

# ***US SAILING* Board of Directors Meeting**

## **Monday, August 21, 2006**

### **Minutes**

President Janet Baxter called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM EDT.

Board of Directors members present were: Janet Baxter, Jerelyn Biehl, Jim Capron, Ruth Creighton, Tom Hubbell, Rich Jepsen, Leslie Keller, Patty Lawrence, Charlie Leighton, Dick Rose, and John Strassman, John Siegel and Jim Tichenor. Also attending for portions of the meeting were Serge Jorgensen, Senet Bischoff and Sandy Grosvenor. Absent were: Bob Billingham, Dean Brenner, Susan Epstein and Bill Sandberg.

Secretary John Strassman presented the minutes of the last meeting.

#### **Action Item:**

A motion to approve the July 31, 2006 Board of Directors Minutes as corrected was moved, seconded and passed.

President Baxter opened the meeting by introducing Serge Jorgensen and Ruth Creighton. Jorgensen presented a US SAILING Information Technology Current Status and Project Update. Jorgensen explained that following the 2005 Spring Meeting, decisions were made to update the existing IT infrastructure (hardware and software) and create specific IT Projects at the office. IT Staff was allocated for each task and significant planning began in June/July 2005. Reporting on the progress of the project, Serge said that the decision was made to switch from using US SAILING staff to complete the work, to using outside contractors. This decision will not affect the \$150,000 budget. The project is under budget but behind schedule. One reason for the delay is that the project paused in early 2006 so that the project could take advantage of a new software release that will be beneficial for the life of the software. Jorgensen was generally optimistic regarding the progress of the project.

An important issue is that US SAILING is considering engaging a third party to administer on-line registration duties. The In-house system is working very well but is somewhat cumbersome for outside organizing authorities to set-up. Having an outside service agency administer the on-line registration would give our customers 24-7 support and free up US SAILING staff for more appropriate tasks.

Jorgensen's final comment was that he believes that all future project costing and associated billing should be added to the request / response / planning / development stages to provide a better understanding and evaluation of the internal functionality of the IT department.

In response to questions, Jorgensen said that in regard to the Data Base rebuild schedule:

- SQL tables are complete
- Queries 75% complete
- User interface is almost done
- Batch run processes need review

Financial MIPS package is 70 to 90% complete.

It will be another 6 to 8 weeks before the project can enter the testing phase and another estimated couple-of- months for de-bugging. Webpage template modification is progressing.

President Baxter gave her report and said that she continued to visit a number of regattas and events which included the Independence Cup and Verve Trophy in Chicago and the Buccaneer Championships. She reported that she was scheduled to visit Bay-Waveland YC for the GYA Lipton Cup in the near future.

Baxter then turned the meeting over to Charlie Leighton for the ED report. The year-to-date net results through July, without Olympics, show a net improvement over last year by \$465,423 and exceed budget by \$576,247. Results for the year have been re-forecasted to a positive \$192,000 rather than breakeven, thanks to a strong seven months of performance throughout the organization. Olympics continue with both a positive cash flow and excellent sailing results. We have added another Bronze Medalist \$25,000 Donor, John Marshall, who is also a 1972 Bronze Medal winner in the Dragon Class.

Leighton continued that YTD membership is up a total of 17%. That total is comprised of a 10% increase in organizations and 7% increase in adult memberships. He noted that the office is continuing to work on developing the US SAILING brand and he expects an announcement of an initiative this fall.

There will be an annual appeal for US SAILING this fall. It will be in October and will utilize in-house staff.

Leslie Keller reported that West Marine continues to discount its payables to US SAILING and this is an issue. James Appel reported that the budget for the balance of the year was re-forecasted in light of the favorable YTD data. A few additional expenses were accepted and these are reflected in the latest \$192,000 positive budget forecast. Appel reported that he expects that a draft 2007 budget will be ready to be sent to the BOD in early November, several iterations will be done during the AGM and a final draft should be ready to be presented to the BOD for approval for the December meeting.

Tom Hubbell complimented Jim Capron's fine work in heading up the team that did the final edits on draft 12 of the Regulations. Capron said that Draft 12 will be posted in several days and that all BOD members, HOD members and Committee Chairs must review them and prepare comments ASAP. There was a discussion where the Sportsmanship Committee belongs and it was decided that it will reside in the Education Division.

Patty Lawrence introduced Senet Bischoff from the Team Racing Committee. Bischoff presented an Action Item that would change the selection process for the US representatives to the ISAF World Team Racing Championship. In the past, the Hinman Trophy regatta winner was selected as the representative to the ISAF Worlds. This situation caused the Hinman to be structured in a less than satisfactory manner for the teams that did not progress to the upper bracket. The Team Racing Committee proposes that the Hinman be re-structured to make it a more attractive regatta to a larger number of teams and that a new world qualifier event be established. The top six finishers from the

Hinman would be invited to this new event and the winner of this new event would be selected as the US representative to the ISAF World Team Racing Championship.

**Action Item:**

It was moved that the US SAILING Board of Directors approve the proposal from the Team Racing Committee that will create a US SAILING sanctioned event that would be the qualifier for the 2007 ISAF World Team Racing Championship in boats and a venue similar to the Worlds and would be limited to the top six finishers from the 2006 US SAILING Team Racing Championship for the Hinman Trophy.  
Motion was seconded and passed.

The Board then went into executive session to discuss the nomination of International Judges, Umpires and Measurers. Sandy Grosvenor was invited to participate. During the Executive session the following three Action Items were passed.

**Action Item:**

It was moved that the US SAILING Board of Directors approve the nominations of:  
Hugh Elliot  
Joseph Krolak  
Thomas Rinda  
William Thorpe  
as International Judges.

Motion was seconded and passed.

**Action Item:**

It was moved that the US SAILING Board of Directors approve the nominations of:  
Thomas Duggan (subject to passing the ISAF examination as allowed in Regulation 34.5(c).)  
Robert Overton  
T. David Pyron (subject to passing the ISAF examination as allowed in Regulation 34.5(c).)  
Sandy Grosvenor  
Thomas Rinda  
as International Umpires.

Motion was seconded and passed.

**Action Item:**

It was moved that the US SAILING Board of Directors approve the nominations of:  
Andrew Williams  
John Papadopoulos  
as International Measurer.

Motion was seconded and passed.

The BOD then reconvened into regular session.

Patty Lawrence reported that she distributed a template of Council Bylaws that was based on the HOD bylaws. Initial reports indicate that the councils appreciated the templates and were working with them in developing their own bylaws. Lawrence will continue to monitor their progress.

Walt Chamberlain forwarded a copy of a number of Amendments to the CSA Bylaws that the CSA had passed to the Secretary. The CSA requested that the BOD review and approve them.

**Action Item:**

It was moved that the US SAILING Board of Directors approve the Amendments to the CSA Bylaws as submitted.

Motion was seconded and passed.

James Tichenor reported that there will be an Advanced Race Management Seminar presented in Newport the Tuesday and Wednesday before the AGM. A Basic Seminar will also be presented on Wednesday, and a “Train the Trainer” session on Wednesday PM.

The Board then went into Executive Session.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:39 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

John Strassman  
Secretary