Northern Division Board Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

MEETING DATE and TIME

Date of Meeting: May 28, 2025
Time of Meeting: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION

Location: Zoom

MEETING ATTENDEES

Tim Hinderman, Craig Krueger, Vanessa Selby, Jim Klug, Eric Gomes, Jacob Drake and Eric Retz (ND Board)
Erin Renna (Division Manager)

Quick Meeting Recap

The board meeting covered a range of topics including recent activities, upcoming events, and organizational updates. Financial matters were discussed, including budget adjustments, fundraising strategies, and changes to club dues and fees. The board also addressed race scheduling, rule changes, staffing decisions, and plans for future meetings and events.

The meeting was called to order by board president Tim Hinderman at 6:09 PM

Review and Approval of January 30, 2025 BOD Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Jim Klug and seconded by Craig Krueger.

Manager's Report

- Season Review
    - Erin is working on a metrics report to be presented at spring 2025 ACC Meeting (Will include stats on current membership, participation, trends, etc.)
    - Very successful ND season!
    - Membership totals for 2024/225 season = 377 youth athletes (FIS and younger)

- Erin is working on spring 2025 newsletter (will include championship news, board profile, obituaries of people we've lost, info on GoFundMe campaigns, sponsorship opportunities, etc.

- Western Region Update – Will be presented in detail by Bill G. at spring ACC meeting.

- USSS Congress Update
  - Erin Renna and Ericc Gomes from the ND board were in attendance, along with six members of the ACC. Bill G. and Jeremy Ueland will give more detailed updates at Spring ACC Meeting.
  - One take-away from Congress was the proposal to eliminate Live Timing from all U14 and younger races.
    - There was good discussion about Northern Division actually implementing a "No Live Timing" policy for most or all division races for 2025/2026.
    - The group discussed a proposal for posting race times after the last racer finishes each run, the idea of which originated from Colorado (Rocky). Eric explained that the requirement is for times to be posted on platforms like Live Timing or WhatsApp, and that there was minimal opposition to the proposal during its development. Jim suggested implementing this as a division-wide rule, even if not adopted regionally or nationally, and the group agreed that it would be beneficial for young racers. Tim noted that there is no mandatory requirement for Live Timing, and the group discussed the possibility of using alternative methods like scoreboards or printed results.

- 2025-26 Race Calendar Update – Tentative schedule and race plans were put together at Congress. Will be finalized at Spring ACC Meeting.
  - The board discussed the calendar for the upcoming season, including potential changes to race venues and dates. There was discussion about the possibility of moving the YSL Championships to Discovery, despite limitations on slalom races. The group also asked the question about allowing U12s to compete in the first tech opener at Big Sky, but agreed this was unlikely due to gate size issues.
  - Erin will send out the draft calendar for review and comments before the ACC meeting.
  - The board discussed potentially moving the OHG event from Bridger Bowl to Big Sky in late March or April to avoid conflicts with championship events.

- ACC, Chair LaRue stepping down – Spring ACC Meeting will be her last ACC meeting as chair.
  - The board reviewed potential candidates for the ACC chair position, with Hillary Lindh and Jesse Lapel being the main contenders. Craig expressed

a preference for Hillary due to her existing knowledge of policies and club workings,

- Strategic Planning – Emails and more information will be coming out in the months ahead.

- Spring ACC Meeting – Helena, Friday, June 13 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The group discussed plans for the upcoming meeting in Helena. Eric G. brought up the possibility of a group bike ride after the meeting. Eric offered to lead a ride, and the group discussed potential shuttle options to access trails.

Financial Report: ND Manager & BOD Treasurer

- 2024-25 Financials
  - Statement of Financial Position
  - Statement of Activity
  - Updated A/R Report

- 2025-26 Budget
  - BOD meeting between end of fiscal year and Fall ACC Meeting
  - Erin noted a slight deficit of $2,200 for the current fiscal year, primarily due to falling short of fundraising goals and head tax revenue.
  - Erin reported success in reducing credit card fees by charging 2.9% and noted that most customers paid the fee without complaint.
  - The board explored ideas for increasing revenue through fundraising, with Eric suggesting targeting larger organizations and avoiding competition with club-level fundraising efforts. They agreed to form a small fundraising committee to develop a strategic plan and approach potential sponsors at a larger scale.
  - Discussion of charging for official's clinics and training. ACC is questioning whether we should be charging at all.
    - The idea of rolling the training costs in club dues was raised – sharing the burden of certifying officials that then volunteer at other races and other venues.
    - Eric Gomes introduced the idea of billing all clubs $400 for 2025/2026 and $450 for 2026/2027 to cover all official's fees. This approach would distribute the cost equitably among all clubs while maintaining reasonable fees, as every club benefits from having certified officials at
    - Erin explained that for 2024/2025, ND board budgeted $700 but didn't receive the required attendance lists from LaRue.

- Erin is opening a new American Bank of Montana account (funds moving from Wells Fargo)

    - The board discussed opening a new bank account with American Bank of Montana, planning to move about $70,000 into high-yield savings while keeping $11,000 in a CD at Three Rivers.

President's Report: Strategic Plan

- Welcome new Board Members
    - Bios and photos for website still needed from new members

- There was discussion around building an alumni database, with Vanessa volunteering to work on extracting email addresses from QuickBooks. They agreed to reach out to US Ski and Snowboard for additional alumni contact information.

- The group also discussed plans for the fall meeting, with a consensus to hold it in Helena to maintain central location convenience. Tim explained that while the budget and race calendar are traditionally approved at the fall general membership meeting, the calendar is now finalized much earlier due to scheduling constraints. The board agreed to explore ways to increase in-person attendance at future meetings, potentially by offering incentives like social events and official training sessions.

New Business

- The board discussed making donations to three GoFundMe sites for staff members in need, with initial consideration of a $500-1000 total amount to be divided among the causes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.