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# **PADDLE VICTORIA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**21 st July 2020**

**Venue:** Zoom Meeting

**Meeting:** The meeting opened at 7.30

## **Present**

Paul Loughran [PL] Chair person , Interested Director

Mark Heggie – Executive Officer (MH)

Lawrie Chenoweth – Independent Director (LC)

Georgina Wakim – Interested Director [GW]

William Sillcox [WS] interested Director

Victoria Langley [VL] Independent Director

Kate Leverett [KL]

No conflicts declared

No Child protection updates

Wild water Committee representatives Roy Farrance and Neville Humphrey present online to update progress on WW National Championships planning.



Roy talked on organizing progressing well with expectations of a small event. Peter McIntyre has been using local knowledge and connections to work with private and government landholders.

Water release has been confirmed.

Neville spoke on the financial side, they have planned for 30 paddlers at the best and 23 worst case. The lack of lead up events will not enhance the participation numbers. Biggest cost is payments to on water safety paddlers at \$340 each.

Local ambulance person is willing to provide standby safety however he may get called away to an incident.

PL thanked Roy and Neville for their efforts and achievements and asked the board to respond .

LC endorsed the planning

VL thanked for efforts and commented there was not a big financial risk, and what the minimum number they would run with? Roy said they would run with 15 entries.

WS asked if capable volunteer rescue people would turn up and Roy said he was confident they would.

PL summarized and suggested Roy and Neville present again to the Board in October, as a decision would have to be made out 3 months prior if the event was to run, cancelled or postponed . Roy said there was a contingency of postponing to March 2021.

Roy and Neville exited meeting 7.58

### **General board meeting commenced**

PL Spoke on the personal impact and COVID related challenges on all and asked how everyone was going.

KL responded she was OK Geelong region not locked down.

WS Said he was very busy with work and fitting in local solo paddles.

VL All Ok , up and down ride.

GW Plenty of work , incident at work raised issues about personal protection and the many evolving challenges.

LC Spoke about the disruption , anxiety and frustration he experience when one of his workers tested positive potentially exposing all his workers and his two sons. Directions and protocols were very difficult to interpret . His work already had all the required record keeping, an enormous amount of work was required to get all his staff supported and registered for support.

PL was asked by GW how he was going and he talked on how it had impacted all in some way and he had seen his daughter's business impacted and he was also responsible for his elderly parents.



**Minutes** from June meeting accepted proposed WS and seconded LC.

No conflict of interest.

Ongoing business

**PFD Exemption**

MH spoke on PFD exemption, the initial document from Mercantile being very wordy and drawing too much on the rowing plan. Mark had engaged John Young to give input, unless the document and the compliance could be simplified it would be unlikely there would be compliance.

VL commented the original proposal was an ungainly document, need to have the one pager check list.

LC Agreed on one pager, work needs to be done now to get it right.

KL Confident John Young will get the document right.

GW Initial document too big, John Young is the right person.

PL Spoke on the preparation required before submitting to MSV.

**PV staff activity during COVID crisis .**

MH Spoke on activity supporting clubs and disciplines through various shutdown and reactivation .

See attached summary below.

Board members supported and commended activity, spoke on community feedback form clubs appreciating support and guidance through difficult times.

MH spoke on Paddle Australia United Paddling progress regarding aligned financial reporting.

Xero has been adopted as the national finance system which PV has complied with however there has been an unresolved aspect such as reporting categories Victoria requires to comply with our funder's requirements.

Live access to PA or PA agents to the Victorian Xero account is an area that MH has never been agreeable to where agreement has not been reached.

PL Spoke whatever system we end up with it needs to be as good as we have had, no compromise.

Live reporting did not seem necessary and placed considerable onus on the financial controller for PV as any reporting needed to be done in context to reflect the true situation. There is also security and consistency issues.



### **Six Month Board Review**

PL proposed he would send out self review documents to all board members .

Documents will be returned to PV Office to be gathered and sent to Paul to ensure all feedback is anonymous.

Board agreed with proposal.

Next meeting 18 th August 2020.

### **COVID SUPPORT ACTVITY Executive officer and PV staff**

Since the first COVID restrictions came in to play I have been in constant contact including weekly meetings with Sport Vic keeping up with the latest directions and opportunities..

Contact with clubs has included –

Providing support to INCC Yarra Paddlers through both shutdowns by Council Landlords.  
Writing to Yarra Council endorsing the clubs COVID safe Plan.

Lobbying Vicsport to educate councils regarding allowing Canoe Clubs to stay open as boat sheds.

Consulting with Fairfield CC developing and endorsing their COVID plan, providing information regarding liability responsibility for management committees

Essendon Canoe- club support and consultation regarding differing opinions and interpretations of shutdown rules. Committee conflict issues.

Footscray CC -support executive develop COVID safe plan and provide letters of support, again committee conflict and boatshed management conflict issues.

Footscray and Essendon have had three stages of restrictions as they are in the western suburbs lockdown zone.

Shepparton Canoe Club communicate with Shepparton council to endorse the reopening of the lake for paddlers.

Host Zoom meetings for clubs including Kirinari, Patterson Lakes , INCC Yarra,.

Host Zoom meetings for clubs to meet and talk about their challenges and solutions re COVID planning. 12 clubs online. Very useful as they had some common problems and clubs supported each other with their solutions.

Consult and support Slalom and Marathon with competition reactivation planning.



Lobby Parks VIC with legal interpretation assistance from Vic Sport regarding Parks interpretation of allowable events in Parks.

Investigate and give advise to Murray River NSW border clubs regarding access to river.  
Acquired pro bono legal advise form James Sloan Albury based solicitor and paddling legend.

Provided assistance to Geelong CC .

Roz and Sandra have provided signage and sanitizer to clubs and regularly rung clubs to ask how they are coping and if they require assistance.

Endorse and consult with Bendigo CC in reactivation plans.  
Every club has different challenges because of club design, the nature of paddling and who is their landlord or controlling authority. Which requires a bespoke approach to the COVID safety plan that has to also comply with DHHS requirements.