

Minutes – USACK Wildwater Committee

April 19, 2009 – 9:00pm EDT

(prepared by Chuck Brabec)

Attendees:

John Pinyerd, Tom Wier, Chris Hipgrave, Tom O’Sullivan, Denny Adams, Jeremy Rodgers, David Jones, Chuck Brabec

Treasurers Report:

David Jones reported that he did not get an update from Gerald since the update after the last meeting. At that time, we had a balance of \$6,629.12. This does not include a \$3,000.00 donation that was made on March 6th and \$150.00 of expenses for the Colorado Training Camp that was held this weekend.

Colorado Training Camp:

Denny Adams and Jeremy Rodgers reported that the storm that dumped 3-4 feet of snow in the Colorado mountains and closed I-70 kept 15 of the 20 athletes who registered from getting to the training camp at the Colorado River/Glenwood Canyon. Otherwise, it was a great camp.

FIBArk/U.S. Nationals:

Denny Adams and Jeremy Rodgers reported on work in progress to make Wildwater a significant presence at FIBArk.

- We will have our own booth at the festival. We discussed and agreed to create a DVD promoting Wildwater racing, make 100 copies and have them available at our booth. Chris Hipgrave will create the master DVD; Tom O’Sullivan and Chris Hipgrave will get estimates on making the copies.
- There will be a mini training camp during the week. We discussed the need to have extra wildwater boats, especially Wavehoppers and available for the camp and the rest of the festival activities. John Pinyerd will follow up on trying to get Pyranha to have Speeders there.
- John Pinyerd will also contact the FIBArk organizers to ensure that all wildwater activities are on the FIBArk website and schedule.
- The WWC decided to call the special sprint race the FIBArk Sprint Open and to charge a \$10 event registration fee to cover prizes. We also decided to make it a head-to-head race because we felt that would be a better crowd draw than individual starts.
- We need to get more information about FIBArk on the USAWildwater website soon and keep promoting it.

Western Junior Team Trials:

Denny Adams reported that all is ready for the Western Junior Team Trials this coming weekend. They will be held on the Shoshone section of the Colorado River/Glenwood Canyon. The section for the race will be class I-II plus the last rapid in that section (Class III).

Senior Wildwater Team:

Tom Wier reported that there currently are 2 definite athletes and 2 maybes for the World Cup in Tanzania this fall. Tom and Jennie Goldberg are the definites. Dave Hammon and Nick Powers are the maybes. Tom is going to start making inquiries and contacting other countries to see if our team can combine arrangements with them to help reduce expenses.

Request for a Bye for the Senior Team:

Jennie Goldberg sent a petition to the Wildwater Committee on March 25th asking for a bye for the 2009 U.S. National Senior Team Trials. Her petition was reviewed and it meets all standards for a bye as documented in the Bylaws of the U.S. Wildwater Committee, Amendment 3, Section 3.B.3. The Wildwater Committee voted unanimously to approve Jennie's request.

Development Proposal:

Chris Hipgrave reported on his investigation into the problems that Wildwater is facing with recruiting new athletes and retaining current wildwater athletes. The major impediments to attracting new athletes and retaining them are the same as those in other sports – financial, time (college, work, etc.) and the lack of a strong support structure. His basic recommendation is that we prioritize our efforts to:

- 1) Recruit new athletes (Juniors)
- 2) Establish a U23 group (18-22 year-olds)
- 3) Retain our senior athletes

We need to distribute our financial support and training camps based on the same priorities (Junior, U23, Senior). We also need to work on scheduling training camps during warmer weather and when school is out (summers).

Chris will distribute a more detailed proposal to the Wildwater Committee for discussion at our next meeting.

Uniforms:

USACK will provide uniforms. Wildwater needs to pay for embroidery. The rough estimate is \$100.00.

Junior Team/Junior Worlds:

Tom O'Sullivan and Chris Osment are working on a plan for the support of the Junior Team at the Junior World Championships. Their current estimate is that it will cost USA Wildwater a bit over \$2,000.00 (We have \$3,000.00 in our budget).

Budget Review:

Our current financial situation will not allow us to fully fund all items in the budget that was approved on January 17, 2009. In reviewing each item in the budget, we determined that we should make the following changes to the budget:

- Reduce the amount for item 2 (Administrative Expenses) from \$500.00 to \$250.00. This will still cover the costs for hosting the USAWildwater website and registering our domain name.
- Reduce the amount for item 5 (Uniforms) from \$500.00 to \$100.00. As noted above, uniforms will be provided by USACK and we only need to pay for the embroidery.

With these changes and our current financial situation, we should be able to fund the first 7 items in our budget. That leaves items 8 (Equipment Procurement) and 9 (Other Domestic Races) unfunded.

We will continue to review the budget and make any necessary changes at future Wildwater Committee meetings.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Wildwater Committee is scheduled for Friday, June 19th at 6 PM MDT. It will be held at FIBArk with Skype support for those not at FIBArk.