

NCD BoD Meeting Draft Minutes

7:30 pm, November 30, 2020

Ottawa

Attending remotely via Teams: Steve Morris, Geoff Tomlinson, Steve Daniels, Heather Pickersgill, Rob McClure, Craig Storey, Frederic Forge (Skinouk), Pierre Millette (Skinouk/ENGNE) Sheila Kealey (U Ottawa Nordic), Drew Lampman (Tay Valley), Heather McCulligh (Kanata Nordic), Rene Sauve (Summerstown Coyote Nordic), Moe Sann (Chelsea Nordiq), Christa Ramonet (Ottawa Racers)

1- Financial update

Rob will provide an updated report at the next meeting. There have been no recent expenses. There are a small number of invoices to be sent out from last season.

2- NCD Race Series update

Steve Morris provided an update from the XCSO meeting that took place last week. Many local public health units in Ontario are advising against travel between regions and discouraging registration by skiers from outside their regions. It is looking increasingly likely that racing will be local for this season. Frederic mentioned that Outaouais public health unit has advised race organizers that if the region is in “orange zone” status, then no registration can be accepted from skiers from outside the region. This would mean that skiers living on the Ontario side would not be able to register for NCD races in Quebec until the region moves to “yellow zone” status. The region is currently in “red zone” status until at least January 11, 2021, the first possible review date in Quebec. Depending on how things progress with pandemic restrictions, with the cancellation of Canadian Ski Championships in March, there are now two more open weekends later in the season which might potentially have local races. Tay Valley Nordic is planning virtual events, in which ski routes are posted for participants to complete at the time of their choosing, with no fees or prizes.

There was a discussion about how to encourage participation and maintain motivation among the skiers given the cancellations of multiple events, and the possible cancellation of more events. XCSO and Nordiq Canada are exploring virtual options such as mileage challenges. FIS is developing a virtual system in which skiers from around the world can compete with each other in a virtual manner and NC is exploring participation in this system as well. Some ideas mentioned included push up Challenge, how many times can we, as a ski community, ski around the world, perhaps challenge other divisions in mileage competition, weekly ski goals for younger skiers (ie ski three times in one week), strava segments or similar GPS based tracking goals for older skiers. Given the latter would require a certain amount of technology, there is some concern this might exclude some skiers without GPS- enabled equipment.

A sub-committee (Steve Daniels, Geoff Tomlinson, Sheila Kealey, and Moe Samm) will work together to discuss options and propose some virtual challenges/events for the NCD community.

3-High performance update

As mentioned previously, inter-region travel is discouraged and in some situations, prohibited at this time, making regional/provincial races unlikely. Nationals has been cancelled. Geoff plans to investigate possibility of hosting racing at Mooney's Bay XC facility and will clarify cross border registration policy with that facility.

4-NCD grant application

Drew Lampman of Tay Valley Nordic presented a proposal for funding for road signs/roadside advertising. The club has been looking into MTO signage costs on provincial as well as costs of signage on local roads, which is significantly cheaper. Given the mandate of the NCD capital grant to encourage and increase participation in cross country skiing, the board agrees this would meet the criteria. Drew will therefore submit a written application via email with further a description of the signs and their costs for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Steve M reminded attendees that the NCD can provide up to three grants per year in case other clubs wish to make an application.

5. New member clubs

The Rideau Winter Trail Association will be joining the NCD as a member club and has started the membership process with Liz Inkila of XCSO. Women on Skis has also joined the NCD as a member club.

6- Open NCD Board of Directors positions

The following positions remain open: Chair, Paranordic and possibly a new position of Athlete representative. Steve M requested that clubs reach out to their membership to see if anyone would like to take on one of these roles. In the interim, Steve M. can continue in the position of Chair for now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next meeting Monday December 21, 2020 at 7:30 virtually, and agenda to include:

- Virtual events update
- Logistics of running U12 and younger age group programs while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions