race before Nationals for those who are going. Action: Patricia to include this proposal on next agenda after Ron has done the summary.

Summer Camp Proposal – Hardwood (Aug 12 – 15, Grades 6 – 8, limited to 40), HTB (June 25-28 High School) and Universities (June 5-7 – Grade 12 and university) on board for camps. Ron is suggesting \$500 per camp. Organizers need lead time for planning and promotion purposes. Richard moves that we allocate \$500 to each of Hardwood and Highlands camps and \$500 to university. Seconded by Colin. Carried.

Summer Roller Ski Series – One Way is interested in helping with this. Must be closed road and have a TD on site for insurance to be in force. Downsview would be a possible site. University of Waterloo race (first Saturday of November) is on university insurance. Richard wondered if there is a municipal airport that might be open to a test event. Ron said he will check with a go cart site or golf courses. Gord suggested a combination of roller ski and trail races. Colin suggested we could piggy back with other events like we did in the winter. Patricia will look at Lakehead campus in Orillia. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Barbara Eccles Award – Female skier who exhibits emerging leadership, active in SOD community and competitive. Ron nominated Shelby Dickey. Colin seconded the nomination. Carried. Shelby has run several camps – for universities and younger skiers.

There are other awards that need to be reviewed by the board (or a committee of the board) and reinstated. Perhaps we don't have to present each one each year. Connie will check at HTB for the Barbara Eccles Award and the SOD Club award and take them to the championship this weekend. Patricia will ask Al White for history of the awards.

CCO Board Report – Expressed sadness at Larry Sinclair's death. Thrilled with the crowd sourcing response. CCO has a surplus because the coach salary has not had to be paid and trip costs have been down. Canada Winter Games team travels this weekend. High Performance Chair position is vacant as a result of Larry's death. Jen Tomlinson has taken on the position for the interim – to get us through the season. Katja will be doing some Midget Championships tasks that would normally be done by Ontario coach. CCO has had discussions with NDC to see if they could provide some coaching but they are at the very preliminary stages on this matter. Ron is reluctant to go this route because there is an aspect of coach development as well which he doesn't think NDC can handle. Discussed financial policy and whether districts should be subsidizing officials' training. Patricia suggested that the SOD policy be considered. AGM is May 1 -3 in Sudbury. A committee is going to review Ontario Cups – poor attendance, costs exceeding revenue. Patricia has asked that Ron Howden be added to the committee. Registration for OCup #4 in Timmins is at 60 and closes on Friday. Many midget athletes racing in Temiskaming the next weekend are not going to Timmins. Colin asked: has there been any progress on the strategic plan? Richard (chair of the strategic plan committee) said he will be meeting with the consultant in March and there will be discussion at the CCO AGM.

Committee Reports –

Financial - Statements were sent via e-mail this afternoon. We are doing better than budget and will likely end the year with a surplus. The bank account is finally open and outstanding cheques written. Ron wanted to know what we can do with the cash (>\$120K). Marilyn suggested we could collect lower fees. Richard explained that we need at least one year of revenue in the bank. Most of the money is from when we

used to have Bingo money coming in not club fees. Ron suggested we could promote para-nordic more. Ken said training guides would be a good place to start. Other ideas put forward by Ron, Richard and Marilyn.

Para-nordic – “Try it on” day last weekend at Highlands – 3 people. Kawartha Nordic will be having one on February 28th.

University – OU’s last weekend had very high level of racing. Great event other than temperature (-27C) on Sunday which resulted in race cancellation. Carleton University is hosting next year – probably at Nakkertok.

HPC – nothing to report

Youth – Materials going out. Jackrabbits almost finished. Midget championship upcoming.

Other business - Colin suggested that SOD might consider adding to the Larry Sinclair fund – specifically the stadium since all lights have been “purchased”. NOD donated \$300 and challenged the other districts to match. We will defer to another meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8th

Prepared by: Debra Friendly

Approved by: _____
Patricia MacDonell, President