

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Format:** Zoom

**1. Welcome**

**2. Present :**

Paul Loughran (PL)

Mark Heggie (MH)

William Silcox (WS)

Vic Langley (VL)

Georgina Wakim (GW)

Lawrie Chenoweth (LC)

Roz Manester (RM)

Neville Humphry - Wildwater (NH)

**Apologies:**

Roy Farrance (RF)- Wildwater

**3. Wildwater (WW)** - Neville and Roy invited to update the Board on the Wildwater Nationals planned for 2021. Unfortunately Roy was unavailable.

A commitment had been made between PA and PV that 3 months out from a National event a decision needed to be made as to whether it would be run or not.

The Wildwater committee had hoped to run the Nationals on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

With the 3 month commitment made and uncertainty created by COVID restrictions, the committee realized that would not be achievable. Instead, the committee will adopt a "Watch and Brief" position with the view of running the event in late Feb/ Early March on the Mitta. The WW committee is still very keen to run the nationals.

MH queried the water status in Feb/ March.

NH confirmed that they have a good relationship with the local water authority who has guaranteed that whenever it is run they will make water available.

PL asked to ensure that there won't be clashes with any other major paddling events.

NH confirmed that they will consider other paddling events, including those in WA, NSW and Tasmanian which is where the majority of paddlers will come from.

A lot of work has been done on WW safety. The Committee has a good relationship with community ambulance who will work with WW at the event.

WW is hopeful to run some events between now and Christmas at on the Goulburn River. These aren't confirmed as no one knows how restrictions will ease in the next few weeks.

Noting the amount of work that has gone into preparing the 'Nationals' event, there is the possibility to run a Victorian downriver event on the Mitta in January along with running a number of local events between now and January, noting the amount of lead time required and minimizing number to groups of 10.

Bendigo Cup - this weekend 18/10/20

WW Committee has shown that they have prepared well for this event and regional paddlers will be attending.

PA has made available grants of \$500 which the Committee may apply for to run either Come and Trys in Bendigo and Melbourne or support Tony Misson who has been working with La Trobe using Zoom to discuss nutrition and fitness with participants - the grant could be used to extend this program with La Trobe Uni for WW/DR paddlers throughout Victoria.

The Board are all in support of the WW Committees work and initiatives. PL encouraged the WW Committee to apply for the grant as a way to increase awareness of wildwater and paddling; encourage participation and deliver positive paddling experiences – which could be captured by including fun photos that can be posted on Facebook.

GW thanked NH for working as an ambassador for paddling in Victoria and publicizing that paddling is alive in Victoria. All very supportive of advertising the Bendigo Cup this weekend.

#### **4. Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

Accepted: WS Seconded: GW

#### **5. Conflict of Interest - None**

#### **6. Child Protection – No matters arising**

#### **7. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

##### **a. Circulate PFD Exemption Draft proposal to the Board**

MH has circulated the draft to the Board and to MSV but has not heard back as yet. Hopefully draft can be condensed slightly but ensure that the safety aspect remains. PL commented that John Young has done a great job on this document. Could be more condensed to be more workable if possible. GW thanked JY for his work but would like to see it finalized as soon as possible.

##### **Compile Asset Register for Polo**

Sharon (SS) has been making great progress with the Canoe Polo Committee and the groups within the committee have been working well together. The Asset register is being worked on by John Shields and Larry Robb to ensure accuracy of their assets. They are no longer worried about depreciation as they are more aware of what assets polo has.

##### **b. Invite two members of the interim Whitewater Technical Committee to the next Board meeting scheduled for October.**

NH has briefed the Board on WW events

##### **c. Confirm when financials will be audited prior to the AGM**

All financials have been verified remotely and the auditor is happy to present them as a *Draft* at the AGM. He would prefer to audit them physically in the office when restrictions ease so won't sign off officially until he can do that. The Board agreed to continue with the current auditor who has delivered exceptional services over the past 10 years.

##### **d. Confirm with PA the legality of PV staff being employed as Casuals.**

Process is still being discussed with PA. Ongoing.

## 8. Strategic Plan Update

- Increase awareness of paddling opportunities and the organization
- Connect with participants
- Improve participation experience
- Support our exiting community<sup>1</sup>

MH spoke about work that has been done by Chris Runting (CR) and the Slalom committee. CR is planning for the Age Nationals at Eildon. They are keen to proceed despite the fact that it can't be a national event due to travel restrictions. They are hopeful that Melbourne paddlers will be able to attend the event.

There was a concern over WW (RF) wanting to run some WW events at the Slalom nationals. CR is happy to make it work after consulting with the Slalom committee.

A compromise has been reached in that WW will have access to the river during the week so that it won't impact on the Slalom event.

CR is very positive and has a good committee backing him up.

MH has worked with Tony Misson at Bendigo.

John Young (Marathon) is working to fill the gap left by schools not currently competing. He is planning some junior events to capture more juniors into marathon.

MH is working with Patterson Lakes and Parks Vic to install a Kayak /Paddle friendly pontoon at Patterson Lakes using some funds from the "Better Boating Grants".

Tree across the Big River update.

This has been a difficult removal and DWELP have been unable to remove it.

**UPDATE post meeting:** A Melbourne Uni student has advised that due to the high flows and maybe some human help, the tree has washed down stream parallel with the bank completely clearing the river.

**ACTION :** MH to circulate photos of the tree.

### Strategic Plan Initiatives in the Clubs

PL asked Board Members to comment on any initiatives being undertaken that fit into the PV Strategic Plan:

LC – INCC Yarra Paddlers planning AGM but not a lot of paddling/ events happening.

Commented on JY trying to engage the schools. Reka Abraham has been appointed Coach at MLC so hopefully this will allow INCC to attract new paddlers into the club.

LC – feels very positive about work being done.

WS – Organising Kirinari and Whitehorse AGM and putting calendars together to plan paddling events for next year.

Kirinari were successful in achieving a "Growing the Sport" grant and have received an automatic \$500 top up to the funds.

VL - commented on how many Volunteer nominations were received as being testament to the resilience of the paddling community and how much great work is being done at the clubs.

VL also raised an issue over the Volunteer Awards and wanted to seek reassurance from the Board around the mention of gender in terms of influencing the outcome of the Volunteer Awards.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of community: Anyone that engages with clubs, disciplines or Paddle Victoria in any form as a paddler, volunteer, coach, event participant or bystander.

VL is seeking to clarify that as a Board they are not discriminating based on gender – negatively or positively.

There was a general discussion by the Board and all agreed that it must be based on merit and not gender.

GW and JL asked if it was possible to acknowledge and/or present multiple awards?

VL proposed that for every initiative raised by the board there is an underlying motivation behind it and if this happens again we should seek more evidence on who has been nominated so we can award the nomination on merit and act with the best integrity.

**ACTION:** MH to follow up with PA to determine if we can award both nominees.

#### 9. **Financials**

- **Monthly report**

All financials have been updated in Dropbox.

We are tracking well due to the Government help and Jobkeeper that we have received.

MH commented that it is very difficult to form a budget ongoing with no idea how to project forward after February 2021.

#### 10. **Conduct, Compliance and Risk Management** – Nothing to discuss

#### 11. **Proposal for Paddle Vic grants to clubs and disciplines for promoting membership and participation post COVID restrictions.** See attached document.

PV has received some additional consolidated money due to COVID situation so we are ahead financially.

MH and PL have proposed that we can use this extra money to support our clubs with recovery efforts to increase awareness, participation and membership.

PV will offer Grants depending on Board approval.

Propose 3 Grants of approximately \$3,500.00

This will be put to the newly elected Board after the AGM who will discuss the criteria and agree on the budget.

The Board emphasized the importance to activate this initiative in the coming weeks to make the most of marketing opportunities ahead of the summer holidays. All Board members agreed that this was a great initiative to support the clubs.

**ACTION:** PL asked that all Board members provide specific Application and Selection criteria which should include impact on delivering our 4 strategic goals, fairness and transparency.

A small panel will be created to approve these.

#### 12. **Any Other Business**

Following on from the Federal Budget announced last week, PL has been approached by SRV about the proposal for a Whitewater facility at Nagambie.

This was followed up with a meeting with the Minister for Community Sport – Ros Spence and will result in a meeting with Martin Pakula – Minister for Sports.

The Federal and State government want to spend money – the State government has set aside \$24.5 billion for post COVID recovery, where they will be able to see a tangible return. The regional approach is very appealing.

At this stage there is an “In principal” support from the Ministers and SRV.



A feasibility study is still needed.

This is very exciting as it raises the profile of paddling.

PL will hopefully have more information in the next 2 weeks.

#### **Board Reflections Survey**

**ACTION:** PL asked that all Board members complete the 6 monthly Board Reflections that they were sent so that PL is able to collate all the responses.

#### **AGM**

RM noted that we have a quorum for the AGM as we have 12 club delegate and representation from Marathon, Sprint, Slalom and Wildwater.

**ACTION:** RM to send all paperwork and attendance list to the board members so they have a view of who is in attendance.

PL noted that he will be nominating for President at the AGM for the next 2-year term.

Meeting closed at 9:10pm

#### **13. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 10th November @7.30pm via Zoom  
(noting that the PV AGM on Wed 28 Oct)