

**Minutes of the July 19, 2017 USRowing Board of Directors Telephonic Meeting
5:00 PT /8:00 pm ET**

Members Present: Marcia Hooper, Kris Thorsness, Sheila Tolle, Lisa Stone, Joe Flynn, David Banks, , Bill Donoho, Charlie Haight, Jamie Redman, Jim Dietz, Nick LaCava, Meghan O'Leary, Steve Shure (joined the meeting in progress)

Members Absent: Joe Manion

Others present: Susan Smith (acting CEO), Andy Lee, Esq. (USRowing counsel), Matt Imes (High Performance Director)

Meeting convened at 8:01 pm

National Team Update: Matt Imes reported on the results from World Cup 3, where the W2- took second and have accepted the position as the US W2-. The W1x (Felice), LW1x and W2x all did well. The Penn AC M2x had a first good international race. There are over 20 men training in at the Princeton Training Center, where the group culture is very good. The M8+ field will be very strong, but Matt is encouraged by what he sees. Several top college coaches have been taking part in the training process.

Steve Shure joined the call.

The women's training group is also doing well, and prioritization is under discussion as there are some injuries to Rio veterans and others. The W2- has been very competitive with the top crews, and the 4- may be prioritized over the 8+ depending upon training results. The board discussed defining team success if the 8+ is reprioritized. There are over 20 athletes in camp, but they are a young group overall, so the coaches are taking a long view toward Tokyo.

U23 is underway and will wrap up Sunday. Some boats won heats, and others qualified through the reps.

Para team: Tom Darling is the HPD for the para team and will be reporting to the Board at its next call. The para camp will wrap up August 3 at CRI.

Finally, the Lottman Challenge at Club Nationals went well, and event staff were given kudos for inserting B finals in the elite 1x, which usually aren't run at Clubs.

Club Nationals Report: Susan Smith reported that good feedback was received from coaches and referees, and staff are sending out a survey to the competing organizations this week. All three championship regattas are getting bigger, and are approaching maximum size. Input will be sought from stakeholders to discuss whether changes need to be made going forward to deal with the increasing size of the regattas. Entry fees were about \$10-20k over budget, and vendor fees are about \$7.5k over budget. The College fair had over 500 athletes and over 80 colleges in attendance.

CEO Search Update: Sheila Tolle reported that the finalist interviews will be via video conference, and final preparations are being made.

Member Retention Program / Regatta Package Update: The financial details of new retention efforts are still under review. Expecting about a 37% increase in royalty income this year for the organization.

Apparel Update: Club Nationals was very successful, as N&D sold \$63k worth of apparel, compared to \$50k last year.

Motion by Joe Flynn and second by Lisa Stone to enter executive session to confer with counsel; no further discussion, unanimously approved at 8:55.

Motion by Kris Thorsness and seconded by Lisa Stone to exit executive session; no further discussion, approved unanimously at 9:09 pm.

World Championships Update: Susan Smith reported that a regatta package will be sent to all directors next week, as well as apparel offer for directors to wear/be identified as USR board members. FISA's 125th anniversary tent will be manned by USRowing members services staff. VIP suites are filling up, and the Board discussed the possibility of having a joint NRF/USRowing suite for sponsorship development purposes.

The weekend before Worlds, Juniors will be rowing/racing on the course. The Junior HPD and development coaches are selecting coaches and will reach out to clubs next week. Two eights and quads per gender from each of the six regions will participate. Individuals athletes will be solicited. Participation will be self-funded by athletes, at no cost to USRowing.

Golden Oars, Update: Planning continues and the NYAC venue has been reserved.

September Board Mtg.: will be held in Princeton at the USRowing offices. Hotel rooms will be self-funded by directors. The December meeting will be at the annual convention.

Other business: NRF has raised its funding commitment this year to \$900k, and will continue to fundraise. The Casitas Fund will be meeting to discuss whether to provide financial assistance. The Governance Committee meets tomorrow night with attorney Stephen Hess as facilitator/chair, with follow up meetings as needed on the 1st^h and 14^h of August.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm