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Wisconsin State

Wisconsin State Curling Association Board of Directors Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM Blended Meeting at Portage and via Zoom

Minutes

1) Terri Gleason called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

2) Kampen called roll.

a) Present: Alpine, Appleton, Arlington, Blackhawk, Centerville, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Medford, Milwaukee, Portage, Poynette, Racine, Rice Lake, Stevens Point, Superior, Tri-City, Wausau, Wauwatosa

b) Absent: Clintonville, Kettle Moraine, Loch Wissota, Lodi, Marshfield, Pardeeville, Waupaca

c) Guests: Jeff Plush, Jenna Burchesky, Jenna Martin, Mark Swandby, Garret Perry, Richard Maskel, Rich Lepping, Mark Hartman, Jim Wendling, Richard Maskel, Willie Wilberg, Kraig Deeren

3) David Russell made a motion to approve the WSCA Board of Directors Spring Minutes – 2nd Doug Anderson. Motion passed unanimously. 4)

Treasurer’s Report – Greg Dunlop reported that there are \$33,157 in the bank and that all clubs have paid their dues. Alpine wasn’t open so they didn’t pay. Waukesha is defunct and turned over their funds to Pardeeville Curling Club.

5) Jeff Plush, Jenna Burchesky, and Jenna Martin were asked to come to this meeting to discuss how the dues we pay are used to support grassroots curling. USAC spent \$52 per member on membership services in 2022. These benefits include member services staffing and compliance, development and education, competitions, outreach, and international relations. The handout will be included in these minutes. Safety is a top priority through Safe Sport training and background checks. Insurance covers members both on their home ice and when they play at another club. The

move to Eagan, MN was done to give access to the training facilities, close to an international airport, and the Fortune 500 companies in the area. Opened the discussion for questions and comments. Covered the issues surrounding the Men's and Women's Club Nationals and the hope for better attention this season. Changes for junior curling coming up - partnering with junior bonspiels and making them qualifiers, younger developmental program and U25, looking to hire somebody just for junior curling, coaching manuals for coaches and parents. There is concern about the junior bonspiels filling up quickly.

Currently have sites for eight of the championships with several others in the works. Discussed the financials surrounding hosting the events. Safe Sport is required by congress as a NGB and a huge investment. Several directors shared some grassroots concerns surrounding the changes in the past couple of years: digital *Curling News*, no Media Guide, the confusion on how to pay dues, the need for transparency especially financially, the history behind the growth of curling, TV coverage, inclusion in the Olympics and the Board of Directors. Suggestion to lower the cost for training such as officiating, instructor, coaching and ice tech courses – these people volunteer their time to help grow the sport, work at national events, and pay for travel and lodging. Discussed the focus in growing new clubs, others moving from arena to dedicated, and the need to also service the established clubs – staff has been added for customer service to provide ways to help clubs, putting together clinics, learn to curl suggestions. Many clubs have been reaching out to Jenna and Gabby for their assistance. John Bazley shared his experience in Alpine with COVID and then compressor issues and how USA Curling was able to help them including waving the dues because they were off for two years. John Bazley has also reached out for other services and USA Curling is helping to reestablish junior curling and options to add it to the Monroe school system. USA Curling has helped clubs such as St. Paul and Chaska to become compliant in paying their back dues by offering 10-year interest free loans. Shared that Beau Welling is now the new WCF President. Both organizations are looking for ways partner such as their loan programs, maybe looking at adding a disaster loan. Communications have been an issue as USA Curling doesn't have the updated information from the clubs as it hasn't continued the practice of reaching out to the clubs and the Media Guide is no longer being done. One benefit is listing of club bonspiels on the USA Curling website, including the bonspiel flyer. Looking at adding an officer onboarding feature to have current information. Also, zoom meetings to have key people such as treasurers share best practices, resources, and ask questions. Collection of club dues will continue as it has in the past, still have the option of using Sport80. Need to add more revenue to the association via sponsorships in order to provide more services and value to the membership. Not one penny from membership dues goes to fund Olympic Athletes. The due's structure is part of the USCA Bylaws, any changes regarding all members having to pay dues would require a change in the bylaws. A history of the issues with GNCC was given.

6) President's Report

7) WCF Report – Rich Lepping: New WCF President, Beau Welling is a former USA Curling Director. Grassroots, transparency, and bringing together the CEOs of the top curling organizations are on his agenda. New championship called the Pan-Continental, similar to the European Championship. Big issues still not voted on: 1) 8- versus 10-end games vote in June 2023 and 2) other policies from the rules commission surrounding uniform policies. There is more athlete inclusion in the organization, a policy that 40% of the board must be women, and several other WCF board openings are coming up. Rich is on the finance commission, and they will be doing a re-start on the loan program and are still working on the details but will include the facilities, including arenas to dedicated facilities. WCF and new owner of Kays of Scotland have an exclusive relationship with the WCF. Rich also discussed the hit that the WCF took during the Olympics due to COVID, but while Andy Anderson was on the board he invested well and spending decisions were made that has help to build a reserve for the

WCF.

8) Committee Reports

- a. Rules – No Report
- b. Website – website has been updated by Justin Ramm. Pictures can be added including prior state champions. Security will be removing email addresses. Clubs should provide just one contact for their club. New area for junior curlers.
- c. Bylaws – Clubs must have at least 8 members. Bylaws may need to address in the near future the clubs who want to be a part of WSCA but choose not to be a member of USA Curling dues.

9) Competition

- a. Juniors – See below Discussion: Change of dates for U18 should be communicated sooner so teams can plan.
- b. Men's and Women's: Irv - will be in Wauwatosa Dec. 15-19. The number of teams playing down has grown. It may be necessary to hold these in different clubs in the future. Registration will open soon. Mixed: Mark O. - will be held in Arlington Feb. 3-5. This is Mark's last year to do this event, but he is willing to help those who take over. c. Seniors – No changes from what was presented at the state meeting.
- d. High School – See below

10) New Business

- a. Grant Application – David Russell moved to approve giving this year's grant to Alpine Curling Club. 2nd – Jeff Koch. Passed. Alpine will receive the \$3,000 grant.
- b. Member's Assembly: NOTE: Rich shared this information right after his WCF Report. USA Curling history was given...nine years ago the USCA organization went from a volunteer led organization to a governance staff led organization. Last contentious vote was to make those changes. Since then, there have been three (3) bylaw changes with the last one being the 95% rule. He discussed how USCA has worked with clubs that were in arrears, that GNCC also made bylaw changes. He shared some of the misinformation that has been on social media. GNCC clubs can join USA Curling as at large clubs and approximately thirty (30) did so prior to the deadline. Lynn LaRocca will establish a governance 4.0 committee to address membership concerns. There will be a grassroots commission, two from each state or region, to work on identify various needs. St. Paul is back in and there is an upcoming meeting with the city of Chaska. Rich praised the staff at USA Curling and stated that they are lightyears ahead of where they were prior to the move. David Russell shared the history behind the proposed changes from ten years ago and how the members assembly came about. He also went over the motions made made by the USCA Board of Directors to expel the GNCC and covered who can vote on the motion at our meeting. **MOTION** (David Russell): I move that the WSCA direct its proxy at the USCA Members Assembly to vote to ratify the motion that was passed by the USCA Board to expel Grand National Curling Club. 2nd – John Bazley. **VOICE VOTE**: Aye 16, Nay 5, Abstain 3. Dan Lilla will attend the Member Assembly as the proxy for WSCA.

11) Next Meeting Date and Location – to be determined

- 12) Doug Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd – Jeff Koch. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.

High School Report: Mark has been sent the Northern Division Schedule and the update for contact list of coaches. Working on getting Southern Division Schedule to him. Sent 1980- 2000

Historical Reports to Mark to post to online & working on other reports. Big events for High School – Jan 6-7 in Wausau – Tietge Bonspiel; High School State – Feb 17-18 in Wausau
Junior Report: U18 Qualifier for Nationals in Eau Claire on Nov 25-27 to qualify for Nationals in Colorado (Jan 12-15). U21 Championships for Wisconsin in Wausau on Dec 27-29 – last U21 championships for Wisconsin since U21 qualification system is now different. The U21 championships will be in Broomstones April 3-8.