



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022 – 7:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY TELECONFERENCE

Shawne Kokelj, President
Tracey Pope, Vice-President
David Mahon, Director
Tess Forbes, Inuvik Ski Club representative
Kathleen Gilhooly, Hay River Ski Club representative
John Stephenson, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Diep Duong, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Heather Scott, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Sharon Irwin, Fort Smith Ski Club representative
Sarah Pruys, Administrator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2 Approval of Minutes (January 18, 2021)

The minutes of the regular board meeting minutes of January 18 2021 were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to update and post January 18, 2021 minutes on nwtski.com and distribute minutes to the CCNWT board and clubs.

3 Action Items (January 18, 2021)

Board members noted the progress of the January 18, 2021 action items.

4 President's Notes

CCNWT meeting with MACA recap and next steps

President Shawne Kokelj referenced her email summarizing the CCNWT meeting with MACA that she sent to the board and noted while it was a good starting conversation, there is no new money immediately available for clubs.

Below are the relevant parts of Shawne's email:

Tracey, David and I met with Gary Schauerte, Director, and Damon Crossman, Manager, Sport and Recreation and Youth. A Yellowknife Ski Club member, Roxane Poulin, attended as a facilitator.

Gary said that MACA appreciated CCNWT reaching out to set up the meeting and was clear that the department is willing to work with our TSO to ensure cross-country skiing continues to thrive in the NWT. He acknowledged skiing's deep roots in our territory and how important ski clubs and facilities are to our residents, as well as to the NWT's ability to host AWGs and other high profile events. It was also clear that MACA and the Minister are paying attention to club funding issues, in large part due to the Hay River Ski Club's advocacy. Gary also remarked that it bodes well for CCNWT that clubs have, for the most part, sustained their volunteer base and increased their membership despite the challenges of COVID. All in all, he said that our TSO and its member clubs are positioned favourably for future talks regarding financial sustainability.

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We understood the solution pathways could potentially include:

- 1) Direct MACA-CCNWT funding channels, such as funding strategic planning as a path to additional funding of identified goals and objectives, and/or looking for other funding opportunities within MACA;
- 2) MACA-facilitated discussions between clubs and municipalities, which MACA emphasized is a key part of the solution for clubs;
- 3) Exploring ways to get third party support.

It was suggested by MACA that complete information on land and building tenure for each club would be helpful for us to provide, including any shared arrangements with other TSOs, clubs, municipalities, NGOs, etc. This would allow them to better assess options, and prepare for potential meetings with clubs and municipalities.

Gary was very interested in understanding how our financial pressures are different than other sports and recreation clubs and how costs have trended over time. He invited CCNWT and clubs to build our case up with some additional financial numbers from clubs. In preparation for the potential of MACA-facilitated discussions between individual clubs and their respective municipalities, more information is needed regarding key cost drivers, notable expenses and revenues trends, anticipated capital expenditures, etc. We want clubs to tell MACA a strong story about how our clubs' operations are unique and what a good investment we are!

Shawne noted the CCNWT executive would like to access money for strategic planning MACA has indicated will become available.

The Yellowknife and Fort Smith ski clubs have provided information to CCNWT on land and building tenure, as well as on shared agreements.

ACTION ITEM: Hay River Ski Club and Inuvik Ski Club to share details on land and building tenure and shared agreements. Administrators to resend Shawne's request to these clubs.

Yellowknife Ski Club representative John Stephenson noted the negotiation process will take time, and that in some ways the clubs are "victims of their own success," in that they have built up great facilities over the years with minimal municipal or territorial support, which has indicated to these potentials funders support is not needed despite costs increasing and other funding being reduced. He pointed out other sports that rent municipally managed spaces don't have the same capital and operations and maintenance expenditures as ski clubs.

Executive members David McMahon and Tracey Pope agreed the initial conversation they sat in on with MACA was positive and that the department was receptive, but that the negotiation will take time.

Yellowknife Ski Club representative Heather Scott noted the City of Yellowknife did not purchase a groomer for Frame Lake when it became available because it believed guerilla groomers would handle the task of keeping the city centre skiing spot groomed, rather than taking the opportunity to support skiing in the city.

Sport North meeting on the Team Selection Grant Program

On Tuesday, February 15, Sport North held a meeting for TSOs to introduce its new Team Selection Grant Program that came out of a survey of TSOs on how to make the trial process more flexible.

For the 2023 Arctic Winter Games there are 2 options being offered:

1. TSOs can do their own thing - pretty much full reign to decide how to run trials, and when (with an estimated deadline of mid-December 2022); applications with all details (including budget, coach & athlete selection policies, dates, etc) due by April 4 2022 (with perhaps some flexibility on that date);
2. TSOs can opt to stick with Sport North's traditional AWG trials weekend (only 1 will be offered as AWGs are earlier than usual).

Due to feedback received, they have increased the length of time available to hold the trials (3 full days in community of trials plus 2 travel days). Obviously, the earlier dates would be a problem for skiing, and it certainly seemed that several TSOs on last night's call would opt for December dates. That being said, it sounded like there were a couple of TSOs opting to do their own thing and holding something this winter (or maybe even over summer).

If TSOs elect to manage their own trials, they are responsible for scheduling all costs, chaperones, and accommodations in addition to organizing and promoting the trials themselves. However, this option provides flexibility if a TSO wanted to incorporate trials into another event (such as territorials) or hold the trials at a different time of year (some TSOs don't need snow for their trials).

The date for the Sport North AWG trials weekend has not been set. Sport North has provided TSOs four options and asked for a response by March 3. They have also asked CCNWT provide an estimated team size, by category, as well as estimated number and sizes of team uniforms. CCNWT has reached out to past coaches to set up a meeting to discuss what trial dates would be best and what the estimated team size is.

Once a date is set, CCNWT will likely be asked to provide its top two choices for trial locations.

Either way, CCNWT will also still need to review its Athlete Selection Criteria and Appeals Process and Athlete / Coach Selection Process.

John noted he is excited Sport North is starting this conversation, and although it is likely too soon for CCNWT to elect to schedule its own trials this year it may be a good possibility for future years. He said for some youth, going to the trials is just as exciting as going to the AWGs.

Yellowknife Ski Club representative Diep Duong asked why Sport North initiated this conversation. Shawne explained it was due to feedback Sport North received about issues with scheduling process for trials for the last AWGs.

Diep also asked if CCNWT chose to hold its own trials if it could do so early next winter. Shawne confirmed it could.

Heather asked if the indoor sports that do not require snow are leaning toward using the Sport North dates. CCNWT is unsure what other sports are considering following the Sport North meeting, other than NWT Snowboard which is holding trials this spring at its territorial competition.

John asked if past event performance can count toward trials, or if CCNWT could consider this. Shawne noted she believed this was already a part of the policy

The 2020 Arctic Winter Games Athlete and Coach Selection Policy states:
“The Athlete Selection Committee may also, as part of the [secondary selection process](#), consider the competitive record of an athlete during the prior 12 months.”

Nordiq Canada Strategic Plan and Safe Sport information

Shawne noted Nordiq Canada is reviewing its strategic plan, but that it will be sticking with its former goals to increase the number of athletes on podiums and Canadians on skis. She said at meetings, she tries to remind and reinforce the second goal.

Nordiq Canada has also shared more information with administrators on the Safe Sport policy progress, while CCNWT hasn't heard anything from MACA about their Safe Sport policy progress in a while.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to review Nordiq Canada's Safe Sport documents and report back to the CCNWT board on them.

Community Updates

Tracey has a call with Spirit North this week, while CCNWT is working with Anna-Spring Doerfler to schedule skiing training in all five Sahtu communities and with Thorston Gohl to host a RYSE event in Fort Providence.

Resigning as President

Shawne noted she is not looking to renew as president at AGM in the spring, but will likely stay on for a term as Past President.

5 Strategic Plan

MACA has indicated funding will be available to assist TSOs with strategic planning.

John noted CCNWT should set a deadline for reviewing and updating the current strategic plan, and suggested the current plan dates 2016-2020 be extended until 2022 or 2023.

Last time the strategic plan was reviewed, a facilitator was hired.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to ask MACA how to apply for strategic planning funding.

ACTION ITEM: Clubs to add notes to the strategic plan [Action Plan](#).

6 Coach Training Update

Allison McArdle from Calgary lead a Community Coaching course in Inuvik over January 22-23 (online, due to Covid-19), a Community Coaching course in Yellowknife over January 25-28, and a Learn to Train course in Yellowknife over January 29-30. Meanwhile, the Hay River Ski Club had to cancel its CANSI course over January 28-30 and a Community Coaching course over January 29-30 due to low sign-up numbers.

CCNWT has a credit with Canadian North for Allison's canceled flights to Inuvik that need to be rebooked by mid-December 2022, so there is an opportunity to bring Allison back to the NWT to do more coach training.

Shawne noted CCNWT would like to remove the Professional Development funding stream from the Club Funding Application process in the fall as professional development needs to be planned earlier in future years – to make organization simpler, to ensure facilitators can be booked, and to give participants plenty of time to sign up and adjust their schedules accordingly. The PD money will still be available, but clubs will need to let CCNWT know their training needs by the end of April instead of in the fall.

ACTION ITEM: Clubs to let CCNWT know their 2022-23 training needs by April 2022.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to write guidelines for PD, outlining the responsibilities for CCNWT, clubs, learning facilitators, and participants.

Heather asked if CCNWT needed to see clubs' detailed budget for events, or if they can request a lump sum for events in the future. Shawne noted it is helpful to see the breakdown when determining how to distribute the money.

Inuvik Ski Club representative Tess Forbes asked about training requirements to coach basic adult ski skills classes. Shawne said while you can adapt NCCP Community Coaching for adults, CANSI teaches ski skills. Ideally, coaches would have both courses.

7 Events

The Yellowknife Ski Club is hosting Territorials in conjunction with their ski races over March 12-13. The club has asked if anyone at CCNWT is available to volunteer and assist with chip timing.

ACTION ITEM: Volunteers to let Sarah or Kerry know if they can assist with chip timing.

8 Club Updates

YELLOWKNIFE SKI CLUB

- As written.
 - Upcoming events
 - February Ski Lessons
 - March 12 and 13 - NWT Ski Champs
 - March 19 - Frostbite 50
 - Past events
 - Jan 24 - 30 - Coaches Training for L2T and CC -thanks to CCNWT for funding and to Sarah for logistical and administrative support
 - January 30 - Dressup ski event
 - February 13 - NWT Ski Day
- Applying for Nordic Canada fundraising program to raise money for grooming equipment

INUVIK SKI CLUB

- CC course was partly virtual, partly on-snow
- Skis coming from Yellowknife so they will have more skis for adults soon
- Snowmobile is broken again
- Student hired to open ski club
- Loppet is first week of April -

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to add the Top of the World Loppet to the events calendar.

HAY RIVER SKI CLUB

- TA and JR still going ahead, numbers have been consistent
- Birding Ski postponed
- Biathlon practice moved inside
- Polar Cup #2 held Feb 26-27 (Yellowknife families coming down for it)

FORT SMITH SKI CLUB

- Lots of Covid-19 cases, canceled Jackrabbits last week
- May cancel programming this weekend, coaches are going on ski trip down south
- Had auction this past weekend - made almost \$6000 (Northwestern Air Lease donated Fort Smith to Yellowknife return trip)
- Can sign up for Thebacha Loppet (first Saturday of March) -
- Set double tracks for Ski Day - got a few new skiers out
- Bingo cards out, better prizes this year
- Ski races March 19-20
- Looking into NC fundraiser - Shawne - NC provides logistical support

8 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7 PM.

Action item: **Administrators** to confirm next board meeting date (Tuesday, March 8, 2022) with clubs and encourage clubs to send an alternate to the meeting if a club representative cannot attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.