

**Whitewater Ontario Annual General Meeting
Saturday November 7th, 2009
Kenner Collegiate, Peterborough**

1.0 Call to order at 10:30am by Jim Tayler, President. He welcomed everyone to Kenner Collegiate. OCSRA, Marathon and Canoe Ontario are conducting meetings here as well today. Canoe Ontario will sponsor a pizza lunch for everyone staying for the Canoe Ontario Annual General Meeting this afternoon. Jim had everyone introduce themselves to the group.

2.0 Approval of Agenda: Additions to the agenda under new business were

- a) Pan American Games 2015
- b) Membership Fees for 2010

A motion was put forward to accept the agenda

Moved by Steve Pomeroy Seconded by Peter Farr Motion carried

3.0 Approval of 2008 WO AGM Minutes:

Moved by Steve Pomeroy Seconded by Claudia Van Wijk Motion carried

4.0 Executive Annual Reports

4.1a President's Report by Jim Tayler. Written report submitted. This has been a break through year for Whitewater Ontario. Key accomplishments include the following:

- a) Implementation of "Forward Strokes": The Strategic Plan of Whitewater Ontario featuring a committee based governance structure. There is still work to be done but we have made significant progress.
- b) A strengthened Minden Wild Water Preserve committee that oversees the preserve, Whitewater Ontario's most valuable asset. We were also able to utilize grant money to hire summer students. At this point Jim thanked Gary & Cammy George for their work over the years at the preserve and for leaving a legacy which others can emulate. We are "damned" glad you are here.
- c) The Whitewater Ontario Summer Race Series was a significant event in the North American paddling community and received recognition from Ontario Tourism. It brought paddlers from across Canada, nine American states and overseas together for a three week event that helped showcase the Gull River but also MKC and Ottawa's Pumphouse as whitewater venues. My thanks go out to the many volunteers who tirelessly contributed to make the series such a successful event and a special thanks to Claudia for making the new summer race series so successful this first year.
- d) Completion of our online survey that has provided important membership information. Thank you to Cale for his work on the membership committee that was responsible for the survey.
- e) Resurrection of our provincial newsletter "Currents". A special thank you to Cale for his work on the newsletter.
- f) Development of our first annual King of the Clubs event

- g) Continuation of our race program with the Andrew Westlake Memorial Race featured as part of our Summer Race Series events at the Gull
- h) While still in progress we have struck a committee to work on redesigning the WO website with our updated logo. We also developed a new promo card for distribution at our displays and events.
- i) WO athletes performed very well nationally and also in World Championships In both slalom and freestyle. The Ottawa River Runners hosted a very successful National Team Trials with substantial media coverage including repeat broadcasts of day three of the competition by Rogers Cable TV and a front page picture of two paddlers along with a great article.
- j) Through Canoe Ontario and its three affiliates which include WO, we have a better grasp of insurance coverage and risk management priorities.

Canoe Ontario and its affiliations are getting stronger. The work that we do today will be the legacy for those paddlers who will follow. Next year we will strengthen our governance model, fine tune our committee structure and adapt to the conditions and demographics around us. WO has a strong commercial presence within our membership structure. This is an envious position to be in as we have the ability to work with commercial members in a symbiotic way. We will continue work on the website redesign and build on the racing part of WO. We will pursue a more multi-discipline approach to paddling events to expand the scope of involvement. We want to utilize the Preserve in a good way. Whitewater Ontario wants to be the whitewater organization of choice. Thank you for your “forward strokes” and renaissance.

4.1b Vice President’s report by Claudia Van Wijk. A written WO year in review summary was submitted. She also submitted a full-colour two-page promo on the Summer Race Series. WO presence was greatly enhanced this year as our traveling tent was viewed at many events over this season. People in general noticed that we were there. Our new full-colour promo card was handed out to many attendees. A successful recognition event for Heinz Poenn, our first whitewater slalom coach, was held at the Gull this summer. In the Quest for Gold program we recognized and supported 5 athletes and 4 boats.

Competition – Steve Pomeroy. WO was allocated 4 Quest for Gold cards. This program is for Olympic Games athletes. There is a formal application process based on national rankings and performance for athletes under age 23. Sometimes we are able to split the cards and thus support more athletes. The five supported athletes are:

Michael Tayler
 Kathleen Tayler
 Adam/Jamie Cutts (split card)
 Katrina Van Wijk

4.2 Directors Reports

Membership: Cale submitted a written report. Mackfest was a success and earned \$ 7,000 for next year's event. We need to have more WO sanctioned events during the season. The newsletter is semi-annual and Cale is working on the second edition now. The membership survey has been completed and the results will be summarized on the website. The membership database has been designed but will require some tweeking. The King of the Clubs was a membership driven event. Insurance questions still need to be resolved. WO needs to increase its member base. Still there is the question "What does WO do for me?". Cale's wish list includes:

- scheduled water releases at the Gull
- answers to insurance questions or clubs will begin to back out of WO
- more scheduled events like Mackfest with WO dollar support so that events can earn a profit if it can for the host. All sanctioned events must follow the guidelines established by WO.

Discussion: With the membership survey, out of the 100 responses over 50% were not even WO members. The survey served as a good base for information gathering. The survey was also accessible on the website and around 40% of respondents came from the website format. John congratulated Cale on the membership survey project and stated that there is good information and messages in there.

Discussion occurred around the possibility of securing scheduled water releases at the Gull. Gary stated that if we are going to do that we have to ensure that members are informed that these releases are not free of charge. This must be done in partnership. Claudia stated that we at the Gull have lots of free water during the summer but we must negotiate other releases without conflicts with other uses on the Trent system. Steve suggested that we need to develop a process to negotiate these releases with Parks Canada. Perhaps our emphasis should become more recreational in orientation. Parks Canada seems to be receptive to our requests thus we must allocate this responsibility to an individual. WO should explore this avenue further, perhaps through setting up an ad hoc committee.

Jim congratulated the membership committee under the leadership of Cale for their accomplishments this year.

Communication: Jeff submitted a written report. This committee was involved with the Outdoor Adventure Show and the website redesign mainly this year. Currently it has become more website specific. The redesign of the website will respond to the information gathered in the membership survey. Members would like to see the following items on the website:

- river information

- online registration form
- links to existing paddling clubs and relevant paddling sites in Ontario

Discussion: Peter Farr stated that if the site has the capability for member input it would attract people to the WO website. Jeff indicated that it is important to have a solid website committee in place. Timing is crucial to accomplish tasks. WO did a good job at being “present” at events this season. The communications committee must expand to link with the other committees so that all public relations needs are met in all areas of programming. We need to get the message out there as well as implement an advertising campaign to attract new members. Currently WO is recognized as “being on the move” and people are starting to notice. WO deserves a “pat on the back” for these accomplishments.

Jim thanked Jeff for the accomplishments of the committee this year. Each committee is to nominate an individual to be the communications person to liaise with the communication committee. Also, with the new home page, it opens up the possibility of paid advertising. The website committee will address all concerns and ideas.

Competition: Claudia submitted a written report. Events this year include the “Come Hell or High Water” event, the Canadian Team Trials in Ottawa and the Summer Race Series. A written report on the Summer Race Series was submitted to support this event. This series was multi-disciplined and was based on a cumulative points system. The aim was to get more competitive “bums in boats”. It will be held every 2 years. There was good coverage in the Minden and Barry’s Bay paper. WO is working on branding the Summer Race Series name. In 2010 WO will be hosting the Slalom Nationals at the Gull with a multi-discipline nationals to be held on the prior weekend (could include Gullfest events, music etc.).

The 2009 nationals were hosted out west. Ontario posted strong results. Half of the national team members are from Ontario.

Jim thanked Claudia for her hard work throughout this season.

Instruction: Claudia submitted a written report. In 2009 we held two introduction to kayaking clinic weekends with a total of 19 participants. We also held three instructor certification courses with a total of 38 instructors trained. The spring of 2010 should see the launch of the new instructor certification program.

Minden Preserve: Written report submitted by Russ Lackey and presented by John Slot. The overall strategy was to create a structure with dedicated positions that have particular tasks. This years examples were site manager and communications along with existing director position. The Minden

committee should focus on maintenance and upgrades and not on running or hosting events. The following items were accomplished this year:

- maintaining and cleaning the site as in years past
- washroom renovations
- tractor repairs
- evestrough repairs
- removal of old out-house
- new garbage policy requiring campers to be responsible for their own trash. This was very successful and the committee wishes to thank all those that respected this rule.
- built a new firewood shed (that is now nicely filled)
- created a foundation for an engaged and functional committee with a core structure for future expansion.

The committee recommends that the student employment function should concentrate on custodial duties with tasks that are more clearly defined and time schedules more strictly regulated. The washroom contract will be eliminated with this task added to the regular custodial list. Rentals will be monitored through the office. The renter and site manager must connect and meet at an arranged time to avoid timing issues with opening the building for their events. We might consider increasing the key deposit and exploring the validity of creating an official rental contract. The MWWP committee will ensure that the building is cleaned prior to and after all rentals. This could be added to the student(s) list. The committee will continue expanding dedicated positions to improve and add to the preserve without over-burdening any single individual with too many responsibilities eg. building maintenance, kitchen organization. There will be specialty postings for specific projects as they arise such as the stairs at the washout, showers. We will continue to improve communications and co-ordination of committee members.

Motion to accept the Executive Annual reports as presented:

Moved by John Slot Seconded by Peter Farr Motion carried

5.0 Annual Reports

5.1 Slalom team Manager: No report available.

5.2 Canoe Ontario: Steve Pomeroy

Canoe Ontario has been involved with creating a new strategic plan “ Paddling Together” and conducting risk management review. Canoe Ontario received a capacity grant enabling these two projects. This plan will be presented at the Canoe Ontario AGM this afternoon as well as the risk management review documentation that was prepared by Dave Leche. Extensive discussions occurred around the issue of insurance in order to clarify the actual scope of coverage at the various levels of whitewater involvement. Canoe Ontario basically has two forms

of insurance, liability and accident. The liability insurance covers associations, directors and participants in sanctioned events. Discussion occurred around the following issues/questions:

- how to broaden our coverage to include river running
- WO insurance does not include clubs and their activities. CO has an optional policy available for clubs at a reduced cost. The claim is that it is about 20% cheaper than a club getting insurance on their own.
- The cost of liability insurance is currently based upon numbers of individual members. Currently the greater the membership numbers the higher the cost. This certainly does not encourage growth. CO & WO will begin negotiations to broaden our base of coverage as well as alter the current costing method of the insurance provider.

Dave Leche's report is available in hard copy format. His report outlines the issues of waivers and sanctioning of events as well as other identified insurance issues. Steve Pomeroy is preparing a summary document that will be available for all members. It is in the final draft stage. Packages to clubs should be available in December.

Discussion Items:

- In 10 years there have been 0 liability claims and 1 accident claim (by a Sprint member), plus 1 pending club claim (also Sprint). Members need to know that this insurance is available. The only WO clubs to apply for the club optional packages have been ORR and OVKC.
- Steve: WO needs to consider developing a certification program for trip leaders so that a process of sanctioning of club events can be created. WO could then sanction a particular list of club events for that year or WO could sanction individual events that meet the criteria. We should consider not promoting insurance as a member benefit. We do have the option of dropping the accident insurance. All speculation at this point.

5.3 CKC-W Report: Not available.

Motion to accept the Annual Reports

Moved by Claudia Van Wijk Seconded by Cale Reeder Motion carried.

6.0 Treasurer's Report: Steve Pomeroy
Steve summarized his written report.

Overall WO has had a solid year. Total revenues were \$ 69,000, up significantly (31%) over past years. Expenses have increased too so we will end with a small surplus as projected to December 31, 2009 year end. Basically this is because we have been more active and have provided more services to our members.

Revenue analysis: 2009 events revenues were 32% of total revenues and were due to the Summer Race Series events. Membership fees are only 11% of our revenue stream and Steve recommends that there be no change in fees for next year. WO needs to look at the way it works with commercial members in order to increase membership numbers eg. buy a boat and get a free membership in WO is one scenario. Clinics raised 9% of revenues. WO is becoming increasingly self-sufficient. Minden camping and rental revenues are 18%. Summer student grants were 4% and other revenues 6%. A few years ago almost half our revenue came from our Ministry Base grant and this now represents only 20%.

Claudia suggested that perhaps WO look at reducing the club membership fees in order to encourage members to join a club. The membership committee is to work on this.

Steve: The 2010 budget is currently being prepared with input from all committees. For 2010 WO needs to continue expanding events, both as a revenue generator and as a service to members (and thereby also improve membership revenues).

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report:

Moved by Peter Farr Seconded by Jeff Strano Motion carried.

7.0 Election (Acceptance of Nominations)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 71. President | – Jim Tayler |
| 7.2 Vice President | – Cale Reeder |
| | - Jeff Strano |
| 7.3 Treasurer | – Steve Pomeroy |
| 7.4 Secretary | – Donna Boadway |

Directors:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 7.5 Membership | – Laura Duncan |
| 7.6 Communication | – Peter Farr |
| 7.7 Program | |
| • Competition | – Jim Smedley |
| • Instruction/Certification | – Claudia Van Wijk |
| 7.8 Influence | – (To ask Doug Skeggs) |
| 7.9 Minden Preserve | – John Slot |

- 7.10 Members at Large (note this can also be done by new Board)
- Holly Blefgen (Public Relations)
 - Leah Kindree

Motion to amend the constitution to have Co-VP function included.

Moved by Steve Pomeroy Seconded by John Slot Motion carried

Motion to accept the nominations as presented above.
Moved by Steve Pomeroy Seconded by Holly Blefgen Motion carried

8.0 Appointed Positions (by Board)

- 8.1 Slalom Team Manager - tba
- 8.11 Canoe Kayak Canada – Whitewater
 - CKC-W Council – Jim Tayler
 - CKC-W Slalom Committee – Jim Smedley
 - Standing Committee Members
 - Competition – 3 athlete representatives
 - Influence – Cale Reeder, Peter Farr
 - Instruction/Certification – Carole Westwood
 - Minden Preserve – Peter Farr, Gary George, TJ Skull, Russ Lackey, Russ Duhaime, Cammy George, Leah Kindree
 - Pan Am 2015 Committee – Claudia Van Wijk, Holly Blefgen, John Slot, Cammy George, Peter Farr
- 8.12 Coaching Representative – James Cartwright
- 8.13 Athlete Representative – Sarah Boudens
- Webmaster - tba

9.0 Minden Preserve Presentation

Deferred to next Board meeting

10.0 New Business

- 1- Pan Am Games 2015 – covered already
- 2- Membership – No change in membership fees for now. Will be reviewed.

11.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting as 12.50pm
Moved by Peter Farr Seconded by Cammy George Motion carried