

SEPTEMBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

WESTERN RESERVE ROWING ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2011, Rivergate
6:20 pm

In attendance: Joanne Hull, Jeff Zabor, Erik Murdell, Gary Clark, Sally Fahrenholz, Craig Gates, D.D. Meakin

Guests: Jim Ridge, Sheila Nowacki, Doug Carlson, Rachel Stanley, Karin Trimble, Jane Sworan, Janet Clark, Frank Campbell, Tim Marcovy, Sharon Romilly, Cara Sieberth, Wendy Zabor, Kirk Lang, Bob Valerian, Jim Ridge, Eileen Gordon, Anna Chanakas, Pat Poole, Paul Kopp, and others

Next meeting Tuesday, October 4 at 6 pm.

AUGUST 2011 MINUTES

Jeff Zabor moved approval of the minutes, with Joanne Hull seconding. Unanimously approved.

COACHES' REPORT

GODDESS REPAIR; TRAILER TO BOSTON

- HOTC equipment status – Coach Lang reports that WRRRA had 7 SRL boats at beginning of season. 4 are available for HOTC now.
- Goddess missing a bow, with repair estimated at \$2500, to be sent back to mfg. Would like approval tonight to trailer to Boston, where it will then be transported from Boston to Canada. We will save money by having it transported to where it will be repaired.
- This is an insurance claim. \$500 deductible on the insurance policy and we need to handle the insurance claim. There may be those that believe that due to its age, it shouldn't be fixed, but in general it seems advisable to repair this boat. The estimated cost of trailering it back to Cleveland is \$350.
- The board will take care of the insurance claim. Need to research the question -- Is shipping of the boat included in the insurance claim? Craig needs to inform the board of the status of this claim.
- Taking trailer to the Charles – Case will have boats going on our trailer and will pay, as will Miami. In the past, they have paid in January etc. We would have a full trailer. Ignatius trailer is full. We plan on charging \$200 charge for an 8 and \$150 for a 4. St Ignatius is charging \$400 for an 8.

Jeff Zabor moves to approve the plan: Take a WRRRA trailer to Charles and back, including the Goddess, which will be handed off to Kaschper for repair in Canada. 7 shells from Case and Miami will also be trailered by WRRRA. Craig seconded. Unanimously approved.

EQUIPMENT FOR HOTC – STATUS, ISSUES, CONCERNS

- Need approval for parts purchases, such as new seats for boats, like Firehouse (est \$1370) and other boats (\$453 plus tax) Joanne also suggesting spare seats. The total is estimated at over \$2000. Total of spare parts to order is around \$3000, to include new lights, which would be best if they are waterproof and recoverable.
- Kirk will get back to board with the total cost of the equipment parts etc.
- Gutske is returning for the HOTC. 3 Rivers is trailering up for us.
- There is not enough equipment for HOTC crews who want to row in this regatta... There are rowers in 4s registered for the HOTC who are not sweeps members. Rec 4s are being prevented from registering though they have paid for sweeps fees.
- There are reports of non-sweeps members going out in 4s. Rec is reported to be taking 4 to 5 shells at once, without sufficient radios, with boats out of the sight of the coach. The club cannot keep up with damage to equipment. Crews are reported to be insufficiently supervised by coaches. Damage is occurring at the dock.
- Weight restrictions on boats need to be followed. Boats are being taken out without regard to weight restrictions. Chanakas was taken out by folks who shouldn't have been rowing it and was damaged.
- Bob Walton has broken ribs and needs to have hull repair.
- Use of the equipment needs to be policed.
- The policy regarding rowing in 4s was clarified: Rowers who have not paid sweeps fees should not be rowing in 4s.
- We are hot seating many of our boats. If another 8 or 4 are severely damaged, we may have to scratch boats.
- Suggestion: have discussions with coaches who are allowing rowers to row without the requisite payment of program fees.

- Coach and members of masters program present at the meeting voiced their concerns over equipment usage. They urge the board to police the payment of rowing fees and what rowers have been promised. Equipment is being abused, which affects boat availability for all programs and the ability to take boats to regattas.
- Further, there needs to be transparency in the way the programs are operating. Suggestion: rosters for programs should be available to the general population. Members of each program should be posted in the boathouse.
- Masters rowers ask for definition of programs, posting of program limitations.
- Kirk met with Joanne and Jim Mack regarding equipment. Lock combos will be given to coaches only. We've had a lot of equipment stolen from the WRRR locker, which has been left open. Examples are: Chargers missing from radios, cox boxes missing. The 5 new cox boxes need to be sent back.

Joanne Hull moved to allocate money for equipment repair– about \$3500, which includes replacing lost lights. Second by Gary Clark. Motion carried, unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CLUB IS ON TARGET WITH BUDGET

- We have approximately \$97K in bank, with \$9K out for recent bills. Money earmarked for equipment repair is not included in this status report. Encumbrances of another \$8K are expected to come in soon.
- Two shells donated and equipment list has been updated. Depreciation has been updated for these shells.
- Income statement includes estimates for allocations. Still waiting for further information.
- Majority of our income has already been received. We are waiting to expend for the rest of the year.
- WRRR has paid to CRF almost \$70K in assessments and rack fees.
- Net effect is that we're doing OK. We need to take care with the equipment repairs. We have taken in a higher than expected repair cost in the last 5 weeks.
- Every program has been self-sustaining this year so far.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VARIOUS ISSUES

- Request from Julie Goddell for tent at HOTC. Has requested rowing information table or booth. We will be getting business cards and other materials to distribute.
- The annual meeting is scheduled for November 12, since November 5 is a regatta meeting. There will be 4 board seats up for elected and 1 seat to be appointed.
- We have a board vacancy – Mark Silverstein tendered his resignation and an announcement was emailed to membership on Tuesday Sept 6, announcing any club member making a nomination should send such to Joanne. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 4, when the board will select a replacement from the nominations it receives. This board position is to fill the balance of Mark's two-year term.

FALL ROWING LEAGUE

REGISTRATION IS UP AND PROGRAM IS ORGANIZING

- Up for registration. We have 4 boats available. We have ratcheted back some spaces. Joanne is coordinating with Frank and working with volunteers to set up this program.
- FRL is currently available for members rowing in the SRL 16-week session or the two 8 week sessions.
- Registration will then be opened up to single session SRLers if space allows. Decision about allowing novice rowers will be coming. Joanne and Frank will discuss equipment, coaching availability and rostering. 14 teams to be distributed over 4 nights, 10 people per team.
- FRL Coach situation – we may be losing one coach and gaining two.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

STATUS AND ISSUES

- Issues include misuse of equipment in a variety of ways – ignoring weight and height restrictions, rowing boats not trained to row. Rowers in programs they have not paid for, resulting in equipment shortages for people who have paid. The process needs to be improved.
- This is due to a number of issues –lack of information is one. May also be due to being in a new boathouse.

- Suggest that club ensures that coaches understand program participation and equipment policies and not allow or encourage deviation from such. Posting program participants in boathouse can aid in everyone being aware of who has access to equipment. Also post a list of equipment with weight restrictions.
- The board is responsible for 450 people in the club. The code is specific as to what people are permitted to do. SRL members who wish to try out another program may have 3 occasions in another program. SRL rowers going out in 4s and sculling shells could be interpreted as being allowed under this “3 free rows” rule.
- We will post all the safety and membership levels. Extra rows could be posted in a reservation system of sorts -- Needs to have a reporting system.
- We are simultaneously trying to encourage people to try other programs and also enter into the HOTC. The board set up a fee in the past to accommodate the extra rowing.
- Our main concerns are safety and damage to the equipment Coaches meetings could be a requirement for future coaches. Mentoring from head coach should occur. New college coaches need orientation to program.
- Coaches all need to follow the rules. Flagrant violations of safety have been involved.
- The board met further in executive session to discuss further actions to address safety, program, and equipment issues.
- CRF safety perspective – granting of SQL and CQL levels needs to be made more stringent. A person can take all 3 tests in one day and gain a CQL1. This is clearly not in the interests of club safety.
- Suggestion – is what we’re doing so complex that we cannot do this with only volunteer labor? If we had a WRRRA dockmaster who was here enough who could sort out equipment, coaches, coxes, etc. Would that solve many of the problems we’re having?
- Do we need to create another system to support ourselves and look at how we operate as a group and articulate our vision? Strategic planning seems essential to solve these perennially recurring issues. We have 52 people on committees. That is a lot of engagement for the club.
- Suggestion is to hire a more serious equipment manager, and this will cost quite a bit more. Recommend that we post an ad for a paid position. Equipment repair fell short this year because of the dependence on volunteer services for this need. We might be able to share somebody with another marina-like facility.
- We have experienced program growth (SRL and Rec) and if we continue to grow, we may be able to absorb such a cost.
- We have a pressing need to improve communication with regard to program participation and equipment usage. We need to review and improve our practices: Suggestions were for mandatory equipment orientation for all WRRRA rowers on equipment usage and more complete procedures for signing out boats, reporting status of boats after each row.
- What action items to Board will take:
 - Board only meeting (executive session) to discuss personnel and coaching issues.
 - New process – coaches report equipment issues when submitting timesheets.
 - Review equipment restrictions with coaches.
 - Review HOTC participation by crews who have not yet been assessed.
 - Put into place a new policy for next year’s HOTC. SRL rowers can register for 8s.
 - Craig will look into getting 4s and 8s for the race for Rec rowers who need the boats. Craig will coordinate with Kirk. Late entry deadline is tomorrow at midnight for HOTC.
 - Fall rowing league members can go to Speakmon but row in 8s only and go only if masters go.
 - Future policy -- Rec and SRL rowers should go to regattas only if comp team goes. Exception could be Turkeyfoot.
 - Specific equipment reporting procedure for each coaching session – suggested by Joanne. For every coaching session, the coach reports what equipment was taken and reports on before/after condition, in every case, not just if damage occurs. To be filled out by each coach for each session.
 - Mandatory coaches meeting for coaches active in the fall – FRL and Rec coaches.
 - Posting on web site -- Listing of equipment and weight requirements – Sharon has volunteered to do.
 - Executive session with 6 members to further discuss these and other issues. 7:45 to 8:30 pm

FURTHER BOARD DECISIONS

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS ON FRL SINCE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- The issue of FRL fees for late registrants was discussed and decided by the board as follows:
- Requests for FRL registration are coming in the second week of the session. (Frank explains that there are 7 weeks total FRL (it runs through the Oct 31/Nov 3 week)). The available pro-ratable fees are the WRRRA Membership fee and the coaching fee. The Membership fee is already somewhat pro-rated to \$45. Coaching is \$30. Adjusting this \$75 in fees to 5/7 leaves a fee of ~\$53.50. We could round this down to \$50 which together with the \$115 Rivergate assessment, will

leave the fee at \$165, down from \$190 (for novice rowers). For those who have otherwise rowed in SRL, the original fee is \$160, of which \$45 is adjustable. The pro-rated amount of this would be \$32. Rounding down to \$30, would leave the fee for these folks at \$145.

- So the rates for those who rowed a full summer of SRL or one half session would be \$145, and for novice rowers \$165.
- All 6 current board members agreed to this fee structure via email.