

**Pre-AGM Directors Meeting
Harrison Hot Springs Resort Room 8806
November 17, 2023**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Julie Johannson, Debbie Dorosh, Ian MacLean, Jan Mills, Bob Mason, Maeve Drew, Carol McDonald, Kathleen Weare, Sara Sellmer, Brandy Saunders, Sarah McKenzie, Nicole Kovacik, Sue Kovacik & Lynda Ramsay.

Absent: Katy Ostberg

Recording Secretary: Jan Mills

Meeting called to order @ 2:45 pm by Julie Johannson, President

No agenda for this meeting.

Julie has created a package for the AGM, all the paper together in a package with our logo on the front, agenda, table of contents etc. Committee chairs don't have to read reports tomorrow as there is a copy in the package. The financial reports will include costs related to our first face to face director meetings last fall at Whistler, our first face to face since pre covid. There has been some questions about what we do as directors. It reminds us of the need to formalize our job descriptions and have the info accessible & transparent to our members. We all do amazing work and each of you are appreciated. Julie will share at the AGM why we chose to try Whistler as a meeting spot in October 2022. It worked out really well being shoulder season, offering excellent prices. We were able to book condos in a building with a meeting room available to us. The cost of the condos was the same as a hotel room but we were 4 to a condo so required less rooms. We brought food for all to save funds in eating out. The meeting room was comfortable and offered just what we needed. It was an opportunity to try Whistler as a meeting spot, it was convenient to those coming in from the Island and Sunshine coast. Off the ferry and straight up the Sea to Sky highway, and convenient to those on the lower mainland. The interior people accessed through the Duffy lake road which was a longer trek. Our other option is to meet in Chilliwack/Abbotsford. There was a lot of work accomplished in Whistler – this was our first face to face since February 2020 due to Covid. It was really welcoming to be together again face to face and get to work on the business of BCEA.

Our work with Cheryl from Sport Law yesterday was amazing and so much was accomplished. We engaged in meaningful conversation and the ground we covered was amazing. Cheryl left us with a clear vision of identifying how to positively move forward within our sport. How to support change, engage volunteers and support our venues. We will offer educational opportunities & competitions to see growth across the Province. We have lots to work with now to support our vision for next year & the future. We will likely need a face to face meeting in the spring and we will get a lot done in one weekend. More to come on that. Our direction for next year is clear and we will work towards it. We need to understand who we are, why we are here and what we do at this table. I want us to be in the same boat, rowing in the same direction. Cheryl spent the full day with us and we left feeling inspired and excited, with a good focus on moving forward.

The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center worked very well for this meeting. The working lunch was really good and eating in the meeting room allowed us to take a break, visit while eating, and not lose the focus of why we were there. The rooms at the Clarion were fine, clean and convenient to the meeting room. We will look at using the Clarion for other director's meetings.

Grant money – we are working on finalizing the payment out of the funds and completing the report to be sent to ViaSport by Dec 31st. The funds have all been accounted for within the intent of the proposal.

In the literature it is solid that we use certified & licensed coaches. We can therefore only use certified/licensed coaches in our grant projects. We are under the Safe Sport umbrella and must abide by the rules or our funding is at risk.

Discussion around the new licensing & certification for coaching. There is confusion on how to interpret it all. Engaged discussion around this and how our coaches can move forward in becoming fully licensed. Recognition that it is onerous for the organizers to police on site coaching.

We can't always change things...we need to be thoughtful of those that have navigated the process to become certified coaches and remember it's not our job to tell coaches to be certified.

If you are an official of any sort and you want to work within EC you must do Safe Sport. How do we carefully share the message with respect?

Our grant funding comes from sport, not equestrian, so we must abide by the rules of Safe Sport.

Its hard to understand all the steps of the certification/licensing, it's left everyone very confused. It is not our job as BCEA to figure this out, but it is our job to be sure that the coaches we use fit the requirements of our grant money.

The grant money is to be spent by the end of December and we are on track to have it all done by the end of November. I will share via email what has been covered, how we funded – branching into new areas. We supported building/design clinics – Dylan Barry from Quebec. He was excellent and a good fit for our people. We will have another this year – if we don't have funding we could make it cost recovery. We didn't charge for our clinic this year as there was grant funding. We were questioned on the “no charge” and spoke to that. We were questioned on the “invite only” and we spoke to that. We will talk about this tomorrow in our AGM.

We are working on our policies so they can be out there for all to see so they can see the level we hold ourselves to. As a board we work well together and accomplish a lot of work.

Elections tomorrow. We have 6 director seats open, 5 directors are letting their name stand. We will open nominations from the floor. If there is 1 nomination from the floor, then there will be 6 elected by acclamation. If there are more than 1 nomination from the floor then the vote will be by secret ballot. Jan has the material needed for secret ballot voting. We have had some questions asked about joining the board. We welcome these questions and nominations.

Committee size – are some of our committee's a bit large? We need to be efficient in our processes and sometimes committees become too large and cumbersome.

Do we have the right committees? Another thing to ponder as we elect our executive and name committee chairs. We are in a pivotal time in our sport as we move forward. We need to celebrate our wins and with this we look at our processes to fine tune them with our movement forward.

The big thing tomorrow is what do we want to know from our members. Please think about what we need to know. How we are as a board, the raised dais always felt like a divide and we don't want that. We will sit amongst the members, talk and listen. Learn from our members. We have a survey out now and will share the results tomorrow. It went out to every member of BCEA and it was sent out on FB. We currently have 98 responses and more are coming in. Brandy shared the response %'s so far.

Discussion around our big 3 sites and how our sport is functioning in BC currently. The derbies this year had great participation. We have created more competitive experiences than there were before. Through the survey we hope to have a clear vision of where the majority of members want us to go with our sport

Discussion around the layout of the AGM tomorrow. Directors need to find a seat and mix with the members. Set up a display about your committee. Julie will introduce the BOD's so members know who we are. The trophies will be at the AGM & the banquet, displayed with flowers in them. There will be

discussion around the future of the trophies, do we want to continue with them as they have been? We are at a crossroads with a new Association name & new division names so the timing is appropriate for this discussion. The physical storage and transportation of the trophies also needs to be considered. The BOD's is looking to the membership for the direction they'd like to take with the trophies.

Presidents Report – Jan read Julie's presidents report to the directors. Julie will read her report tomorrow at the AGM.

Committee Reports – discussion on the committee reports for AGM. Julie has put a package together to be handed out at the AGM – cover page, table of contents, AGM agenda, minutes from 2022 AGM, Presidents report, financials and all committee reports.

Power point – Nicole & Cam have created a power point of the whole evening to play at the banquet. It will start with pictures playing of the year while everyone eats dinner. All presentations and awards will be in the power point.

Next meeting date: November 19, 2023 Post-AGM Directors Meeting at Harrison in the Fraser Room.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 5:50 pm by Julie Johansson
Everyone has a bit of time to check in & settle in their rooms. Meet in the lobby at 6:30 and we will go out for dinner together.