



Alpine Club of Canada
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Date: November 1 & 2, 2003
Canadian Alpine Centre, Lake Louise, AB

P.O. Box 8040
Canmore, AB T1W 2T8
(403) 678-3200
FAX: 678-3224

ATTENDING MEMBERS: David Toole, President
Rod Plasman, Secretary
Gordon Currie, Treasurer
Carl Hannigan, VP Facilities
Cam Roe, VP Activities
David Zemrau, VP Services
Bob Sandford, VP Mountain Culture
Peter Muir, VP Access/Environment
Gerta Smythe, Vancouver Island
Fern Hietkamp, Vancouver
Eric Vezeau, Whistler
Mark Earle, Prince George
Dave Rothwell, Okanagan
Chantal Ederle, Jasper/Hinton
Ron Scholtz, Rocky Mountain
Neil Bosch, Edmonton
Scott Montgomery, Calgary
Dave McCormick, Saskatchewan
Simon Statkewich, Manitoba
André Mahé, Saint Boniface
Frank Pianka, Thunder Bay
Pierre Gravel, Outaouais
Dwight Yachuk, Ottawa
Paul Geddes, Toronto
Susanna Oreskovic, Montreal
Mike Mortimer, Director, External Relations
Bruce Keith, Executive Director

REGRETS: Sonja Findlater, Central Alberta

ALSO ATTENDING: Peter Fuhrmann, Honorary President
Bev Bendell, Library & Archives
Bruce Hardardt, Clubhouse Committee Chair
Ron Whitehead, ENEQ
Nancy Hansen, Director, Facilities & Mountaineering
Audrey Wheeler, Director, Club Programs
Paula Zettel, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: D. Toole called the meeting to order at 8:30am Saturday, November 1
President's Welcome (D. Toole)

D. Toole welcomed the Board and guests to Lake Louise.

P. Muir distributed an ACC Board of Directors handbook. He and D. Toole elaborated on the details of the responsibilities and expectations of ACC Board members.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by D. Toole, seconded by P. Muir: that the agenda be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

3. Approval of the Minutes

It was noted that an error occurred in the Spring 2003 Board meeting minutes. In the list of Section Representatives, Willa Haraysm's name appeared as the Toronto Section representative where it should have been Paul Geddes listed as the representative for the Toronto section.

Motion by D. Toole, seconded by P. Muir: that the minutes of the May 10-11/03 Board meeting be accepted as amended. CARRIED.

4. Section Reports

Section Reps

Section reps highlighted their Section's successes and challenges since the last Board meeting. Most reports were distributed in advance with the pre-Board meeting package; those that were not were distributed at the meeting.

5. Executive Committee Reports

Secretary (R. Plasman)

R. Plasman spoke to his report and said he has been working with A. Wheeler to prepare a plan for a membership recruitment and retention strategy. The goal is to engage ACC section representatives in a discussion on the topic and encourage them to provide their input into this strategy. R. Plasman hopes, with Section input, to have a comprehensive plan for membership recruitment and retention in place by the spring Board meeting. R. Plasman thanked A. Wheeler for her assistance in creating the Membership Strategy document that was distributed at the meeting.

ACTION: R. Plasman

R. Plasman reported on a comparative analysis of dues with other alpine clubs. He pointed out that the ACC's membership dues are relatively inexpensive compared to other alpine clubs with similar interests.

R. Plasman also reported that new national website and information technology (IT) projects and initiatives are on hold given financial constraints. He mentioned that he is looking at new ways to resolve this issue. He also reiterated that more IT support for the national office is necessary.

Treasurer (G. Currie)

G. Currie reminded board the new fiscal year started November 1, 2003 and discussed

the need for a proactive approach to fundraising to help meet the ACC's financial needs.

He also mentioned a proposal he would be making to change the national fiscal year end date from October 31 to May 31. If this were done, budgeting would occur in January and February instead of July and August.

G. Currie gave an updated projection for 2003 and discussed the variety of reasons contributing to the projected operating deficit.

Facilities (C. Hannigan)

C. Hannigan spoke to his report. He discussed Fay Hut rebuilding and suggested forming a Fay Hut Committee to discuss all issues (including safety and access) associated with rebuilding.

He also discussed Centennial Hut options. If the initiative proceeds, an Executive decision will need to be made to identify a suitable location to provide a legacy for the club. An ideal location would be one that not only offers good skiing but also good mountaineering. Issues regarding tenure and ownership will need to be investigated.

ACTION: C. Hannigan

A discussion ensued on the possibility of establishing a Bugaboos-to-Rogers Pass traverse. C. Hannigan mentioned that it would be worthwhile to approach CMH about a joint project in this regard because he believes it has considerable potential.

ACTION C. Hannigan

He also reported that J. Rollins will no longer be the chair of the EWWM (Energy, Waste, Water Management) Committee and that K. Rollins has taken over the position.

Activities (C. Roe)

C. Roe expressed sincere condolences for the loss of ACC member Gordon Adams. The ACC Board observed a moment of silence.

C. Roe spoke to his report. He stated that B. Harrison will no longer be guiding and managing the GMC. However, he will remain involved to assist in set up and tear down at future GMC's. B. Harrison has been performing this role (amongst many others) for over 30 years.

C. Roe also reported that all camps are close to the budgeted net contribution, but that international camp participant numbers were down compared to last year. The 2004 GMC will be held at Icefall Brook.

C. Roe thanked R. Andrews, Winter Camps Manager, and N. Hansen for their hard work.

Services (D. Zemrau)

D. Zemrau spoke to his report. He announced that Dave McCormick of the Saskatchewan Section has replaced Murray Toft as the Safety Committee Chair as of October 1, 2003.

The UIAA Safety Conference hosted by the ACC in Canmore in June was successful.

Another new edition of North American Accidents in Mountaineering was published this past summer in conjunction with the AAC. The Canadian accidents database is doing well and is available to all members at no cost. As of September, 938 accidents, and almost 20,000 visitors to the website were reported.

Competition climbing sports are going well and the ACC is looking into getting more involved in Ski Mountaineering Competition. The Leadership Development Committee is exploring certification for national leaders. Alberta Sections of the ACC successfully applied and received additional funding.

D. Zemrau thanked staff and volunteers and congratulated M. Mortimer on his recent election as the North American delegate on the UIAA Council.

Mountain Culture (B. Sandford)

B. Sandford spoke to his report. He stated that the price of the Canadian Alpine Journal will increase by \$3 for the 2004 issue.

B. Sandford welcomed any suggestions for articles for the next year's Gazettes and asked they be forwarded to the editor in time for the editorial planning meeting on December 1st. A new Summit Series book was just published, titled "Route Finding, 40 Years of Canada's Mountain Guiding Association" written by Lynn Martel. This book was produced for this year's Guides Ball and funded by CMH (Canadian Mountain Holidays). Collaboration with Dr. Jane Gooch has produced another new book on the art of Lake O'Hara, titled "Artists of the Rockies, Inspiration of Lake O'Hara". It will be available by Christmas.

This year was Geoff Powter's 10th anniversary as editor of the Canadian Alpine Journal. The AAC has offered the ACC an opportunity to partner with them this spring on a publication celebrating the best mountaineering routes in North American mountains. Barry Blanchard will write the Canadian forward for this upcoming publication.

Digitization of the CAJ is still seen as a desirable Centennial project. The proposal has not been finalized and discussions with Xerox have ended with no agreement on proceeding.

ACTION: B. Sandford

Access / Environment (P. Muir)

P. Muir reported that Stacey Karalash is the new NAECC secretary and she is gathering names of all A/E section reps. He noted that many sections do not have A/E reps which affects the success of the Committee.

ACTION: Section Reps

He also mentioned that during a recent trip to Montreal he met with the Montreal Section's A/E rep Isabelle Daigneault. She has agreed to work as a special project coordinator. Together they will re-group the portfolio. They intend to create a database to increase the educational component of the Access/Environment portfolio and make data available for advocacy purposes.

6. Committee Highlights

Leadership Development (D. Zemrau)

D. Zemrau reported that D. Yachuk has complied and distributed a document titled, "Draft Survey of ACC Section Courses/Leadership Materials". He is hoping to expand and complete this information package and make it available to all Sections through the national website.

ACTION: D. Yachuk

Safety (Waiver – Accident Reporting) D. McCormick)

D. McCormick elaborated on his hopes that the Safety Committee will become more visible. He listed new and existing members to the Safety Committee; Helmut Microys, Peter Amann, Scott McLarty, Simon Ruel, Frank Pianka and Selena Swets.

D. McCormick distributed and described a draft policy titled "Waiver Administration, Liability Management & Reporting". It is intended that the policy will ensure an adequate and consistent type and level of waiver administration and incident reporting for all national and section trips and activities.

Motion by D. McCormick, seconded by R. Plasman;

- 1. That the "Waiver Administration, Liability Management & Reporting" policy as presented be adopted by the ACC as a standard procedure and protocol for all ACC national and section activities and trips, and that it be implemented immediately; and**
- 2. That the appropriate officials of the ACC take such steps as are necessary to implement the policy for all ACC national and section activities and trips.**

CARRIED.

ACTION: D. Zemrau and Section Reps

B. Keith encouraged Sections to reports incidents in a timely and professional manner

as this maintains our good reputation with our liability insurance provider.

D. McCormick stated that all section trip leaders must be informed regarding this policy.

ACTION: Section Reps

Centennial Committee Update (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer presented his draft booklet titled "100 Years of Leadership and Adventure". The booklet contained the constitution of the ACC, ACC Objects, the Work of the Club and notable dates and events that have taken place in the Club since 1906. He requested he be notified of any additions or corrections to this booklet.

M. Mortimer encouraged Sections to get active and share ideas regarding possible Centennial projects at the Section level. He also outlined the opportunities and goals of the Centennial Committee. He stated he is working on a sponsorship package with B. Keith.

ACTION: M. Mortimer

F. Hietkamp is communicating with sections and compiling and sharing their ideas.

ACTION; F. Hietkamp

Fundraising Strategy (G. Currie)

G. Currie discussed the need for high quality fundraising at the national level of the Club. A significant fundraising program would require investing considerable time and money, so a feasibility study would be necessary before such an initiative was launched. However, the 2004 budget as recommended for Board approval will allow only a more modest fundraising campaign, which will be launched early in 2004.

G. Currie discussed solutions for expanding donations to the ACC. D. Toole stated that the ACC now has confirmation from the IRS that it can accept charitable donations from U.S. residents and issue tax receipts usable against U.S. income.

7. Other Reports

National Office (B. Keith)

B. Keith thanked the National Office staff. He spoke about the budget as it relates to staffing issues. He said the staff would do their best to continue being responsive without over-committing themselves. With requests from volunteers and external events beyond the ACC's control, the staff are at the edge of being able to cope with operational demands.

CAC Update (C. Roe / B. Keith)

B. Keith reported that the Canadian Alpine Centre appears to be turning its financial situation around and is meeting its financial year's budgetary requirements. The new management is responding well to changes and appear to be back on track.

The CAC would like to name the buildings on the CAC property after significant ACC and Hostelling International people. The ACC Executive Committee will be asked to provide potential suitable names.

ACTION: B. Keith

Liability Insurance (P. Muir)

B. Keith said the ACC's liability insurance policy will likely be renewed, but at a premium cost significantly higher than that for 2003. Details of the coverage and cost will be provided to the ACC next week.

P. Muir has been looking at alternatives to our externally provided liability insurance. A discussion ensued regarding the effects, advantages and disadvantages of some of those alternatives.

D. Toole discussed several issues regarding the alternatives, and indicated they would need to be further addressed before any decision could be made.

ACTION: P. Muir

ENEQ (R. Whitehead)

R. Whitehead representing ENEQ was introduced. He explained that ENEQ is a Quebec based, volunteer-driven non-profit organization that has been providing training for rock and ice climbing instructors for 4 years. They have over 400 certified members. They recently submitted an application to the UIAA to have their courses "UIAA certified". They also hope to develop leadership programs with Alpine Club of Canada.

Climate Change

B. Sandford discussed a report written in collaboration with P. Muir in regards to climate change. The document was titled, "The Alpine Club of Canada & Climate Change - Articulating A Position & Initiating Action". He believes the impact of climate change on ACC members and their mountaineering activities over recent time has been substantial and, given that our club's founding mission included responsibility for protection of our alpine heritage, it is important to bring to these impacts to the attention of ACC members and the public. B. Sandford suggested that the ACC's public position on climate change issues be established at the executive level. He stated that the ACC would be organizing a weekend symposium on "Climate Change Impacts in the Alpine" for April 2004. M. Mortimer requested that this event be labelled a Centennial initiative.

ACTION: B. Sandford

Honorary Member Recognition (R. Plasman)

D. Toole requested that Paul Geddes and the Awards Committee look into a process for ACC Honorary Member recognition.

ACTION: P. Geddes

AGM Plans / Changes (R. Plasman)

R. Plasman discussed the need to improve the attendance at the AGM. He suggested various alternate locations and possibly having a social with speakers on climbing. R. Plasman said that any other suggestions would be appreciated and should be directed to him.

ACTION: R. Plasman

Ski Mountaineering Competition in 2004 (M. Mortimer)

M. Mortimer reported that there would be events next year at Whistler BC at the beginning of January and potentially at Fortress in Kananaskis. These events will allow the ACC to gauge the interest in the sport.

The ACC is sponsoring two Canadians to go to the ISMC world cup in Europe. D. Dornian working with M. Mortimer on this project.

ACTION: M. Mortimer

Membership Commission Wrap-up (D. Toole)

D. Toole spoke about the importance of membership to the Club, and the issues that were addressed by the Membership Commission. He indicated the Board must find a way to ensure adequate funding to maintain our hut system (and the revenue it provides us), even if it meant membership fees would have to be increased. He indicated further discussion of this reality would take place during the 2004 budget approval agenda item.

8. Section Issues

Keene Farm Management (S. Oreskovic)

S. Oreskovic discussed the Keene Farm management. She is trying to get more people involved and other sections involved in working on communication to the members. This communication plan will flow into feedback about the management of the Keene Farm that will be implemented. Ideas suggested to her to date include involving some sort of participation of other sections' members to broaden ownership and participation.

Bolting (S. Statkewich)

S. Statkewich requested feedback from other Sections about bolting etiquette. He said having guidelines or a committee to review bolting in his section would be beneficial. He said that his section needs to be educated on policies and what steps are necessary to get permission from landowners to bolt, and suggested having an advisory committee on bolting for this section.

ACMG Insurance on Guides Section Trips (N. Hansen)

N. Hansen discussed liability insurance and the possibility that the ACC national coverage may have to be used for guides leading section trips. Discussions with the ACMG are currently in progress.

ACTION: N. Hansen

Camp Manager Materials (B. Hardardt)

Bruce Hardardt is developing Camp Managers resource material that will be available on the national website.

ACTION: B. Hardardt

Section Hut Management

P. Geddes said the Section was not encouraging an increase in membership since their hut at Bon Echo is already at capacity.

S. Oreskovic stated that how the Keene Farm is managed needs to be changed.

E. Vezeau stated the Whistler Section would continue to manage their hut at the Section level.

9. Decision Items

2004 Budget (G. Currie)

A draft copy of the 2004 budget was circulated to all board members September 19, 2003. It was agreed that, as in past years, the Operating Budget bottom line for 2004 will be zero.

After considerable discussion, essential aspects were explained, namely:

1. Every effort has been made to limit discretionary expenses;
2. Facilities will increase certain hut's fees by \$2 as of Nov 1/03 and reduce its operations and capital demands in 2004 to only what is essential in order to maintain our facilities (thereby maximizing Facilities' net financial contribution to the Club);
3. National membership fees will be increased by an average of \$7 per membership effective January 1, 2004;
4. The Canadian Alpine Journal will increase by \$3 effective January 1, 2004; and
5. The ACC will devise and implement a fundraising strategy with the goal of increasing donations to the Club. If successful, this will contribute to higher revenues starting in 2005 (if not 2004).

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by F. Pianka: that the 2004 Operating and Capital Budget be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

Opposed: D. Yachuk

Abstained: F. Hietkamp

Board Meeting Expenses As Part of 2003 Fiscal Year (B. Keith)

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by S. Montgomery; that all financial transactions associated with the November 1-2 2003 Board meeting be accounted for within the Club's 2003 financial year. CARRIED.

Financial Year Change (G. Currie)

In order to reduce the heavy demand on staff time during the already busy summer months, it was proposed that the ACC consider changing its financial year to June 1 to May 31, starting in 2004. This would mean that budgeting for an upcoming year would occur in the January-to-April period instead of the July-to-October period.

Motion by G. Currie, seconded by N. Bosch; that the ACC change its fiscal year to June 1 to May 31 starting June 1/04, subject to approval by the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, and Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. CARRIED.

ACTION: G. Currie

Awards Notification Presentation Process (P. Geddes)

P. Geddes distributed a document describing an appropriate process for acknowledging and presenting annual ACC awards.

Motion by P. Geddes, seconded by R. Plasman: that the ACC Award Protocol be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

10. Other

Next Meetings

Spring '04 Executive Committee Meeting - March 6 (Canmore)

Spring '04 Board Meeting and AGM - May 15/16 (Canmore)

11. Adjournment

D. Toole adjourned the meeting at 10:45am Sunday, November 2.