

**Minutes of the May 31, 2017 USRowing Board of Directors Telephonic Meeting  
5:00 PT /8:00 pm ET**

Members Present: Marcia Hooper, Kris Thorsness, Sheila Tolle, Jim Dietz, Lisa Stone, David Banks, Meghan O'Leary, Joe Flynn, Nick LaCava, Steve Shure, Bill Donoho, Joe Manion

Members Absent: Charlie Haight, Jamie Redman

Others present: Susan Smith (acting CEO)

Rob Milam (Chair of the High Performance Committee) and Matt Imes (High Performance Director) joined at 9:32 pm

Convened at 8:03 pm, then de-convened due to conference call issues, and re-convened at 8:29 pm

- 1. Casitas Fund:** At the March 2017 board meeting, this Board discussed appointing a Board representative to the Casitas Fund board, but didn't vote on this issue at that time. **Motion** by Meghan O'Leary to appoint Joe Flynn as this board's representative to the Casitas Fund stewards and Kris Thorsness seconded; no further discussion, approved unanimously.
- 2. Finance/Treasurer's Report:** Sheila Tolle reported on the current financial position of the organization. Year to date revenue is ahead of plan and expenses are below forecast, however, achievement forecasted revenues for the rest of the year are still of concern. Individual contributions to USRowing and sponsorship are down from budgeted pace. It is imperative that the Board examine ways to close the gap. Legal fees are \$70k to date on budget of \$40k. Salaries are already down 15% from budget as a result of delayed hires, staffing cuts, etc. However, a \$482k gap remains forecast for the year. A more detailed discussion will be held at the June meeting of this Board. Sheila further reported that the NRF has committed to about \$800k for this year, but that money has not been received yet.
- 3. June 23rd Governance Summit planning and update:** Members of the NRF executive committee (Jamie Koven, Pete Chipolone, Rob Milam), Nick Peterson of the Internal Systems Committee, Dexter Payne of US Ski and Snowboard, and Rick Adams of USOC are all expected to attend the June 23 meetings regarding proposed changes in the governance structure of USRowing, and the proposal to add members of the NRF board to this Board. Such changes would require changes to USRowing's By-laws, which will have to be approved by vote of its organizational members.

Rob Milam and Matt Imes joined the meeting by phone

- 4. HPC Update:** Rob Milam reported that speed order #2 attendance was a bit down from last year, which is to be expected in post-Olympic years and because of the later trials under the new selection process. Speed overall has increased since the first speed order, and the men's pair almost met the course record. Schulykill Navy had a good showing, especially in the men's 2x. A contingent of women will go to World Cup 2 and some will go the Henley, and a smaller group to World Cup 3. The men will send a 2- and a 4- to Henley. Matt Imes reported that the second round of athlete support (\$800k total this year) will go out shortly. There is an effort to incentivize returning Olympians to keep training – 19 are doing this now. 19-21 athletes will compete at World Cup 2 and 3, as well as Henley. Men's camp starts June 11, the women start on Monday June 5, and the U23 camps will start shortly. Junior national team selection is also underway.

Matt further reported that the athletes are enthused about competing at Worlds at home this year. The women's team is on a four year plan, aimed at the Tokyo Games, so they aren't aiming a peak this year. The men's team looks good, however, and has made good progress. The coaching change has resulted in positive changes for the men. Another 12 athletes will come into the men's group on June 11 when collegiate athletes join in after IRAs. Some top athletes are going to Henley with college teams, but the coaches are working to blend them into the U23/elite training groups. However, the late Worlds may impact those athletes who must return to school in the fall.

Rob updated the board on the search for a new head men's coach, and the process used in that effort. The HOC looked for someone with head coaching experience, knowledge of the US system, successful international/Olympic experience, and strong recruiting/development experience. Mike Teti has emerged as the top candidate, and has broad based support.

**Motion** by Joe Manion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters and contractual negotiations, seconded by Joe Flynn; no further discussion, unanimously approved at 10:26 pm.

Motion to exit executive session by Joe Flynn and seconded by Steve Shure; no further discussion, approved unanimously at 10:58.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 pm