

## **2010 Paddle Manitoba AGM Minutes**

### *Location:*

Fort Whyte Alive

### *2009 Board Members Present:*

Catherine Holmen  
Stephen Challis  
Eric Gyselman  
Sharon Touchette  
Charles Burchill  
Yvonne Kyle  
Jamie Hilland

### *Paddle Manitoba Members Present:*

19 including board members

The meeting started with 28 people attending but several left after presentation, not all were PM members.

### **Summary of Meeting:**

**Motions:** BIRT the constitution and by-laws of Paddle Manitoba be amended... Accepted by a vote of 17

#### **Elections:**

President: Catherine Holmen (acclaimed)  
Vice President: Stephen Challis (acclaimed)  
Treasurer: Sharon Touchette (acclaimed)  
Instruction: Tim Wintoniw (acclaimed)  
Communication: Yvonne Kyle (acclaimed)  
Community Collaboration: Eric Gyselman (acclaimed)  
Paddle Canada Representative: Jamie Hilland – already identified as Manitoba Representative to Paddle Canada.

### **Meeting Notes:**

*Meeting Opened:* 7:10 pm

#### 1. 2009 in review:

Opening remarks delivered by Catherine Holmen

a-g: Reports delivered by board members: see Attached Summary.

Questions/Comments raised from Presentations:

- Cam White: Regarding membership. 2004 membership may have been inflated by Manitoba White Water club as they had to be members of Paddle Manitoba to have insurance coverage that year. Response from Stephen Challis: Thank you for that clarification.

- Cam White: What were the overall numbers of Paddle Canada Courses and Students that were taught/run in Manitoba as a whole? Response from Eric Gyselman: There are some issues getting numbers of courses and students from Paddle Canada currently due to access/privacy issues. Cam White provided an estimated list (I assume) of the numbers of courses/students taught in Manitoba. Editorial note: no elaboration was provided how Cam obtained these numbers.

- Cam White: Will be teaching new PC courses this year and will there be parameters available from Paddle Canada for both courses and for instructors? Response from Eric Gyselman: There is not clear answer regarding the parameters and time tables from Paddle Canada at the moment but we will be teaching the new PC courses this year.

- Gerry Hirose: How is the financial position? Response from Sharon Touchette: Decent.

- Cam White: With regard to Paddle Canada and Kanawa/Waterwalker what is the situation with regard to revenue? Response from Jamie Hilland: There is a contract ongoing to the end of the year regarding water walker. When it was tendered earlier this year there were no other takers. It will be revisited when the contract is complete. Kanawa will make a small amount of revenue this year.

## 2. Indoor Program Presentation by Neil McDonald.

An excellent presentation was given by Neil McDonald about his experience in Labrador traveling up the

## 3. Presentation of Victoria Jason Award.

Cameron White was presented with the Victoria Jason award which includes a custom make paddle from Red River Canoe and Paddle. This was given to Cam for his years of service to Paddle Manitoba and his past and ongoing volunteer commitment to recreational paddling and paddling activities in Manitoba.

## 4. Old Business None Tabled

## 5. New Business

- a. Results of December 2009 Membership Survey. See attached (Stephen will provide and will be posted on PM website). The membership survey came out of the visioning day with the board in 2009 and went out to all members in December 2009. Those individuals that did not reply were given, where possible, a phone call to follow-up. The survey primarily looked at how we could potentially service the recreational paddling community and how individuals might be willing to volunteer or participate with Paddle Manitoba.

The most significant response in the first set of questions was around Paddle Manitoba providing some kind of advocacy aimed at protecting and promoting the interests of recreational and wilderness paddling. Followed by the importance of Paddle Manitoba providing resources for the general public such as routes, maps, and related commentary, equipment information, and fielding other inquiries of a general nature. The least important was Paddle Manitoba providing support to other paddling clubs outside of Winnipeg. Tim Wintoniw brought up that the response may have been due to unclear wording around the question.

b. Direction for 2010 and Constitutional Amendments.

Based on the membership survey, discussions from phone calls to individual members, visioning meeting Charles Burchill, Eric Gyselman, Brian Johnston, and Catherine Holmen developed vision and mission statements that would be supported by a new set of objectives and board positions.

After the last Special Members meeting where we were given a mandate to continue to accept memberships from the general public but a board with a direction towards an instruction based mandate the board was in an unclear direction.

Catherine Holmen called for discussion around the proposed amendments indicating that the amendments required a 2/3 majority vote and that they could not be changed – the proposed amendments must be voted on as sent out.

*Discussion:*

*Stephen Challis brought up that it is important to have membership 'buy in'*

*Cameron White spoke for some time regarding the focus and direction from the AGM/SGM from last year. He raised a concern about the amendments being presented and voted on at the AGM where last time the AGM provided a time for discussion and the SGM provided the chance to vote. Lack of volunteers and commitment from members, the positive things under the new board and direction (including PaddleFest, Wed night paddles) and that people don't need to join formal organization to be involved. Possibly the most important thing about the changes over the last year was that it provided a break from what had been done in the past and not requiring to carry things forward.*

*Eric Gyselman brought up that there was frustration from the Special General meeting in February 2009 in that there were two motions (one rejected regarding membership and one accepted with new board) that were difficult to support as the responses gave the board two directions making it difficult to support. The task of the board was to get better buy-in from the membership through interaction. Build a culture that gets everyone involved a little – build a social commitment.*

*Catherine Holmen pointed out that the board does give direction but grass roots membership must also be listened to. Under new direction start small 2 or 3 things over the summer, maybe 2 or 3 in door programs encouraging networking leading through a period of hard work but in the long run be more sustainable. We found this year that the board made of specific discipline chairs had an interest in instruction but less interest/direction into the club or outreach aspect of Paddle Manitoba. There is a clear need or interest in resources and networking.*

*Collin Kyle brought up that a good number of members fall into the area of wanting/needing general information and resources.*

*Eric Gyselman brought up the need to instil in members that being part of Paddle Manitoba is the responsibility to give back to the organization.*

*Lynne White, as past treasurer and volunteer brought up that it has been very hard in the past to get people to volunteer even a little and even when they were phoned and asked specifically if they could provide a little time/support.*

*Cam White pointed out that Paddle Manitoba is odd in that most other provinces the provincial PC affiliate runs instruction and standards and does not do 'club' events. If we had 50 people that put forward programs that would be OK if programs were still happening and we could continue to reach out to the public. It is not about the size of the organization which people seem to be focused on.*

*End of Discussion*

Catherine Holmen called for vote at 9:20pm  
Paddle Manitoba Members still at the AGM 19 - at least 13 positive votes required for the amendment to pass.

Vote: 17 to accept the proposed amendments  
There was no call for votes against as 17.

The motion to change the constitution was accepted.

c. 2010 Budget

The budget for 2010 was presented. Stephen Challis (I think) noted that the budget was unaudited and still needed to be reviewed and accepted by the board. The auditor that we had asked was unable to complete the audit for us and we were unable to arrange for another review before the AGM – an audit is still expected.

Cam White questioned the Membership expense line. Sharon Touchette pointed out that this included postage and associated costs for mailing to membership, Kanawa subscriptions, and membership card costs.

Cam White questioned the telephone costs. Is this expense worth the amount of use that the phone is using?

d. Elections of Board Members

President:

Nomination: Catherine Holmen (acclaimed)

Vice President:

Nomination: Stephen Challis (acclaimed)

Secretary:

Nomination: no nominations, vacant

Treasurer:

Nomination: Sharon Touchette (acclaimed)

Chairs:

Instruction:

Nomination: Tim Wintoniw (acclaimed)

Communication:

Nomination: Yvonne Kyle (acclaimed)

Programs:

Nomination: no nominations, vacant

Community Collaboration:

Nomination: Eric Gyselman (acclaimed)

Past President:

Nomination: None elected position. Last active president has declined to sit on the board.

Corporate Representative:

Nomination: Will be brought to corporate members at corporate member meeting.

Paddle Canada Representative:

Jamie Hilland – already identified as Manitoba Representative to Paddle Canada.

Catherine Holmen pointed out that there were three board positions not voted on this evening: Paddle Canada Representative as this is the by constitution the Manitoba representative to Paddle Canada, Past President position that is a non-elected position and the last president declined to sit, corporate representative as the plan is to hold a separate meeting for Corporate members this spring on a date to be determined.

The corporate representative is a non-voting position on the board as there are concerns about conflict of interest issues on many [most] Paddle Manitoba issues as well as potential conflict of interest issues between the representative and [all] other corporate members.

Jamie Hilland raised a concern about the Corporate members having direct representation on the board and the affiliate clubs not having representation. Eric Gyselman, Catherine Holmen, and Cameron White responded that the Corporate members have a contractual and financial obligation with Paddle Manitoba making this group distinct where as affiliate clubs currently have a 'normal' membership without specific obligations attached to the membership.

Cam White raised a question of procedure regarding an inconsistency in the election of the corporate representative and instruction chair. There is no provision in the constitution for voting on members at another time. Why was instruction chair elected at the AGM and not the corporate chair this seems inconsistent. Should the corporate chair not be opened for election and then, if not filled, appointed at some later point?

Adjournment of meeting called: 10:05pm