

**CANOEING VICTORIA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday 15 December 2009
Westerfolds Park**

1. MEETING OPENED

The meeting opened at 8pm

Gary Flanigan – President (GF)
Tom Hirschoff – Chair (TH)
Richard Howard – Independent Director (RH)
Tony Coventry. – Independent Director (TC)
Andrew Coutts – Independent Director (AC)
Sharon Swoboda– Executive Officer – Co (SS)
Andrea Boothroyd – Executive Officer – Co (AB)

Jarad Kohlar- Ocean Racing / Outlaw paddling
Max Parsons – Whitewater Stadium
Mike Wilson – Canoe Polo
John Moore – Canoe Polo
Chris Wharton - Wildwater

2. APOLOGIES

Peter Grant – Slalom
Mark Murray - Marathon

3. Ocean Racing – Jarad Kohlar

JK provided an presentation on Outlaw, its objectives and the request to Canoeing Victoria.

Requesting:

- Events listed on Canoeing Victoria web site
- Advertising of races on web site
- Advertising in Marathon Paddling

Outlaw is an incorporated company. Insurance via Australian Canoeing. All events have approved permits and risk management covered off.

Event company that specializing in ocean racing. Came about from the “Gap” in the ocean racing market and the need developed from the social networking systems such as facebook, twitter and “meetups”.

AC benefits/CV benefits – advertising on web site, connections to ocean racing paddlers.

Questions; how would the relationship work:? Are we sponsoring the Outlaw paddling, Supporting, partnering or

Peak adventure currently provides training and coaching for those wanting to improve their paddling.

Web site outlawpaddling.com

Actions for Board: Determine how the Board / Canoeing Victoria will support / move forward with the relationship with Outlaw paddling.

Where does it fit in the strategic plan, how it works with Australian Canoeing and the wider canoeing audience.

How can we leverage the paddlers out there that are interested but not CV members.

4. Whitewater Stadium – Max Parsons

Vic Urban are not releasing their draft vision plan until March when discussions will

Max has been having discussions with a high level architectural firm who will provide the design work with no up front fee. This would be designed and

Upstream from Canoeing / Rowing in Essendon. Melways 27 J4.

5% of the site would be used for the whitewater stadium – Flood plain and not suitable for residential. As it is a flat site it would need to be filled to create the “hill” to create the flow.

Existing examples – Dutchwaterdreams.com and Charlotte white water site. (1 Million people went through the facility – but only 10% of the visitors got on the water – all the others went through the system who paid money makes the complex highly profitable).

To attract funding you need a full business case (\$200k) and a full development plan. The Current objective is to lock down a site and then seek government funding to develop the full business case. \$10 million from the Government.

Board role / support at this stage. – Letters of support are not required at this stage, but the support of Canoeing Victoria is essential as dealing with Sport and Rec can only be via Canoeing Victoria.

Action to Board – on all correspondence / invoices / website / etc – add a catch phrase to constantly put the whitewater stadium on the agenda.

The Crawford report will have an affect on Slalom and Sprint from the elite level and funding. The Whitewater stadium needs to be pitched as serving the grassroots for the sport. Education,

BMX, Aerial Skiing, Rock Climbing, etc need to be involved, contacted and kept in the loop.

5. Slalom

Sharon requested that the Board re-invites Peter Grant and the Slalom committee to the board meeting to discuss the strategies

6. Downriver Racing

Historically, Downriver split from the Slalom committee and there has been a slow downward slid in participation and volunteers. In addition, the country series races used to be run in conjunction with slalom and worked well.

Last year, the downriver races were run with an email system where if the races were cancelled an email was sent out to notify.

New venues are being looked at to create a new interest, and andrea discussed the opportunity to use flatwater facilities that the like of Nagambie could be used to provide a combined event.

Tasmania hosted the World Cup Races in Wildwater so there is a great growth path

What do

- Calendar dates
- Flyer – to Existing paddlers
- Facebook -
- Organise the Meetups

7. **Canoe Polo**

Doing reasonably well this year and dragged back from previous years. Mainly from the Masters games in Geelong and Canoe polo World Masters games (just after the Oceania games).

World Games – Non Olympic games sports held during non-olympic years.

Action for board – need to raise the profile of these games.

Very good representation of Victoria on National teams. Need to build junior and low level players and grass roots. Volunteer burnouts, loss of universities. Universities sport associations were subsidizing the fees and when this was removed, Canoe polo suffered with numbers. Melbourne Uni has returned (3 teams), interest from Monash, Latrobe, and Victoria University.

Strategic direction – work on the universities for all the disciplines.

Social Aspects for the sport (and all the disciplines) will promote and drive the sport and therefore the volunteers.

Venues are also a major issue. Earliest time to start competitions is 9pm inside – alternatives are outside, weekends etc.

Whistle noise causes a problem with local residents.

8. **Sprint**

Volunteers are the major barrier to run the events. Costs to hire buoyed courses are extreme and the alternative of our own buoys will require more volunteers to manage.

Sprint has a lack of supporting information – ie how to run events, supporting documentation, coaching, official information and team management etc – expect this should come from Australian Canoeing but not forthcoming.

Lack of focus on Juniors, surf lifesaving, equipment, facebook/twitter etc.

Will make a loss this year - \$1500.

Need support from CV via fundraising / sponsorship – untied money that can be used to subsidize finances, assistance to develop the school pathways, build relationship with VIS etc, feeding education courses into the disciplines. Lobbying AC for supporting documentation and continued assistance with running coaching and official training.

9. **Club Training Centres**

Fairfield Canoe Club is very close to coming on-line.

10. **Paddle power**

Andrea provided an overview of paddle power and the British Paddle power system.

11. **Calendar**

The 2010 calendar has been published and will be available on-line ASAP.

Next Discipline meeting – 18th May 2010.
Next Board Meeting - 19th Jan 2010.