

Jan 13, 2013 USA Wildwater Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Jeremy Rodgers, Tom Wier, Kurt Smithgall, Denny Adams, Chuck Brabec. Guest attendees included past chairmans John Pinyerd and Doug Ritchie as well as Mark Wendolowski.

Meeting was presided over by Vice-chair Jeremy Rodgers.

Old business:

1. Update on Jr. trials includes confirmation that the Western Jr. trials will be held approximately April 20-21 weekend in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on the Shoshone section. Denny Adams is the event organizer and will post an event promotional flier by March 1. The Eastern Jr. trials will be held as part of the U.S. Open on the Nantahala River in North Carolina on March 23 and 24th. Chris Hipgrave will be the event organizer. Tentatively, budget allocation was placed at \$1000 with the potential to increase to \$1500 not including annual uniform budget to pay for junior and senior uniforms. Chuck Brabec will post the dates of Jr. trials on the website with a links to the race directors as well as placing them on the Wildwater calendar. We will then forward that link to Jr. stakeholders nationally. Doug Ritchie will be the Jr. team manager and is working on date and location information for Jr. worlds in Europe likely in the month of July.
2. Update on nationals bid. Mark Wendolowski is reaching out to the Zoar Whitewater Center administration to request they submit a bid to hold the Nationals in Massachusetts sometime between June and September. Budget allocation discussed and placed at \$500. The committee will also entertain bids from any other Southeast or Eastern organizer. All necessary event organizational documents are available on the Wildwater website including promotional fliers, timing spreadsheets, et cetera. We continue to encourage Directors to charge a reasonable entry fee to keep the budget neutral for the event, yet reasonable for athletes traveling significant distances to attend. Deadline to get date and location as well as bid approved set for the March board meeting.
3. Update on senior sprint team members attending sprint world championships and potentially World Cup this summer. Mark W stated that we have approximately 6 senior team qualifiers from team trials that have reported interest in attending. We discussed this being a Jr. focused year budget wise considering and Jr. worlds but that we would allocate \$500 to team uniforms for both juniors and seniors. Any additional funding would require an increase in current fundraising levels which remained lethargic this spring. Mark W. will be the primary contact and informal team manager for the senior sprint team.
4. Update on senior trials bid. Colorful discussion was made regarding the continued challenges getting our best paddlers nationally versus regionally to senior team trials. A motion was made by vice chair Rodgers to reconsider having split senior team trials to coincide with the Jr. team trials to be held in the spring of 2014 for the summer 2014 senior world championship team. The primary argument was that senior team trials continued to have a regionally attended senior team depending on where senior team trials are held and we simply are not getting multi-regional participation related to individual athlete financial limitations. It was reiterated that due to the United States large geographic area, our top tier paddlers seem to only participate in trials when they are within their region. The board recognizes that splitting senior trials has the potential to create inequity for some regional paddlers in highly contested classes and this will be mitigated by the board apportioning the number of C1 slots, for example, based on perceived/reported talents in each class in both the Eastern and Western regions. If there are 6 slots available for C1, for example, the Eastern be allocated four of those slots at trials and the West would receive 2 slots - with the goal that if there are 6 outstanding C1 paddlers in the East, the two that did not make the four slots allocated for the East would have to travel to the West and compete for those 2 westerly allocated slots. The board recognizes the pros and cons of this approach but currently our sport needs to favor access over tradition and will revisit this after approximately 2 years of sampling outcome. Splitting senior team trials also allows better interaction/mentorship between junior and senior paddlers within the East and West as well as making event management more cost effective with a

potentially larger pool of paddlers paying for 1 large event versus 2 smaller events. Tom Wier will draft potential bylaw changes to be reviewed/voted on at the next board meeting.

5. Finance report: Tom O'Sullivan, Treasurer, was unable to attend meeting but Jeremy Rodgers summarized his review of USACK's wildwater account balance which was approximately \$2,000. Jeremy Rodgers reported some electronic donations made on behalf of Wildwater committee to USACK were not showing up in our ledger deposits and that we would go back to only delivering paper check deposits to USACK to avoid challenges seen with electronic deposits. Jeremy Rodgers outlined a 2013 budget of approximately \$3000 and will present a budget for approval in the March 2013 board meeting.

New business

1. Fundraising focus intensifies. Jeremy Rodgers will collect contact information from past chairman John Pinyerd and will be focusing on reaching the \$3,000 fundraising goal for 2013.
2. Board election/restructuring. Jeremy Rodgers made a motion to restructure the titles/descriptions of the board positions to make them more representative of the 6-8 tasks annually of the board and to eliminate positions such as vice chair and athlete representatives that do not have a clearly defined role or expectations. The anticipated structure, including potential nominations is:
 - i. Chair- Seth Eisner
 - ii. Fundraising Chair – Jeremy Rodgers
 - iii. Communications Chair- Chuck Brabec
 - iv. Treasurer- Tom O'Sullivan
 - v. Junior/Senior Trials East- Chris Hipgrave
 - vi. Junior/Senior Trials West- Denny Adams
 - vii. Nationals – Mark Wendolowski
 - viii. At Large positions, team managers, etc.
3. Tom Wier will revise the bylaws to reflect these potential board position changes and present the suggested revision at the March board meeting for discussion/approval.
4. Board nominations and elections will be set for summer 2013, likely at the Nationals event and board meeting.

Announcements:

Next board meeting by Skype has been set for Sunday, March 3 at 8 p.m. EST. Any Wildwater member that would like to participate may e-mail the Vice Chair Jeremy_rodgers@hotmail.com.

Members may also provide input on any of the topics above at same address. Note there is an underscore between Jeremy_rodgers@hotmail.com.