



**UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 7, 2017  
Teleconference**

**Approved April 22, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Rich Lepping calls the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. C.S.T.

**1. Roll call**

**Board Members**

**Present** – Matt Gamboa, Jeff Hannon\*, Mark Hartman, Joel Leneker\*, Rich Lepping, Doug Potter, Courtney Schmidt, Chris Sjue\*, Scott Stevinson, Nick Wellen, Craig Brown, Dean Gemmell, Allison Pottinger, Jennifer Stannard, Hawley MacLean, Sean Silver.

**Absent** – Cyndee Johnson, Catharine Persinger, Russ Brown, Jessica Schultz, Bill Stopera, Beau Welling.

*Note: Those Directors designated with an asterisk (\*) had voice but no vote due to State/Region Member Status issues. Those individuals were not figured in the quorum calculations.*

*A voting quorum constitutes 10 members, 13 are voting members being present, we have a quorum.*

**Non-Board**

**Committee Members** – Bret Jackson, Russ Lemcke, Leland Rich, Monica Walker

**Staff/Non-Board Executives** – Derek Brown, Terry Davis, Michael Dellemann, Tom Doherty, Christy Hering, Victor Huebner, Simone LaMarche, Gordon Maclean (recording), Kim Nawyn, Rick Patzke.

**Guests** – None

**2. Appointment of parliamentarian**

The Chair appoints Gordon Maclean as Parliamentarian and notes that the Grand National and Dakota Territory Member Regions are currently out of compliance vis a vis the status of some member clubs and hence their directors will have a voice but no vote for this meeting.

**3. Additions/changes to Agenda**

The Chair call for additions and/or changes to the Agenda, none are presented.

**4. Discussion/approval of Meeting Minutes**

- A. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from November 11, 2016, November 17, 2016, and December 8, 2016, presented.
- B. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2016, and Email voting results of December 9, 2016, presented.
- C. Motion by Potter to accept all documents presented, Wellen seconds. Motion passes on unanimous voice vote.

## 5. Reports to the Board

### A. Chair's Report

- i. Attended Continental Cup and met with stakeholders of that event including Curling Canada. Looking for top-to-top meetings with Curling Canada to discuss best practices, strategies, collaboration, and new initiatives with that organization.
- ii. Working more closely with WCF representatives to be a larger presence at WCF events.
- iii. Membership Committee working toward bringing non-member clubs into the organization.
- iv. Asked Courtney Schmidt to chair and recruit a committee charged to update our Strategic Plan. This document not been updated in three years.
- v. Looking for ways to reduce the size of the USCA board. The board is simply too large for a policy board.
- vi. Studying the realignment of several committees, for implementation at new fiscal year.
- vii. Olympic year coming up this will become more of a focus in the coming months.
- viii. Asks for timely submission of reports and certification (including SafeSport certification.)

### B. CEO's Report

- i. (Full report on file)
  - a. Communications- Highlighted "Curling Night in America." Indicated NBCSN, Universal HD and NBCSports.com will include more than 100 hours of coverage of 2017 World Curling Championship.
  - b. High Performance Program- Both the Men's and Women's teams won the America's challenge in 3 games (best of 5.) Focus is now moving to the Olympic and Paralympic qualifications. Currently in good shape in the World Curling Tour Order of Merit Points. National Champions will be invited to Champions Cup Grand Slam.
  - c. Revenue Development- Curling Night in America (CNiA) brought in more than \$318K in sponsorships and grants. USOC presenting sponsorship of \$100K in for next year's CNiA already in place along with CyroMAX sponsorship. Ki Mobility signed as new sponsor for Paralympic Program. Discussions ongoing with some U.S. Olympic Family sponsors interested in engaging with curling in the Olympic year. Met with Business Development Consultant Warren Hansen as we continue to develop and present sponsorship proposals for packaging our event assets.
  - d. Donor relations and campaigns commitment for \$20K matching donation for upgrading web streaming equipment. This is an action item that we need to address, since the donation is for purchasing equipment that has not previously been budgeted for.
  - e. Derek Brown reports on upcoming events involving HP teams. Highlights the Stopera and Dubberstein rinks winning the 2017 Junior Men's and Women's National titles, and will be headed to PyeongChang to compete in the World Junior Championships.

**B. CEO's Report (Continued)**

- f. Growth and Development- Coaching Education for U18 will be going on in Milwaukee. Members' Assembly will take place at the end of September.
- g. Operations- The company that we use for our membership database will cease to exist as of May 31. Christy is working on finding a solution for a new database provider.
- h. Identifying a USCA "Charity of Choice" is something that we may want to consider. Should be selected for long-term relationship. Looking at several possibilities.
- i. Requesting board support for purchase of \$20K of hi-definition video equipment to improve our webstreaming. Motion by Stannard, seconded by Stevinson, motion carries on unanimous voice vote.
- ii. FY17 Financial Outlook
  - a. Financials are in line with previous years and within budgeted expectations. New clubs have saved about \$6,900 with the newly adopted "step-in" dues policy.
  - b. Projecting another \$50K of income from current unreported member clubs.
  - c. Event entry fee revenues lower, due partly to Club Nationals registrations being lower than usual.
  - d. 2016 USOC Challenge grant for \$25K met, likely to meet \$20K for 2017 in first half of this year.
  - e. CNiA financial numbers still being finalized; they look to meet budget expectations.

**C. Secretary**

- i. Full report on file. No additions

**D. Treasurer**

- i. Full report on file. Vic Huebner reporting.
- ii. Looking for revenues to be approximately equal to last year's. Liquidity is not an issue. Any variances in expectations at this point in time versus actual are related to timing of events; by end of June we anticipate being close to budget.
- iii. Biggest year to year differences at this point are because WCF has not yet issued expected grant funds. Those had been received last year by this date.
- iv. Much clearer revenue picture anticipated for April meeting. Audit of June 30, 2016 not yet complete. That should be done in April.

**E. USOC Representatives**

- i. Chair thanks Doug Pottinger for his previous work as USOC Athlete Representative.
- ii. Dean Gemmell, current USOC Athlete Representative, reporting (full report on file.)
- iii. Russian doping issue discussed at USOC meeting.
- iv. Reviewed USOC Representatives executive election process and how that relates to issues surrounding the election of the representatives' Vice-Chair.

- E. **USOC Representatives (continued)**
  - v. Presentation from USADA; new app to assist members. Monetary rewards for medaling athletes now available, including Olympic and non-Olympic events. Concern over how NGBs disclose conflicts of interest among Board members, methods not uniform among the NGBs.
  - vi. Chair notes that there appears to be a SafeSport conflict with the Vice-Chair of the USOC Athlete Representatives. Gemmell reports that SafeSport was a significant part of the debate.
- F. **Diversity and Inclusion**
  - i. Transgender Policy Clarifications- Michael Dellemann
    - a. Slight wording adjustments to policy needed for clarification purposes; this will make it easier for athletes to get information. Board vote required because the Board voted to approve this policy. Full text of changes on file.
    - b. Motion to accept this policy change by Stevinson, seconded by Stannard. Discussion: Doug Potter notes the change indicates reference to a specific individual, introduces a friendly amendment to change the contact information to read "USCA Diversity and Inclusion Chair" rather than the indicated "Mike Dellemann." Motion passes on unanimous voice vote.
- G. **WCF**
  - i. Leland Rich reporting. WCF headed to Beijing soon. Beyond that not much going on at this time.
  - ii. Stannard reporting. WCF has a number of programs that we can take advantage of. Business of Curling program is one of those and will be coming to Nutmeg CC in June. Will get information out when available.
- H. **Operational**
  - i. Revenue Development- Hawley MacLean reporting. "Giving Tuesday" campaign exceed the \$5K goal. Ready to launch "Granite Society." Campaign donation levels starting @\$1,000. There will be a "VIP event" in Seattle in conjunction with the USA Curling Nationals. USOC Challenge Grant renewed for 2017, 2018 although at lower levels than in the past. Still working with Dow for water filtration system package.
  - ii. Membership Development- Potter reporting. Looking at how to best work toward getting non-member clubs into organization.
  - iii. Historical Documentation- Wellen reporting. Getting documents from several places including "old hard drives."
- 6. **Standing Committee Reports**
  - A. **Audit Finance**
    - i. FY17 Budget versus Actual- Silver indicates nothing new to add.
  - B. **Nominating/Governance**
    - i. Independent Directors- Leland nothing to report. Will have nomination slate for next meeting and by-law changes.
  - C. **Ethics**
    - i. No report. Chair indicates may have issues to report in April.
  - D. **Human Resources**
    - i. No report.

6. **Standing Committee Reports (continued)**
  - E. **AAC**
    - i. Full report on file. Allison Pottinger reporting. Pushing communications with athletes to keep them informed on USOC issues. Joe Polo will replace Cassie Potter as USOC Alternate Rep.
  - F. **USWCA**
    - i. Report on file.
  - G. **Judicial**
    - i. No report
7. **Old Business-** none
8. **New Business-**none
9. **Key Items of Agreement-** Lepping, Patzke and G.Maclean will put this together.
10. **Town Hall Call-** Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Central Time.
11. **Next Meeting:** April 21-22, location will be announced in next week or so. June budget meeting in Madison. Members' Assembly info coming out soon.
12. **Meeting Adjourns:** 12:12 p.m. C.S.T.