



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY TELECONFERENCE

Shawne Kokelj, President
John Stephenson, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Heather Scott, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Carolyn Hunter, Inuvik Ski Club representative
Julia Gyapay, Hay River Ski Club representative
Sarah Pruys, Administrator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

2 Approval of Minutes (February 8, 2021)

The minutes of the regular board meeting of February 8, 2021 were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to post February 2021 minutes on nwtski.com and distribute minutes to the CCNWT board and clubs.

3 Action Items (February 8, 2021)

Board members noted the progress of the February 8, 2021 action items.

4 COVID-19

As agreed by the board at the last meeting, an additional \$12,026 in Covid-19 money from Sport Canada has been spent on ski equipment for communities without clubs, following the distribution of the initial funding to the community clubs. Administration is awaiting word from Sport Canada on how to report on how both increments of funding were spent.

4 Territorials

Yellowknife Ski Club representative Heather Scott noted registration for NWT Cross Country Territorials is now live and closes Sunday, March 14. President Shawne Kokelj noted people do not have to be a member of a club to participate in territorials.

ACTION ITEM: Administration to promote territorials deadline on social media, reminding it's open to non-club members.

President Shawne Kokelj noted no travel money has been sent to clubs yet because the executive is waiting for all clubs to notify the executive of what assistance they require.

ACTION ITEM: Admin to email clubs again about travel funding. **Clubs** to respond to administration with the number of athletes travelling to other clubs's events and a budget breakdown for this travel.

6 2022 Arctic Winter Games

Arctic Winter Games (AWG) 2022 have been postponed. As a TSO, we got to provide initial feedback and suggested skipping 2022 and holding the next AWG in 2024. CCNWT felt there was too much uncertainty around international travel in 2022, and holding the AWG in 2023 would interfere with Canada Winter Games (specifically, it would be too much of a strain on our coaches who would need to take time off of work).

Sport North, collecting information on behalf of the AWG International Committee, requested CCNWT submit three potential dates in order of preference for the AWG; and listed the following 2023 dates as suggestions: January 28-February 4, February 4-11, or March 11-18.

Fort Smith Ski Club representative Kevin Smith noted via email the Canada Winter Games are scheduled to be held over February 18 to March 5, 2023. Yellowknife Ski Club representative John Stephenson noted it may be too cold to hold the AWG in January or February, and that schools typically schedule spring breaks around AWG and this will be challenging if the AWG are held in the first two months of the year.

The CCNWT board agreed its first date preference remained 2024, followed by March 11-18, 2023.

ACTION ITEM: Administration to email Sport North by Tuesday, March 9 with CCNWT's decision.

8 Club Updates

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB

- NWT Ski Day was successful. Similar approach to World Snow Day with no trail fees, light packaged snacks, ski ambassadors on site to welcome people, good coverage in Yellowknifer
- Planning underway for Ski Races (territorials) on March 20/21, Race notice was distributed
- Spring Break Ski camp for kids will happen. Weeks of March 15-19 and registration is open.
- Yellowknife Gold Loppet planning underway for March 28. Using local Guerrilla Groomer trails and Ski Club. Sponsored by Gold Terra Mining.
- Polar Cup in Yellowknife in planning possibly last weekend in March 26, 27 recognizing Loppet on March 28
- School Groups booking chalet for March and April
- Ski in School events happening

INUVIK SKI CLUB

- Really busy, have hours of operation up and running (students running hut) - almost 90 members
- Several hundred people have used club/skis this month
- Partnered with town of Inuvik and have programming throughout March break (camps, adult learn to ski, biathlon, orienteering program set up, etc) - things going on every day/weekend
- Annika with Spirit North has events and workshops planned for first week of April
- Schools using trails and hut for phys ed during the week.

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

- Huge increase in membership - over 300 members.
- Lots of media coverage on skiing.
- Also have tobogganing hill, dog walking area, opened up trails across the river to the cabin to encourage new people to come out
- Free adult learn to ski lessons
- Have formal Bunnyrabbits and Jackrabbits program this year
- Monthly adult social skis
- Family nature skis with local biologist (tree skis)
- Hay River rec department to hold monthly snowshoe skis (they cover trail fees, club provides volunteers)
- Skigo bingo in December
- Park and Recs funding - three larger funding events (NWT Ski Day, Christmas event, and Valentine's Day)
- Ski lessons to a class, thinking about a ski at school program
- Polar Cup biathlon races this past weekend
- Send four skiers to Thebacha Loppet
- Ski races this weekend (renamed Pat Bobinski Memorial Races from Ptubs) - decided to go ahead with it because it's been a few years, even if it's smaller. Using the golf club as well so more people can be indoors in their club.
- Registration closes this Friday at 3pm.
- St Pat's Day evening ski
- Annika coming to Hay River at the end of March and hosting a ski festival (partnering at KFN for first few days, and then last few days at the ski club).

FORT SMITH SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance; submitted written update as follows:
 - There were approx 80 participants in the Thebacha Loppet.
 - Ski races were cancelled and they are going to have a ski bingo and ski poker rally in March instead (more inclusive for members than ski races).

Action item: **Shawne** noted Nordiq Canada is looking at pros and cons of becoming more closely aligned with other Nordiq Sports, and she will forward an email with more information. **Clubs** to give feedback to Shawne on this topic or respond if they have no feedback.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7 PM.

Action item: **Administrators** to confirm next board meeting date (April 6, 2021) with clubs and encourage clubs to send an alternate to the meeting if a club representative cannot attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.