



**2013- 2014 US Sailing Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**September 22, 2014**  
**WebEx 7:30 PM EDT**

In attendance: Board: Steve Benjamin, Vice President Bruce Burton, JJ Fetter, Executive Director Jack Gierhart, George Hinman, President Tom Hubbell, Secretary Patty Lawrence, Sheila McCurdy, Maureen McKinnon, Ben Richardson, Dawn Riley, and Treasurer Taran Teague.

Regrets: Josh Adams, John Craig, Dave Ullman

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm and the roll call established a quorum.
2. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Calendar which consisted of the August meeting minutes.
3. President Tom Hubbell has been working on all aspects of tonight's agenda. His latest blog is posted. He was in the office last week, and he and Jack travelled to NYC for a social event with ISAF Executive Committee including Gary Jobson. Board member Sheila McCurdy was also in attendance. Tom plans to travel to the National Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and to the Championship of Champions in the coming weeks. After winning the Dorin Memorial Regatta, which is named for a family who passed away while waiting to be rescued, Tom noted the importance of regatta check-ins.
4. Executive Director Jack Gierhart reported that budget work has begun in earnest, and that it is a collaborative with the departments and committee chairs. The office is working to ensure everyone understand strategic objectives. The first draft will be ready at the National Conference and the final version at our December meeting. Jack and Tom are working on the National Conference and especially allowing time for each division to conduct strategic planning. Next week Jack is headed to Chicago for the USOC Annual Assembly to meet with other NGB's. While there he will meet with NMMA as well. He will be in attendance at the Golden Spinnaker fundraiser at NYC.
5. Steve Benjamin and Shelia McCurdy provided an update in the Offshore Initiative. The group has been working hard on this project which calls for all the stakeholders to come together to remake Offshore, better serve the membership, and significantly change how US Sailing develops and markets rating rules. A motion was made and seconded to approve the scope of responsibilities that Regulation 4.05 Draft 5 outlines and to support the swift development of a business plan. The motion carried.
6. In her report Taran Teague conveyed that the YTD finances are above budget and all our funds are invested as directed. Taran and Diana will delve into the operation reserves as recommended by Clifton Larson and directed by the strategic plan.
7. Ben Richardson gave the Olympic Report on behalf of Josh Adams who is returning from 2014 ISAF Sailing World Championships that were just completed in Santander, Spain. Dean Brenner is event chair for the Golden Spinnaker Regatta at NYC. With George Hinman's help, the fundraiser is sold out and all proceeds are slated to go the sailors.



ISAF combined Worlds have been a focus of the mid quadrennium US qualified in Laser, Laser Radial, 470 Men, 470 Women, and Finn. While US Sailing Team Sperry-Top-Sider did not medal, the team demonstrated improvements over last year.

8. Staff Connection and Division Reports

Venues Division Chair, Jim Tichenor acknowledged that the ACC and RSA are in search of new members as a number of ACC members term out, one resigned, and another passed away. The RSA is not always receiving responses to emails and so is planning to use Google Forum to enable easier communication. Both groups are concerned with having a quorum at the National Conference and have set up a webinar in hopes engaging more committee members.

Community Sailing Committee has been extremely busy:

- Updating the Community Sailing Handbook, an existing document which provides insight into how to best create a community sailing program.
- Directing a leadership initiative that connects mentors to new, talented individuals who run sailing programs.
- Launching a print-on-demand program which provides centers the ability to print brochures and other marketing materials that are jointly branded with US Sailing.
- Preparing for our Annual Awards Dinner, which will be held during the National Sailing Programs Symposium.

Both college and high school sailing continue to do well with high school sailing expanding to 475 schools, 5000 sailors.

Race Management Division Chair Hank Stuart publicized the advance seminar just before the National Conference in October. The RA Committee has received numerous award nominations which they are vetting and will be announced at the National Conference. Hank and Tom are doing a search for a new chair for the Race Administration and Umpires Committees.

9. Old Business

DYC Youth Event Update, Shannon Bush and company have met multiple times regarding the DYC Area E qualifier event. They have drafted a report which was sent to the various players on the ground for feedback and to know where US Sailing is headed. At the National Conference the group will begin working on guidelines for all levels of youth championship events so that both qualifiers and championship events have seamless quality. This will involve getting Area coordinators more in the loop.

Bruce Burton circulated the Regional Sailing Development Officer job description and requested that the board authorize the development of the budget for the position and empower the Executive Director to hire once the budget has been approved by the Board. The pilot launch is for one hire and once the program finds its stride, it will be expanded. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Jack asked for a motion to support the Growing Sailing Initiative. This is designed to bring the larger sailing community together with one message and action plan to grow sailing. A motion was made seconded and approved to endorse the framework for more proactive role. Jack will speak about this at the industry breakfast at the Annapolis boat show.



10. New Business

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to merge the three match racing committees into one. The change will take effect at the National Conference in October.
- Mark Foster and Cory Sertl reported that Corpus Christi Yacht Club plans to submit a bid for the 2018 Youth Worlds. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to provide board approval for this event. They will prepare the bid for ISAF this week.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patty Lawrence