



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021 - After 7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY TELECONFERENCE

Shawne Kokelj, President

Tracey Pope, Vice-President

David Mahon

Julia Gyapay, Hay River Ski Club representative

Chuck Lirette, Hay River Ski Club representative

John Stephenson, Yellowknife Ski Club alternate

Diep Duong, Yellowknife Ski Club representative

Sarah Pruys, Administrator

Ollie Williams, Administrator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

1 Approval of Agenda

Administrator Sarah Pruys added "Bank Signing Authority" as a separate agenda item.

President Shawne Kokelj added "Coach Training Needs" to Item 3 - Skill Development.

Yellowknife Ski Club alternate John Stephenson asked that Hay River's funding update be moved to the top of the agenda as Hay River Ski Club representatives Julia Gyapay and Chuck Lirette could not stay for the entirety of the meeting.

2 Approval of Minutes (May 31, 2021)

The minutes of the regular board meeting of May 31, 2021 were approved.

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

3 Action Items (April 6, 2021)

Board members noted the progress of the May 31, 2021 action items.

4 Club Updates

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

Chuck summarized the issue of the loss of funding to Hay River Ski Club ([read the background in this press release](#)) and the Hay River Ski Club's lobbying efforts to get funding, which is the majority of their funding, reinstated. The club met with Hay River MLAs Rock and RJ Simpson this week – RJ said in his six years in office he's never seen this amount of public outcry and he's received or been CC'd on over 50 emails so far.

The club also feels this loss of funding has big implications for NWT, CCNWT, and NWT Biathlon (as Hay River often hosts biathlon trials and training camps, if the club closes it could mean the end of biathlon in the NWT). The GNWT is going into budget planning sessions soon and RJ and Rocky have told the club they will raise the funding issue then. The Hay River Ski Club's AGM is at end of September and they are hoping for feedback by then from the MLAs. The MLAs want to set up a meeting with the club's executive, the mayor, and the MLAs.

Shawne said it's in CCNWT's interest to have healthy, operating clubs. Ollie said he could help talk to Town of Hay River about how other municipalities financially support their clubs, as well as can help negotiate with the GNWT. Chuck doesn't want to approach Town yet because that would indicate giving up on getting the GNWT funding reinstated.

Diep Duong, the Yellowknife Ski Club representative, said the City of Yellowknife gives their club a \$20,000 grant each year and noted it would take a long time to change the legislation back if the GNWT choses to do that so that the Hay River club can retain its lottery funding.

John noted the Yellowknife Ski Club agreed to write a letter in support of Hay River Ski Club, asked if CCNWT should also write a letter. Chuck said NWT Biathlon is writing a letter of support. Shawne noted any letter from CCNWT would need to represent all clubs, and that Fort Smith and Inuvik would need to weigh in first.

Diep asked about Hay River's membership fees as a funding source – Chuck said they charge \$80 per adult and \$200 per family, and that they don't want to increase fees as they are worried it would exclude people from the club. He said he thinks their rates are some of the lowest in Canada.

5 Skill Development

i) Skill Development Programs

ACTION ITEM: Clubs are encouraged to begin thinking about what Skill Development Program materials they need for their Track Attack and Jackrabbits programs (toques, buffs, stukers, booklets). Nordiq Canada will

ask CCNWT to place an order, which CCNWT will distribute to clubs and send them invoices for.

John asked if CCNWT hoodies for guerrilla groomers would be possible again this year. Shawne said its budget and inventory dependent (there are currently 14 hoodies in our inventory right now, a mix of women's and unisex sizes).

ii) *Coaching Training Needs*

ACTION ITEM: Clubs should let administrators know about their coaching needs for the upcoming seasons.

John said Bernadette Knox, with the Yellowknife Ski Club, is working on a 'Coaching 101' session to teach parents how to be helper coaches. The club hopes this will funnel more parents into coaching. Shawne reminded Criminal Record Checks are needed for anyone spending time with kids.

6 Team NWT

There are two big events in 2023: the Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo over Jan 29-Feb 4, 2023; and Canada Winter Games in PEI over Feb 18-Mar 5, 2023.

Different age groups are invited to each event:

- CWGs - 20 and under as of December 31, 2023 (born 2003 or later)
- AWGs - Using the same years of birth that would have been in effect in 2022 in 2023.

Shawne is concerned as this AWG age group decision penalizes younger skiers who would have been eligible (makes kids born in 2010 too young, keeps 2004 kids in the loop, but for CCNWT these athletes are at university and so could be expensive if we have to fly them back for trials).

There will be another AWG in 2024 as well.

7 Nordiq Canada Coach License

ACTION ITEM: Anyone coaching (dryland or snow) needs to have their coaching licence if they are coaching more than seven hours this year:

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=26212&lan=1&cartlevel=1>

8 CCNWT Board Member recruitment

Shawne says there are many free spots on the board and that she's encouraging clubs to have a rotating additional representative on the calls, to help bring awareness to what CCNWT does.

The board agreed by consensus that David Mahon would be a new director on the CCNWT board.

ACTION ITEM: Clubs to confirm their CCNWT club representative for the 2021/22 year with the administrators.

9 COVID-19

Ollie noted clubs handled Covid-19 challenges well last year and saw a 60 percent growth in membership. He reminded them to reflect that growth in their plans for the upcoming season.

8 Bank Signing Authority

The board agreed Shawne Kokelj, Tracey Pope, and David Mahon will have signing authority for the 2021-22 year.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to forward signed minutes to the bank ahead of the appointment.

ACTION ITEM: Shawne, Tracey, and David to meet at TD Bank on [date TBD] to finalize the signing authority status.

10 Club Updates

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB

- [As written](#)

INUVIK SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

- [As written](#)

FORT SMITH SKI CLUB

- Not in attendance

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held October 19, 2021 at 7 PM.

Action item: **Administrators** to confirm next board meeting date (October 19, 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 8:11 PM.

Minutes Approved: September 17, 2021

Shawne Kokelj, President

Sarah Pruys, Administrator & Secretary