

**2009 AWSA Summer Board of Directors Meeting
West Palm Beach, FL
August 10, 2009
8:00 am**

- 1) **Opening and Call to Order:** Chairman of the Board Doug Robbins called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

- 2) **Introduction/Roll Call:** Present were outgoing President Jim Grew (S – Executive Comm., Coaches), Chairman of Board Doug Robbins (E), Outgoing Vice President Gene Davis (S-EVP, Technical), Secretary Kate Knafla (MW, alternate ND), Carey Zimlich (S - Treasurer), Brandi Hunt (AAC), Pat Byrne (E-EVP), Hutch Haines (E), Jon Thatcher (E), Jeff Surdej (MW-EVP), Dean Chappell (MW), Don Bucher (MW – alternate ND), Jeff Clark (S – alternate ND, Bylaws, HND), Lyman Hardy (S), Leon Larson (S – alternate ND), Bob Mayhew (SC – EVP), Jerry Bautsch (SC), T Caldwell (SC), Ron Ives (SC), Barry Young (W – EVP), Connie Morris (W), TC Boice (W), Tad Scharf (W – non voting), Laura Johnson (W – voting, Seeding), Scott Snape, (S – Rules), George Lindy (MW – Towboat), Brandon Wolf (Director of Competition Services), Roy Surdej (MW – National Bid)

- 3) **Appointment of Parliamentarian/Agenda Review** – Jeff Clark is appointed Parliamentarian by Doug Robbins (COB). No changes needed to the agenda for this meeting.

Action Report #1 – Jon Thatcher motioned to allow committee chairs to attend the board meeting, seconded by Jeff Clark. Motion carried.

Action Report #2 – Jon Thatcher motioned to accept any committee recommendations presented to the AWSA BOD as motions with an automatic second so we can proceed directly to discussion, seconded by Jeff Clark. Motion carried.

- 4) **Announcement of Quorum** – There was a quorum of 19 at start of meeting and 21 by 8:31 am.

- 5) **Review and Approval of January 2009 Board Meeting Minutes**

Action Report #3 – Jeff Clark motioned to approve the Winter BOD minutes, seconded by Barry Young. Motion carried.

- 6) **Nominating Committee – (Gene Davis)**

Action Report #4 – Committee motioned to approve Gaile Heieck for Honorary National Director, automatic second. Motion carried.

Action Report #5 – Lyman Hardy motioned to closed nominations for the AWSA officers, seconded by Leon Larson. Motion carried. Candidates for AWSA offices approved.

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Doug Robbins presented Gene Davis with a certificate for out going Vice President.

Doug Robbins along with Brandon Wolf presented Jim Grew with a certificate and an award for out going President. Doug recognized and thanked Jim for his 8 years of service as AWSA President, his immeasurable contributions to the sport and how well he has represented us on the international level. "Thank you, Jim, for the work you have done and it has been a pleasure to work with you."

7) Presidents' Report (outgoing – Jim Grew, incoming – Gene Davis):

Jim Grew's comments

- a. Jim thanked the board for the award, expressing his appreciation.
- b. Jim commented on the Executive Director's (Steve Locke) goal of transparency.
 - Financial reports and membership statistics are made to the BOD every two months
 - Steve sends weekly reports to membership.
 - With Steve's transparency & communication, the membership has been up to date on what is going on at the executive level.
 - Since Steve Locke came on as ED he meets with Jim 3 hours a week at USA-WS HQ.
- c. Jim reported that he met his personal goal to leave when he still had the desire, the commitment and interest in this sport division. He conveyed regret in stepping down today and he already misses it, but it shows him that he did fulfill his personal goal.
- d. Jim extended thanks and appreciation to the current and former board members, current and former committee chairs, current and former officers, and asked that Brandon (Wolf) pass on to Steve Lock and HQ staff, his thanks.
- e. Jim shared an experience from his trip back from Calgary about meeting a woman on her way to nationals who talked about the people she knew in the sport, ordinary skiers, not who they were as officials, officers. She did not have a single complaint about the sport, she just enjoys the skiing.

Gene Davis' comments

- Gene commented on the big shoes he has to fill, but he is looking forward to it.
- Our association does have problems which we need to work on and one of them is our growth.
- Nationals this year will be a challenge and he hopes he can step up and make sure he does a good job.

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- Gene wants people to pass on any comments, positive or negative to him which will help him in his position as president.

8) Executive Director's Report (Steve Locke): See Report

Brandon Wolf – Steve sends his apologies for being unable to attend today. He continues to send weekly reports.

Questions/Comments: Response by Jim Grew/Brandon Wolf

Bob Mayhew – [Where are we with the affinity program?](#) The program is currently on hiatus. The 3 donors (2 major donors) have decided that the program should not commence until the economy picks up. Materials that have been designed are usable any time the program is launched. The money that has been invested is not lost.

Bob Mayhew – [What parameters are going to be used to decide when the program should be launched?](#) The economy as it improves, hopefully next year.

Pat Byrne – [With the number of recreational skiers that are still out skiing, he doesn't agree with the delay. We need to do something to move forward.](#) Studies have been done show that discretionary spending has been altered. The consultant that has been hired has stated that the other campaigns that they are working on are not doing very well at this time. The USA-WS Grassroots program is going forward. We are fortunate to have personal/private donors that we have never had before that support 2 programs in the amount of \$270,000. The grassroots program would not be done without the donors.

Jeff Clark/Laura Johnson/Pat Byrne – [The tournament kits are now electronic. So the cost of printing has shifted to the LOC/scorer and although less is printed with the electronic kits than the amount of paper in the original mailed kit, the sanctioning cost has remained the same.](#) Brandon has heard this concern before and he will bring it up to HQ and have them look at the current sanction fee and see if HQ is saving money with the electronic forms. Bob Mayhew stated that the South Central Regional Guide has an appendix in the back where aspiring assistant official paperwork is located and the skier/prospective official can just tear it out and use it. He suggested that the other regions do the same thing.

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- 9) **Treasurer's Report (Carey Zimlich):** Carey works hand in hand with Tom Danford on the financial matters. The Balance sheet and Operating Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual are January 1 – June 30.

Comments:

Jim Grew mentioned that we are on target for the year. There is nothing outrageous where we have gone over budget.

Bob Mayhew – [How do we know that we are on track when the only thing we see is negative numbers?](#) Jeff Clark stated that the negative numbers are a result of where we are in the year. At the mid year point we are going to be behind and it will balance out as we get to the end. Carey mentioned that with the revolving memberships it is harder to see a definite income. Jim Grew mentioned that some of the teams have not traveled yet, but the World Games have come in under budget and it is too early to tell with junior development since they do a lot of fundraising at Regionals and Nationals.

10) **Executive Committee Report – Jim Grew**

- a) **Action Report # 6 - Motion to ratify board ballots, 09 & 10 Master Men's Ratings, with no further discussion. Motion carried.**
- b) There is nothing to add to the EC report, it is all in the minutes that were emailed to the BOD.
- c) Overview of the meetings Jim attended at Worlds.
- i. For USAWS to be a member of IWSF – 4 requirements
 - a. USA-WS has 8 votes in IWSF Congress, pay \$150 per vote for a total of \$1200, plus \$100 into the environmental fund for a total of \$1300. AWSA doesn't pay this, USAWS pays it.
 - b. Team entry into a world or major championships that IWSF governs has to be entered through USAWS.
 - c. IWSF rules apply for skier scores to be included on the IWSF ranking list.
 - d. For skiers to be on the Elite Ranking list, they must attend certain events, most of them are cash prize and others are major events such as Worlds, PanAm games.
 - e. USA-WS governs the speed control **chart** and towboat tests for IWSF.
 - f. Further involvement in IWSF is as follows.
 - IWSF Councils/Committees – all the councils have 3 representatives from each of the 3 confederations plus athlete representation.

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- Jeffry Armstrong – Tournament Council, Chairperson of the Women is Sport Committee
 - Bob Corson – Chair of Tournament Council
 - Dusty Shoultz – President of Racing Council
 - Sherm Shraft – Show Skiing – Newly constituted committee
 - Jeff Smith – Chair of the anti-doping hearing committee
 - Leon Larson – Chair of Environmental/Safety/Waterways/Risk Management Committee
 - Phil Chase – Chair of University Commission
 - Jim Grew – Chair of Disable
 - Jim Grew – Vice President of Executive Committee
- d) Report from World Games – AWSA sent 3 athletes to the U21 World Games, Storm Selsor, Olivia McDonald and Caroline Hensley. The World Games are our Olympic Games, and growing in prestige. It was funded by AWSA who paid for travel and uniforms. Room and Board was paid for by the organizing committee. It is a multi – sport games that provides water skiing, riders, and barefooting unique visibility. Athletes, officials, and dignitaries of other sports get to see what water skiing is. There are 40-50 sports at the World Games and the spectatorship is great and that is why we have to help promote the multi – game sports because it will increase the visibility of our sport worldwide.
- e) Olympic Games – We spend no money on Olympic games. Representative just attends Olympic meetings.
- f) World Cup – Is our effort to increase the visibility of our sport. In the US you have to pay to have a minor sport on TV, but in other places in the world they will show it for free. There will only be 3 stops this year because of the economy, there may be 5 next year. Of a million dollars spent on the World Cup, 75% goes to athlete prize money and travel, 15% goes to TV production, 3% to sanction fees. Not much left over for administrative costs.
- g) Name Change for IWSF – it was International Water Ski Federation, now it is International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation. This will help growth in other parts of the world in particular Asia and the Mediterranean which will help us get into those games.
- h) The IWSF prepares a packet for every board meeting. If you want a copy of this year’s packet, email Jim.

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- i)** International Hall of Fame – Britt and Tawn Larsen were inducted as one unit. Tory Baggiano was inducted.

- j)** Next Worlds (2011) will be in Dubna, Russia, the site of the World Cup. It's not a very good site, but it is being supported by the city. It probably will be earlier in the year due to weather. There are 3 bids for 2013, France, Chile, and Denmark.

- k)** Tournament Council Meeting
 - i.** Records Approved
 - a.** Clementine Lucine – Trick 8840 points
 - b.** Regina Jaquess – Overall
 - ii.** Jump timing – IWSF decided to collect data for 3 segment timing for another year. More data is needed at the slower speeds. There has been concern about when Zero Off kicks in.
 - ii.** In tricks they came to a clarification of what is in course and what is out of course:
 - a.** If a trick is started before the course and completed before the course it is considered before the course.
 - b.** If a trick is started before the course and completed after the start of the course it is in course.
 - iii.** Changing the definition of a preturn to match what the skier actually does. A description of what is possible and what is not has been formulated and will appear in the new rule book. Also have eliminated the tipping rule.

- l)** Independent qualification for the juniors and U21 Worlds has changed effective immediately. Instead of the top 4 on the ranking list, the top 10 men in all 3 events and the top 8 women in all 3 events and the top 5 in overall. So for the U21 Worlds, letters went out to invite 5 additional independents which means we invited 9 independents to the U21 Worlds.

- m)** Senior Worlds – They are upset in Europe about calling it the Veterans Worlds. The Executive Board has allowed the tournament council to come up with a name that makes everyone happy. They did not agree to increase to a 4th Senior Worlds (65 and older).

- n)** IWSF is sending out a questionnaire to the federations asking 2 questions:
 - i.** Do we want to have a U13 Worlds?
 - ii.** Do we want to increase the team size of the junior worlds and U21 worlds to 6 skiers?

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o) Comments/Questions:

- * Jon Thatcher – The Worlds had daily TV coverage and there were 3000 people along the shore for jumping. It was a city dedicated to the games. Our sport was well represented. It was well worth every penny we spent to send our athletes there.

- * Bob Mayhew – [What happened to our team at Worlds that resulted in a second place finish?](#)
 - Jim Grew– The team is as good as it gets. The team selection is simple, we use 2 rounds of team trials and the 3rd round based off the median and we simulate a world championships. The Canadians skied absolutely brilliantly, there were at least 2 personal bests. Given the fact that we need 3 scores in each of the 3 events we only sent 2 scores in each of the 3 events. We only had 6 scores we could improve on in the finals and we were locked in for 3 scores. 2 skiers didn't make the finals in tricks and jump and 1 didn't make the finals in slalom which meant we were behind even before we started the finals. The Canadians had 3 scores in every event going into the finals which means they could improve on all those scores. Remarkable performances – 8 women tricked over 8000, the top 3 in men tricks were won by the same country.
 - Jon Thacher – When the IAC goes through the process, they have an idea of how the team should perform if they ski to their potential. The team that was sent, if they skied up to their potential, were projected to win by 500 points. Also we don't have a lot of 3 event skiers. We have more specialists which hurts us because other countries have more 3 event skiers.
 - Carey Zimlich – Other countries have a lot more support in their system than skiers in the US and a better feeder system.

11) National Championships

a) 2009

Comments:

- * Bob Mayhew (CJ) – We are looking forward to a great tournament. The biggest change this year is in tricks. The runs will be videoed

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and the flash cards will be given to the judges after 3-4 skiers. You will have a much brighter and clearer picture than in the past. He is 99% confident that this is going to work without problems.

- * Bob Mayhew - Big Dawg – Thursday is the qualifiers and the Finals are on Friday under the lights. Charlotte put this on the agenda and rearranged the schedule to make this happen. I am in total support of this because and feel it is a crowd draw.
- * Number of entries for this year is about 750.
- * Leon Larson – Southern Region did the trick video the way it will be done at this year's Nationals and it worked very well. The trick callers don't feel as rushed. They can take their time and finish calling the run and then move on to the next run.
- * Questions about failure of the video – Jeff Clark mentioned a 99.6% success rate. If there is a failure it is operator error.

Connie Morris mentioned that they had some issues at the Western Regionals where they had many rerides doing it this way.

Brandi Hunt would like to have some sort of back up because of experiences where skiers had to do their run again because the video person didn't not get the pass/run.

Discussion took place regarding the SD cards in the cameras and the failure of the camera.

Bob Mayhew mentioned that we do have back up plans in place to alter the protocol if necessary.

- * Comment was made about Nationals schedule and when the Open divisions are to ski: They are scheduled to ski early in the week and some of them are still in Calgary and won't be coming back to ski.

Jim Grew commented that in hind site we probably should have scheduled the Open events later in the week. Nationals is not a cash prize event and for some of he skiers it has not been a high priority.

Gene Davis mentioned that in the past we wanted the Open skiers scheduled with the Juniors so the juniors had the opportunity to watch them ski. This year the Worlds were scheduled in August

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instead of September which is when they normally are and that interfered with the Open Skiers getting back to the US.

b) 2010 – Bid for 2010 from Waters Edge – Jeff Surdej, Roy Surdej

Questions/Comments:

* Jon Thatcher – [The schedule has M3S run on the 1st day for 6 hours and in the past M3S has run on 2 lakes all day.](#) This is a preliminary schedule to prove that it can be done in 7 days on 2 lakes. The schedule is based on this year's Nationals entries. The times used to figure the schedule was 6.5 minutes/skier for jump and slalom and 5 minutes/skier for trick. The lakes are shorter at Waters Edge than at Okecheelee. Doug Robbins - There are a lot of factors with the schedule which is a puzzle and between now and the winter meeting there will be a lot of work between the Executive Committee and the LOC in figuring out the schedule, along with the Chief Judge.

* Gene Davis – [The schedule shows that the tournament should be completed in the early afternoon on Saturday, what if we don't get done that day, do we have Sunday to finish the tournament?](#) Yes.

* Bob Mayhew – [There are some things that will need to be changed in the rule book and that is what we need to be addressing. This is a complicated process and everything in regards to Nationals has to be based on a rule. There are no rule waivers for Nationals.](#) Jim Grew – It is important to say that we will make this work and not find any reason why it may not work. We may be on a 2 lake site for a number of years, so let's make this work.

* Jeff Clark – [Concerns about the split shifts, decreasing the manpower and conflict of interest, that the appointed judges cannot solve and the Rules Committee can't solve.](#) The officials will have time off when they or their kids ski no matter what site they are at, with the split shift they can choose what days they need to have off.

* Pat Byrne – [With the split shifts it looks like it is going to require an extra hotel night.](#) Waters Edge and Officials will have to make some sacrifices. The officials who work the split shift will be paying for a room the days they don't work and they may also pay for one night that they did work. Waters Edge will have a lot of extra expenses and no practice money. The rooms will be available for the overlap, we just need to work out the finances.

* Doug Robbins – [Will the split shifts/full shifts be up to the individual EVPs/Regions to determine?](#) Yes, they would have the option

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to send one official for 7 days, who would be overworked or send 2 officials and split the week. Also we do not need as many officials for a 2 lake site as would be needed for a 3-4 lake site. If 2 officials want to alternate days and buddy up in a room, that can be done.

* Doug Robbins – [Rotating ACJs who would come from the greater pool of officials and not the appointed judges.](#) Bob Mayhew sees a lot of logistics problems with rotating ACJs. Problems – arranging to have a different ACJ on the lake each day and training the next ACJ in will put a lot of extra work on the Chief Judge. Jeff Surdej – There will be an officials meeting prior to the tournament and then the ACJs from the day will talk with the next ACJs the night before or the next morning. It has worked out good the last 2 years at the Midwest Regionals and also then the ACJ only has one long day and not 7 long days and they are not overworked for the entire tournament. Bob Mayhew – Doing this in one Region is easier, but taking ACJs from different regions, those people will do things differently.

* Lyman Hardy – [There are some problems with only having 5 drivers.](#) We are looking at the fact that we are only a 2 lake site and not 4 so we shouldn't need as many drivers. With a lot of the drivers being in M3, 4 there will be times when 4 of the drivers will be driving.

* Roy Surdej – It will be easier to find volunteer officials on a 2 lake site. The Midwest Region is behind Waters Edge in making the 2010 Nationals a success. We will make sure all of our judges are comfortable and well fed.

* Bob Mayhew – Encourages Waters Edge to have the Assignments Judge from the Midwest Region, someone who knows the site and has a lot of experience.

* Roy Surdej – We would like to have some input in the Chief Judge and Chief Driver, someone who works well with us, at least for the first year. We feel that if the CD, CJ knows us and knows the site we will be able to finish the tournament on time and not have as many issues. We are hosting Regionals next year which means our site will be tech ready one week prior to Nationals. This will allow us to open the lakes up the week before for practice. Gene Davis is willing to work with Waters Edge on this request so it is a non issue.

* Bob Mayhew/Gene Davis – What if Waters Edge decides in the weeks/months to come that this just isn't going to work, that the money is not there, the economy is too bad to hold Nationals, will Waters Edge back out and leave AWSA looking for a new site in a short period of

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time. Roy assured the BOD that they will fund whatever shortfall, if any, there is. They will not back out of 2010 Nationals.

* Lyman Hardy/Jim Grew discussed how registration works – if USAWS does registration USAWS gets \$10/skier, if the LOC does registration the LOC gets all of the money, which means additional money for the LOC. Most LOC's decide to let USAWS do registration and handle the thousands of questions. Jeff Clark's concerns about LOC doing Registration – USAWS staff has been doing it for years and knows the answers to the questions, the LOC may not know all the answers and this could get the LOC into trouble.

i. Possible Rule Changes

- a) Split officials – the rules define a minimum number of officials, so this is not an issue. The number of officials is already on the agenda, but any suggestions for things Waters Edge want to do need to get to Scott Snape before November.
- b) 2 boats in jump – feel it is necessary to speed up the jump event – this has been done before so there is a provision in the rules already.
- c) Waters Edge would like to do registration themselves. They have done it for 8 Regionals and feel they are fully capable of handling all the questions. Jeff Clark commented that Waters Edge should worry more about who is handling registration and not so much on who is Chief Judge/Driver. The qualifications judge is technically in charge of registration.
- d) We want to get all the pros, not just the Americans, to the Nationals. We would like to have the Open event the prelims with Saturday afternoon for the finals. Suggestion to have the foreign skiers ski first in the Open division for non placement. Brandi Hunt commented that we are struggling to run this event on a 2 lake site in 7 days. It is a great idea, but not for the first year on a 2 lake site, but maybe in the future.

Comments/Questions:

* Jim Grew – The Junior Worlds are the weekend before and he would suggest to move the junior events to later in the week. The European Nationals are either the week before or the week after Nationals so you probably won't get any of those skiers. Make your goal the American Open Skiers.

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- * Pat Byrne – Don't look at the number of hotel rooms you want to pay, but look at how many officials you will need to run the tournament and pay the extra hotel room. Roy commented that any official can stay on site with any number of people who have opened up their home for the week. Besides saving money for the LOC, the official(s) would not have to leave the site and spend the time driving back and forth to the hotel. The houses on site are available now, the people have already opened up their home for 2010 Nationals. The officials will be taken care of no matter where they stay.
- * The Executive Committee will meet after this meeting to work out the logistics about the officials, room nights, the entry fees. The LOC and the EC will get the details nailed down before August 31, 2009 about the logistics, officials, any rules exceptions that will be needed for Waters Edge hosting the 2010 Nationals.
- * Pat Byrne – Will the Regions have the choice of 2 officials and the split shift or only 1 official for the entire week? That will be up to the CJ and the Regions.
- * Doug Robbins – Is it possible to do a mid day split and not just a mid week split? Brandi Hunt feels that you are asking a lot of the CJ to do a mid day split.
- * Gene Davis – On August 31, 2009 a ballot will be sent out to the BOD asking each region how they want to handle the judges for Nationals. After 20 days we will know how many judges we will be asking for from each region to send to Nationals.
- * Don Bucher – We should do a mid week split with Wednesday being the midweek day. One official works the first half of the week to about noon on Wednesday and the other works the second half of the week starting around noon.
- * Jon Thatcher – There may be some negative things here, but we need to be realistic and Jeff and Roy have done a great job putting this together and stepping up when we don't have any other options. We need to focus on the positives and figure out how we are going to get this done.

Action Item #7 – Motion to accept Waters Edge bid for the 2010 Nationals as proposed in the BOD packet, automatic second. Motion carried.

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- c) **2011 & beyond** – Waters Edge has a 2 year contract. There is a provision in the contract of a first right of refusal after the first year for both AWSA and Waters Edge for the second year. This is a step in trying to get more bids, not just from 3-4 lake sites, but also 2 lake sites.

12) Athletic Advisory Council Report (Brandi Hunt): No report

13) Committee Reports

- a) **Awards (Sherm Shraft): Review written report**

- b) **Bylaws (Jeff Clark): Review written report**

- c) **International Activities (Sherm Shraft): Review written report
Comments/Questions:**

* Jon Thatcher commented that there are still a lot of spots for appointed judges, scorers and drivers for the International tournaments.

* Jeff Clark – [Will the expansion of the Junior Teams including the independents affect the CanAm tournament?](#) Jim Grew stated that the CanAm and PanAm don't involve independents, just team members.

* Jim Grew – We will send out a letter in October to the appropriate senior officials for the events next year.

* Jim Grew – The IAC is looking at choosing a 2011 Elite team without having a team trials.

- d) **Judges & Scorers (Lisa Steiner): No Report**

- e) **Rules (Scott Snape):**

Action Item # 8 – Motion to make Proposal # 2 effective immediately so it is in effect for this year's Nationals.

Scott Snape recommended that Proposal # 3 also be effective immediately for this year's Nationals.

Jeff Clark amended his motion to include Proposal # 3, seconded by Brandi Hunt. Motion carried.

Action Item #9 – Committee motion to accept Proposal # 1 and #4, automatic second. Motion carried.

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Action Item # 10 – Committee motions to accept Proposal # 2 to be effective immediately as proposed by Jeff Clark and passed in Action Item 8, automatic second. Motion Carried.

Discussion – Gene Davis questions if there is a number (8000 points) for the women and it was stated that there is not. It is just a score that IWSF is looking at.

Action Item # 11 – Committee motions to accept Proposal #3 to be effective immediately as proposed by Jeff Clark and passed in Action Item #8, automatic second. Motion Carried.

- f) Technical (Gene Davis): No written report, but the records are included in the BOD packet.**
- i.** Cory Pickos – 10570 points in MM has been recommended by the TC committee to be passed.
 - ii.** Storm Selsor – M1 Jump record submission was not approved. It was remeasured by several people and everyone came up with a foot shorter. 206 was a tie.
 - iii.** Erika Lang – 7660 points in G2 failed. The flip was not completed in the back position, she landed front and surface turned back.
 - iv.** Regina Jaquess was passed by the world championships so it will become a US National record.
 - v.** Adam Pickos – 10430 in B3 has been recommended by TC Committee to be passed.

Gene Davis is stepping off the TC Committee and he will be assigning someone else from the region to take his spot. Tom Dusin will be stepping down as Co-Chair. Next year the TC committee will have a new southern region rep and a new chair.

g) Coaches Advisory (Jim Grew): No report

h) Junior Development (Charlene Brown): Review written report

* Jim Grew commented that Charlene regrets that she could not attend this meeting, and she asks that the BOD attend the Junior Development Awards Banquet, which will be on Thursday night at 6:30pm and is the most attended function at Nationals.

* Charlene asks that Jeff and Roy Surdej work with her about scheduling the Awards Banquet for next year.

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i) Safety (Jim Babcock): No report

j) Seeding (Laura Johnson): No written report

Comments:

* Laura Johnson – We need to educate the skiers on the ranking list. There was a skier at the SC Regionals that thought there was a downgrading system still in place with the ranking system like there was with the rating system. Laura has talked to a few skiers and feels that maybe we need to look at re-implementing the downgrading system for the ranking system which would be beneficial for skiers that have an illness, injury, pregnancy that prevented them from skiing up until Regionals/Nationals.

* Laura Johnson - Registrars need to pay attention to the entry lists and to skier qualifications. WSTIMS will not kick out the names of the skiers that are not qualified to ski Regionals/Nationals. Also need to pay attention to the order of skiers, such as a skier that can run 38 off is the first off the dock at Regionals and is in the lead for 3 hours only because he only has one score in the ranking list and the other skiers that has 3 scores and skis after him never gets the chance to be in the lead.

* T Caldwell – Also agrees that we need to take a look at this because some people don't know that they have not qualified because they don't look at the ranking list to find out.

* Was it our intent that if a skier did not ski in a 12 month period of time that they had a score of 0 or should we have a downgrade system in place so we don't penalize skiers that have an injury?

* Jeff Clark – We are using a computer calculation which takes nothing into consideration to give you an answer. There is no logic built into the program to think of these things in determining qualifications.

* Gene Davis – This whole thing started out to build competition in our sport and making people ski more than one tournament a year to qualify for Nationals.

* Doug Robbins – We want the skier's qualification committee to discuss this and determine if this is the intent (that if a skier doesn't ski for a year even if it is due to illness/injury/pregnancy should that skier start off with no scores) or should there be exceptions.

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* Bob Mayhew – How is it that skiers think there is a downgrading system in place? Skiers Qualifications needs to get with Scott Atkinson at HQ and send an E-Blast out educating the skiers or put something in the magazine. This is a case for education.

* Jeff Surdej – The education is out there, it is online and in the rulebook. Maybe we can do more, but the information is out there.

* Brandi Hunt – The skier needs to know and they need to find out for themselves. If I as a pro skier don't know the IWSF rulebook it is my problem, not IWSF's problem. The skiers have been educated and if they need more education they need to educate themselves.

k) Skiers Qualifications (Jeff Surdej): No report – Jeff Surdej is stepping down as chair, but no replacement has been found as of yet. Email any recommendations to Gene Davis.

l) Boat Drivers (Jerry Bautsch): Review written report

Action Item # 12 – Committee motions to award Rich Pato Emeritus Rating in driving, automatic second. Motion carried.

m) Towboat (George Lindy): Review written report

i. Action Item #13 – Committee motions to modify requirement for physical testing of towboats from 2 years to 3 years for unchanged models, automatic second. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Bob Mayhew – [What is the impact on USAWS financially?](#) No impact on USAWS, but it does reduce expenses for the drivers and manufacturers. USAWS still gets the licensing fee for all the models.

ii. Item that will be discussed at Towboat meeting this week and a recommendation that the Eastern Region will be presenting: Possibility of extending approval of using 3 year old boat model at an “ELR” tournament.

iii. Item that will be discussed at Towboat meeting this week: Possibility of States using a later year boat for Class “C” tournaments (Currently allows for 3 year old boat model and newer). There is a precedent set where older boats have pulled tournaments upon request when there have been no other boats available, but it is not currently stated in towboat policy.

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- * Pat Byrne – Nothing has generated so much communication as towboat availability. We held a Pre-Regional Tournament and asked all 3 manufacturers to send a boat and we had zero towboats. The tournament was pulled with the personal towboat of the site owner. In the East the towboat availability is a real crisis, there are zero promo boats in the state of NY, one or two in Pennsylvania, one in Massachusetts.

- * Doug Robbins – In every region we have seen a decline in promo boats. Manufacturers are dealing with separate market factors that are leading them in the direction they are heading. The 3 big manufacturers are really concerned and they don't have concrete answers of what their promo programs are going to look like although they do have intentions of supporting our sport which comes at a price. In the past that price has been shared by the manufacturer and the promo boat owner. We may actually see that cost shift where we are leasing towboats for a weekend. Some sites have not held tournaments because there have been no boats available. USAWS is in the event sanctioning business and may start to see a decline in sanctions or a change of sanctions from a Class "C" to a Fun Tournament which will be a decrease in sanction fees to USAWS.

- * Connie Morris – [What about Hawaii, that never has an updated boat for their tournaments?](#) They request a rules exception each year and we give it to them since we know there is nothing else available.

- * Barry Young – [Maybe we should consider a temporary exception until the economy improves or something changes or we find a solution?](#) Doug Robbins has concerns about uncapping the towboat year requirement. He spoke with one manufacturer yesterday about this issue and the manufacturer did not see a reason not to uncup it because of the economy and the manufacturers do not know what the promo programs are going to look like in the future.

- * Hutch Haines – Some areas have 3-4 tournaments within an hour's drive of each other which causes problems for promo boats. If there are that many tournaments in a weekend and only 2 promo boats available, not every tournament has a boat. We need to be more alert of where the tournaments are and as a region maybe spread the tournaments out which may mean having less tournaments.

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* George Lindy - With the lack of boats and only having one boat at the tournament, the number of hours increases on the boat and with the cost of the boat there is no incentive for the promo boat owners to bring the boat to tournaments. Roger Hammel has written a letter summarizing what is going on with the towboat issues, it explains the scenario of boat shortages, piling hours on boats and the possibility of clubs starting to reimburse promo boat owners.

* Doug Robbins – There is nothing in the Towboat policy that restricts a current year model, personal boat to be used at a tournament if the owner agrees. There is a procedure that a club can petition the towboat committee to be able to use an older model boat for a tournament. If all the bases are covered such as currently approved speed control and the necessary insurance there shouldn't be an issue.

- iv. George commented on all the complaints regarding the dissatisfaction with the current speed control. He stated that all complaints are addressed by the Towboat Committee. He also stated towboat manufacturers make the choice to equip their boats with speed control systems made by various manufacturers. USAWS / AWSA tests towboats as equipped. Feedback needs to be made to towboat manufacturers.
- v. Licensing and Testing fees: We may need to offer a different fee structure for licensing open/closed bow versions of a boat to be identical for testing purposes. USAWS Executive Committee is opposed to this at this time because it is a part of their planned budget. But it is something that we are going to have to address due to the current economic situation.
- vi. Towers on Towboats: George would like some feedback on towers being on the boats during the jump event.

* Barry Young will be sending a letter on behalf of the Western Region to the clubs in Oregon and Washington that they need to be open to the promo people and supporting them because the boat manufacturers are requiring the promo people to have the towers. This issue is very specialized in one area and not the entire Northwest.

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- * Doug Robbins – Does this issue set a precedent for other federations to come out and say that we want a tighter/more stringent policy than what the rules require?
- * What is the issue these clubs have with the tower? Barry Young stated that the clubs say it is a safety issue for the long distance jumpers and that the towers get in the way.
- * Doug Robbins – This issue can be hashed out between the region and the Towboat Committee. We need to take note that these clubs are trying to create a policy that deviates from what the National Policy is.
- * Jon Thatcher doesn't think that it is appropriate that clubs/federations/regions are making their own rules that are contrary to the National Board's rules. The policy is set and no federation, local or state should be allowed to change them. If the federation does not abide by the rules then the sanction should be pulled.
- * Jon Thatcher – Boat manufactures are not going to be happy when they find out that their boats may be at the tournaments but they sit on the shore the entire time.

Action Item # 14 – Jon Thatcher motioned to make it a policy that Federations/Regions cannot change the current AWSA policies without going through the proper procedures, seconded by Pat Byrne.

Discussion:

- * Doug Robbins – My understanding is that they created this policy so that they can communicate with the promo boat owners “bring the boat without the tower” if you want to use it in the jump event.
- * When filling out the application for your sanction and it asks if your tournament is open to all towboats, they should say “No”. Doug Robbins commented that if the tournament is not open to all boats then the boats that are there do not get credit for the tournament. The clubs need to understand the sanction application and the Towboat report and the consequences of not opening the tournament to all boats.
- * George commented that there is already a policy that states that wakeboard towers that do not affect the performance and

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handling of the towboat may remain attached to a USAWS approved towboat during a USAWS sanction event. The rope may not be attached to the tower and the tower may not be used for towing skiers.

* Scott Snape – Rule 1.01 states that there are exceptions to the rules which are listed in the rules for which they apply. The fact is these clubs are not following current rules and policy. The clubs need to be educated that they are not following the rules and if they continue to not to follow the rules, their sanction should not be approved.

* Jeff Clark – We as a Board should make a recommendation to the West that they talk to these clubs and if they continue to exclude these boats or require promo owners to remove the towers that it will be dealt with administratively and no one will receive credit for the tournament.

* **Jon Thatcher withdraws his motion and agrees with what Jeff Clark stated.**

* Barry Young will continue the discussion with the clubs involved and see if they can resolve the issue.

n) Cable (Sherm Schraft): Review written report

o) NSL (Don Bucher): No report

p) Announcers (Hank Longo): No report

q) Pro/Amateur Task Force (Bob Mayhew): Review written report and handout

We are still in the discussion stage and we have not voted on anything yet. This will take a lot of effort on many sides. Right now Bob is the only one proposing it and pushing it so some adjustments need to be made about where we are going with this and the main goal will most likely need to be restructured. The one thing that is not stopping through all this is the efforts on the part of the amateurs to get the elite skiers out of their age divisions. Why doesn't Adam Pickos and Cale Burdick ski in Open when they are qualified, instead of skiing in their age division? If they skied Open then it would open up their age division to more people. Jim Grew has been very instrumental in keeping us grounded and letting us know what things might work and what might not. We are probably looking at some type of new division in AWSA. For example: the Barefoot people

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have a rule that if you ski a score that qualifies you for Open, you are in Open for the rest of the season and the next season.

* Jeff Clark – In the 1970's we made Open mandatory and there was more animosity and hateful things said than he has ever seen/heard in the sport. It was absolutely the worst thing we ever did.

* Brandi Hunt – Adam and Cale are not good examples, Adam is skiing on the junior team and should be in B3 and Cale is skiing on the U21 team. Why would you take them out of what they really are right now and make them ski against the pro skiers.

* Pat Byrne – One reason some of these skiers ski in there age division is because they are only qualified for open in one event and they are 3 event skiers and skiing in the age division qualifies them for overall.

* Jim Grew – Adam and Cale are 3 event skiers but they are not Open in 3 events. The Barefooters also have a Pro division and age divisions. We have the opportunity to think outside the box and we need more committed people on the task force and more regional participation.

* Pat Byrne – Anytime you have a task force you need committee members that are going to have ideas and comment on ideas and if you don't have that then you need to have that person/person replaced with someone who is committed.

r) Regional Realignment Task Force (T Caldwell): Review written report presented at meeting

Comments:

* Jeff Clark – We have a lot of data such as active members, number of skiers that ski tournaments, number of tournaments and number of officials. We need to find a way to manipulate the data and how we can use it.

* Don Bucher – There are some people who want to see a change in the Regions, but as a whole people don't want it to change.

* Doug Robbins – Need to identify the objective(s) of the task force. This is not a simple process and not just the regions will be affected, it will also affect our bylaws and policies. There are a lot of things to be considered that are more important than where the officials are located. Membership decline problems are not going away so we need to look at

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alternative models and other solutions. Is our current model of 5 regions outdated?

Is there an alternative model that is better and what would it take to get there?

* Bob Mayhew – What started out as the driving force of this task force is “Is the Nationals too big?” So then you backtrack and if Nationals is too big how are you going to sort it out going to nationals? Then you go back to the Regions and realigning the regions to start the process of State vs. Regionals vs. Nationals. It is the big picture and not just the Regional realignment that is coming because we want to get a smaller nationals.

* Hutch Haines – If you want a smaller Nationals shouldn't we make it harder to qualify for Nationals. The committees report that most of the people don't want change so shouldn't we make the “80%” who don't want change happy. If 80% of the people are happy, I am happy.

* Jim Grew – One of the original goals of the task force was to determine the process to get to Nationals, but it became evident as we were presenting it to the Board that it wouldn't pass the Board.

* T Caldwell – If we have a process to qualify for Nationals that went State to Sub Regionals to Regionals to Nationals we would have about 200 competitors at Nationals. Is that what we want?

* Gene Davis - Do we want a smaller Nationals? We need to ask our membership that. In 1992 the question was asked and there was a resounding “NO”. But what is the answer now.

* Don Bucher – Thinks that the name of this task force should be renamed if it is to answer the question “Do we need a smaller Nationals?” The objective of the Regional Realignment Task Force should be concerned with the people that don't go to Regionals because of the locations of the Regional tournament.

* Doug Robbins – This issue came to light when the Western Region presented the Board with the fact that their Regionals is just as big as the Nationals and very taxing on officials, they asked to split the region.

* Jon Thatcher – Need to ask the skiers that ski Nationals, not just everyone that qualifies because not everyone will go to Nationals. Find out what the 800 people who come to the Nationals feel about a smaller Nationals. They are your target audience. Also ask the question “If Nationals were smaller would you still try to qualify or would you quit?”

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- * Barry Young – The problem with what Jon recommends is that you are not polling all the people that qualify for Nationals.
- * Kate Knafla – What about the people that don't ski Nationals every year, why shouldn't they get to vote? Not every skier feels that they have to ski Nationals every year. By taking the poll at the site, you are not getting the people that may decide to come next year.
- * Bob Mayhew – Taking the poll at the site this year is a biased poll. We need to email all the skiers who qualify for Nationals.
- * Jim Grew – If you want attendance at next years membership meeting announce these items for the agenda well in advance through E-blast and magazine and the numbers at the membership meeting should go up. Also maybe we need to prove to the membership why a smaller Nationals would be better and then present that to the membership.

14) Regional Recommendations

a) East

- i. Towboat Committee** – The supply of available Promo Boats is a continuing crises and the situation is deteriorating. We understand that there are no Promo Boats in the State of New York; there is one Promo Boat in the State of Massachusetts; and there is one Promo Boat in the State of Pennsylvania. *A recommendation for the Towboat Committee,* For Class C Tournaments, with approval of the Chief Judge, the Chief Driver, and the Safety Director, allow any previously approved Towboat with any previously approved Speed Control System to be used.
- ii. Rules Committee** – Consider equalizing buoy counts at the top end of the chart or at the shorter line lengths. The starting boat speeds would then become unequal for different divisions, but 104 buoys would be 2 buoys at 38 off for all skiers (for example).
- iii. Headquarters Staff/Risk Management/Safety Committee/Rules Committee** – In the East, we lost another skier this year in a fatal accident involving the ski handle. *A recommendation for Headquarters Staff and the Risk Management/Safety Committee,* work with manufacturers of ski handles to develop safer handles that address this risk.

Rules Committee - *A recommendation for the Rules Committee,* in the absence of readily available handles that are safe, remove the requirement

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that tournament hosts must provide a tournament handle for use by the participating skiers.

iv. Rules Committee – Review the Slalom Gate Rule for possible revisions and enhancements. Include consideration of the elimination of Video Review requirement for Slalom Gates to reduce the technical requirements that must be met to conduct a record tournament.

b) Midwest

i. Rules Committee – Look at Rule 11.07 to increase the set time on a first pass fall to 45 seconds like it is when you stand up the first pass and get to set down at end of course.

ii. Rules Committee – Rule 11.16 – adopt the IWSF rope release specification of 1 meter from the AWSA current one of 24 inches.

c) South - None

d) South Central

i. Skiers Qualification/Seeding/Rules Committee – Look into the “problem” of the old rule number 4.01(d) (2006 rulebook) being eliminated from the rulebook. This is the rule governing “duration of validity” of the old Open, EP, Master, Expert,...ratings. “Was this our intention, to leave out this gradual meltdown from the rulebook? Is this the way we want to keep it, that if you don’t ski for 12 months, you’ve been reduced to zero??”

This is something that came up at our Regionals this year, in regards to Jane Greenwood. I’m sure other regions have or will experience it soon. We don’t feel it is right that because of injury or medical reasons, or whatever, if you don’t ski for 12 months, you lose ALL your qualifications to ski in a Regional or National Tournament.

ii. Technical/Rules Committee – Look into expanding the use of the “youth towline” to include B2, G2.

e) West

i. Rules Committee –Boat Time Tracking Data

The Western Region requests that the boat time tracking data report in slalom only be required when non-gps based speed control is used. When gps-based speed controls are used, the times are consistently actual or within one or two one-hundredths of actual. Creating this report is one extra step for the scorer on top of numerous other reports that the scorer is

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responsible for. We feel there is no need to report boat times where there is consistently little to no deviation from actual.

ii. Safety Committee/Headquarters Staff –

The Western Region recommends that the Safety Committee direct headquarters to issue an email blast addressed to the parents of all junior skiers informing them of safety concerns that can be mitigated by the use of protective headgear while slalom skiing.

The email message should include:

Recently several slalom skiing accidents resulted in head injuries to Western Region junior skiers. The slow speed and resultant larger wake was considered to be a contributing factor to the accidents.

The risk of these head injuries could have been reduced by the use of a helmet that has been designed specifically for high speed water entry. Headgear of this type is manufactured by Gath Sports (www.gathsports.com), an Australian manufacturer and distributed in the United States by Murray Sports (www.murray.com).

Several of our junior skiers have begun using these helmets with no adverse effect.

15) Any Other Business

a) Lyman Hardy has been talking with the boat manufactures and they have asked that USA-WS, revise the sponsorship levels. They would like to see a menu of events that they can pick and choose what events they want to sponsor. If there is no change we will see a serious drop in the sponsorship money in the coming years.

* Pat Byrne – [How are we doing in sponsorship funding this year?](#) Jim Grew stated that the budget had a 35% reduction from last year built into it and we are getting close to meeting that.

16) Action Report # - Pat Byrne motioned to adjourn at 12:45 pm, seconded by Dean Chappell. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Knafla, AWSA Secretary