



**CROSS COUNTRY NWT
Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

BY ZOOM

David Mahon, President
Shawne Kokelj, Director
Lisa McShane, Director
Tess Forbes, Inuvik Ski Club representative
John Stephenson, Yellowknife Ski Club representative
Ashley Coombs, Hay River Ski Club
Sharon Irwin, Fort Smith Ski Club
Sarah Pruys, Administrator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved following the addition of MACA funding and Arctic Winter Games age categories.

2 Approval of Minutes (February 15, 2023)

The minutes of the regular board meeting minutes of February 15, 2023 were approved.

***ACTION ITEM: Administrators** to update and post February 15, 2023 minutes on nwtski.com and distribute minutes to the CCNWT board and clubs.*

Action Items (February 15, 2023)

Board members noted the progress of the February 15, 2023 action items.

***ACTION ITEM: Administrators** to resend list of licenced coaches to clubs.*

3 Arctic Winter Games & Canada Winter Games

i) AWG

ii) CWG

Canada Winter Games was held in PEI, with cross country skiing running during the second week (February 27-March 6). CCNWT sent 10 athletes. They participated in all events (spring, relays, mass start races, etc). CCNWT athletes were younger than some competitors but overall it was a great experience for them.

iii) Territorials

Cross Country Skiing Territorials will be held over March 25-26, 2023 in Hay River.

A reminder CCNWT does set aside some funding for skiers to attend territorials.

***ACTION ITEM: Administrators** to post/email again encouraging people to apply for travel assistance to attend territorials.*

***ACTION ITEM: Hay River Ski Club representative** to advise administrators of how many patches for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place they need.*

***ACTION ITEM: Clubs** to let their members know there are volunteer opportunities are available at territorials.*

***ACTION ITEM: Administrators** to share wording for territorials poster and CCNWT logo with Hay River Ski Club representative.*

iii) Sahtu Ski Events

Ski events for both youth and adults are being organized and hosted by Anna-Spring Doerfler were planned in all five Sahtu communities. The Deline event had to be cancelled due to weather, but an additional event in Norman Wells has been added.

A total of \$19,450 from MACA's Local Sport Leaders fund was secured to fund this training and events. While dates have shifted, Anna-Spring sends detailed reports following each event which administrators will compile and use to report back to MACA.

4 Coaching

i) Professional Development Schedule

CC - Fort Smith - December 3-4, 2022 - Completed

CC - Yellowknife - November 26-27, 2022 - Completed
L2T - Yellowknife - February 10-12, 2022 with Allison McArdle - Completed
Advanced Classic and Advanced Skate Skiing with Allison McArdle - Completed
CANSI - Cancelled
Adult Ski Training - Inuvik - March 11-12, 2022 (Yellowknife instructor - Jennifer Stranart)

5 Nordiq Canada Equity Funding

DATES

March 12-17 Fort Good Hope

March 20-24 Łútsël K'é

March 26-31 Whatì

April 2-6 Fort Providence

March 31-April 2 Inuvik

April 24-May 1 Ulukhaktok

LATEST

- Facilitators all confirmed and beginning travel shortly (later this week in the case of the opening pair, Luke and Taylor, heading to Fort Good Hope).
- All host communities confirmed and prepared. In Fort Good Hope, Whatì and Fort Providence, the facilitation week will involve learn-to-ski sessions for students in Grade 3 and up throughout the week, where basic skills can be introduced, plus one to two days where other communities' youth come in and take part in ski-based activities.
- In Ulu and Łútsël K'é, the week will be dedicated to youth from those communities with no other communities coming in. (Ulu will travel to Inuvik for a regional event before it hosts its own week-long event.)
- For Fort Good Hope, Whatì and Fort Providence, work continues to get other communities who've expressed an interest in travelling to confirm so we can book them in.

FUNDING

- To ensure all funding is spent by the deadline, we'll have Spirit North invoice us for the entire sum. Spirit North will keep any remainder to one side and we'll use that remainder to target any equipment needs that become apparent while in host communities.
- We remain within budget, the overall spend will depend to a significant degree on how much travel we need to arrange (see below), which may be somewhat last-minute depending on when communities come on board.

LOGISTICS

- The main operational issue from now on will be logistics: ensuring facilitator travel and provision in communities runs smoothly, ensuring travel for other communities to hubs is arranged.
- Annika Olesen at Spirit North has organized the logistics and facilitation and will continue to do so up to March 17, at which point she is away until May 1. Responsibility for logistics will revert to CCNWT from March 18 onward – we have a handover meeting booked for March 17.

TRAVEL

- Nahanni Butte, Samba K'e and Jean Marie River are all interested in coming to Fort Providence. Annika is working with them to arrange that.
- Behchokò is interested in coming to the Whatì event but no interest so far from Gamètì and Wekweètì.
- Annika is working on getting Sahtu communities to come in to the Fort Good Hope event though of course, several also have events through Anna-Spring. More broadly, Annika is phoning around all communities over the next week to reinforce the availability of these sessions and give every community as much opportunity as possible to attend.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to finalize press release announcing the program this week.

6 Strategic Plan update

Strategic plan planning continues to inch along very slowly. Lead Dog Consulting has provided CCNWT homework on where we want to go with the new strategic plan, so CCNWT is in the process of completing that.

7 MACA Funding 2023-2026

MACA three-year funding agreement wraps up this year, and then we will apply for funding for the next three years. The new funding comes with a commitment to implementing safe sport policies (we can follow Sport North or Nordiq Canada's policy drafts), ensuring gender equity, and some other conditions.

Shawne noted MACA sets four categories: administration, leadership development, participant development, and high performance.

John asked for an update on CCNWT's lobbying for operations and maintenance funding for clubs. David noted MACA is still suggesting communities are the best place to go for funding, while communities suggest clubs ask MACA. MACA has indicated it will host club-community meetings to assist with these conversations.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to add continuing discussions with MACA about operations and maintenance to the April agenda.

8 AWG 2024 Age Categories

2024 Arctic Winter Games are coming up in Alaska. The Arctic Winter Games International Committee has removed the U18 category from cross country skiing. In response, Team NT's head coach drafted a letter on behalf of the coaching team and CCNWT opposing this decision. We don't know why cross country is losing athlete spots while some other sports are not.

Sampi, Northern Alberta, and Alaska have all sent letters as well. We are awaiting receipt of the letter.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to share AWGIC letter with clubs.

9 Club news and updates

Fort Smith Ski Club

- January - held ski yoga tea (well attended)
- January 15 - World Snow Day (not as well attended, snowboarding was also happening)
- NWT Ski Day - groomed 5km and 10km loop (called it a mini Loppet) and had about 50 people attend
- March 4 - Thebacha Loppet - was cold but but about 70 people registered (people from Alberta, Hay River, Yellowknife, and Australia attended)

Yellowknife Ski Club

- Yellowknife in the running to win money from a marathon group
- Frostbite 50 on March 18
- YK Gold Loppet coming up in April
- Applied to CanNor for funding, were denied
- Participated in Nordiq Canada facilitated fundraising (NC gives tax receipts for donations) and have raised over \$5000 so far
- Trails team decided to sell two DEW snowmachines – funding will help trails director purchase more useful equipment
- YK City Strike impacting rentals, as city used to handle rentals and now the Ski Club has to handle it
- GNWT approached YK city council to pitch Yellowknife taking on AWG 2026; no decisions have been made. If YK declines (2026 was supposed to be Russia's year until the war), then it will be the NWT's year in 2028.

Inuvik Ski Club

- March 10 - Jenn Stranart holding 'all you need to know about skiing' session
- March 11 - Jenn running three different sessions for skiing on Saturday (beginner, novice, and intermediate)
- March 12 - Jenn running second round of novice and intermediate ski training on Sunday (ideally people will attend two sessions)
- Held a Tiki Torch Ski – was very successful
- Combo Pi Day/St Pat's ski orienteering event - borrowing orienteering equipment from Aurora College

Hay River Ski Club

- Volunteer parents and former skiers helping with Jackrabbits and Track Attack
- Continuing full moon snowshoes monthly
- Tree Ski coming up
- Planning for territorials underway

ACTION ITEM: Clubs to ask coaches about coach training needs for 2023/24 season.

ACTION ITEM: Administrators to add coach training to April agenda.

10 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm.

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.