



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY TELECONFERENCE

Shawne Kokelj, President
Angela Littlefair, Secretary & Treasurer
Tracey Pope, Vice-President
Julia Gyapay, Hay River Ski Club representative
Sarah Pruys, Administrator
Ollie Williams, Administrator

Call to Order

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

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and Shawne requested “Nordic Strategy” be updated to include “President’s Notes.”

2 Approval of Minutes (March 8, 2021)

The minutes of the regular board meeting of March 8, 2021 were approved pending the AWG section being corrected (years need to be updated to 2023 instead of 2022).

***ACTION ITEM: Shawne** to send AWG date corrections to Administrators.*

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

3 Action Items (March 8, 2021)

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

4 COVID-19

Administrator Ollie Williams commended clubs for hosting such successful events, like ski races and loppets, within Covid-19 protocols.

Administrator Sarah Pruys reported CCNWT has applied for and received \$1919 from Canadian Tire’s Jumpstart’s Sport Relief Fund to purchase warm clothing for students

participating in ski-at-school programs. This money will be distributed via cheque and CCNWT will need to report on the impact the funding had.

5 Territorials, Loppets, and Events

Shawne and Ollie thanked the Yellowknife Ski Club for hosting territorials and congratulated the club on a job well done. Ollie says all loppets and events have been huge successes.

Shawne noted she's received feedback from Yellowknife Gold Loppet participants that they loved the choose-you-own-adventure format and it was more accessible than the traditional loppet route.

Sarah noted nine RYSE events have wrapped up in eight communities, with a tenth event underway in Inuvik this week. Two reports have been submitted for the Fort Simpson and first Fort Providence event, while the remaining reports will be drafted following the submission of receipts and reports from the instructors.

Top of the World Loppet is coming up this weekend in Inuvik.

6 President's Update

Regarding the national Nordic Strategy (that Biathlon Canada, Nordic Combined Ski Canada, Nordiq Canada and Ski Jumping Canada can improve their operations and high-performance results by doing more together), Shawne said she provided personal feedback (as clubs did not respond with feedback) that she's concerned this will not benefit nordic sports in the NWT at a territorial level as biathlon is different here (includes snowshoe biathlon). However, she did note she could see benefits to merging resources at the club level (ie. administration, one set of certifications instead of two).

Club membership is up 59 percent across the NWT (Inuvik went from zero to 107 members).

Nordiq Canada is looking at updating its goals. CCNWT has an opportunity to have a 30 minute interview with them, between April 6-14 and the hours of 8am-12pm, with up to three people, to provide feedback. Shawne noted there are a number of documents Nordiq Canada has requested people review prior to the interview. She also said feedback from these interviews will be presented at Nordiq Canada's AGM in June.

Shawne is drafting notes on potential board roles (club programming, non-club programming, Team NT, safe sport, etc), which can be used to encourage people to join the board at the AGM. Secretary & Treasurer Angie Littlefair volunteered to assist with role descriptions.

ACTION ITEM: Shawne and Angie to draft board roles ahead of the AGM.

Shawne noted that if the Hay River Ski Club knows of anyone who could be trained to lead skiing (paid position) in Kátł'odeeche First Nation through a partnership with Spirit North, to let CCNWT know.

ACTION ITEM: Hay River Ski Club to consider who at Kátł'odeeche First Nation might be interested in working for Spirit North leading skiing programming.

The Arctic Winter Games have been rescheduled and will be held from January 28-February 4, 2023 in Fort McMurray (meanwhile, the Canada Winter Games will be held in PEI over February 18-March 5, 2023). Shawne proposed sending an email to Sport North reminding

the organization that school boards should be made aware of the new dates, and requesting Sport North clarify any changes to age categories.

7 **Safe Sport**

Shawne reminded clubs to display safe sport contact information physically on the walls in clubs and also on club websites.

Ollie provided a brief update on two complaints that have come in, which are being handled by an independent third party CCNWT has contracted (this is the same third party Nordiq Canada uses). At this point, there is no further required board action.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to forward safe sport email and accompanying documents to the new Hay River Ski Club representative, Julia Gyapay..

8 **Annual General Meeting**

Shawne proposed CCNWT's AGM be held as early as possible to capture enthusiasm of 2020-21 ski season.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to send a Doodle poll to clubs asking if they would prefer May 31 or June 1, 2021 as the date for the AGM.

9 **Club Funding Reporting**

Ollie reminded clubs to send administrators a few sentences and photos from events that were CCNWT-funded.

10 **Club Updates**

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance.
- Written report was submitted on April 7, 2021 as follows:
 - NWT Ski Champs - March 20 and 21 - 137 athletes (record high) with athletes from Fort Smith and Hay River
 - Polar Cup - March 27 and 28 - 20 biathletes including Hay River. Rejuvenated sport in YK with new leadership.
 - Yellowknife Gold Loppet - March 28 - used Guerrilla Groomers trails and find your own adventure. 430 registrations vs usual 300 to 325. 11 trails. 73 k of total distance. See map on YKSC web.
 - Ski-in-Schools Program - national program with funding from Nordiq Canada, Alta Gas, GNWT to help schools to participate in skiing - 40 school kids at ski club each day this week - tracksetters purchased for two schools
 - Camp de Neige - Schools hold their own activities at ski club
 - Program registrations - recent record of 99 in Jackrabbits.
 - JRs held last program day last Saturday

INUVIK SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance.

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

- Held first annual Pat Bobinski Memorial Races in March, got approval for 80 people from the Chief Public Health Officer.

- Annika from Spirit North held community skiing events at KFN and they were so popular the community requested the ski club send someone a second time to lead a skiing clinic.
 - Also held a teachers skiing training workshop over spring break, only one teacher came (he's developing ski program at Princess Alexandra School).
 - Also held a community ski at the club (over 30 people), lunch, skiing, games.
- 14 biathletes participated in YK's Polar Cup
- Themed skis (Tree Ski, St Patrick's Day Ski, Easter Egg Hunt Ski) have been well-received.
- Final family ski is a woodpecker birder ski
- Volunteer appreciation BBQ will be held at the beginning of May
- Volunteer Chuck Lirette was named Hay River's Citizen of the Year
- Funding change updated: for the past 35 years the lottery terminals in Hay River provided the club with around \$35,000 in core funding which was used to maintain the club. The club recently learned this money may now be going to CCNWT (CCNWT administrators noted they have not received an increase in funding nor have they heard of this change yet). Administrators encouraged the club to get in touch with the details and CCNWT will look into this.

ACTION ITEM: Hay River Ski Club to send administrators details on the lottery terminal funding change. **Administrators** to investigate change.

FORT SMITH SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7 PM.

Action item: Administrators to confirm next board meeting date (May 3, 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 7:47 PM.