

Washington State Cross Country Coaches Association Executive Board
Minutes of meeting 2/18/2007
WIAA Headquarters -Renton Washington

In attendance:

Joe Clark (President)
Bruce McDowell (Treasurer)
Doug Fulton (Advisory Board - East/West All -Star Scholarship)
Jeff Sowards (Scholarship)
Patty Ley (Secretary)
Annette Silvernail (West Seattle HS - observing)

Joe brought the meeting to order and then did introductions.

2. Bruce McDowell delivered the treasure's report:

The current accounts are held at Key Bank

CD = \$10,600

Scholarship fund = \$3100

General checking = \$3800 - this includes \$900 from East/West race and \$1640 from 2005-2006
WSCCCA membership dues from Washington State Coaches' Association

Expenditures

East/West All star race = \$903 for plaques, tshirts and barbeque

Deposit of \$1272 from meet entries

Scholarships distributed + \$4500

Discussion ensued about contributions to 2005-2006 scholarship fund. Received \$2500 for scholarships. Brooks contribution received Oct 31. Question was raised whether this was 05-06 or 06-07 contribution. Need to establish time frame to track these contributions. Joe will be investigating whether SeaFair pledge of \$1000 was ever received. Run of the Mill race also contributed \$1000.

Website expenses.

Super Jock and Jill miswrote check. Should be \$500 but check written for \$50. Bruce address error.

Motion made to establish fiscal year of July 1 - June 30. Patty made motion; Joe seconded; motion passed.

3. East/West race report

a. Tom Anderson will be leaving Super Jock and Jill. He has been instrumental in keeping SJJ involved in East/West race. Ty will become connection with SJJ. Tom and Leo Genest have worked to create new course on upper Lower Woodland area to limit number of areas needed to be reserved. Joe will follow up on reserving park for the race. Start and finish will be near picnic shelter used last year for the BBQ. The suggestion was made to ask Mark Cullen to continue as an advisor to the race because of his significant involvement in negotiating, reserving and setting up park last year

b. Race director - this tends to be a recurring question. This is a difficult task especially for anyone outside the Seattle area. A number of coaches have indicated their willingness to help in many ways though no one really wants to take on the director's job. Joe will contact Rod Wilcox at King's to discuss his possible involvement in this capacity. Race director needs to do publicity, develop brochures, coordinate volunteers. Ideal person would be someone either with SJJ for promotion or a coach not involved in track season.

c. Budget - discussed in treasurer's report

d. New course designed by Tom Anderson and Leo Genest

e. Recognition of All-Stars. This has moved from 50 to 60 athletes this last year. Because of questions and nominations from coaches over the last few years, the need to establish guidelines for nomination beyond place and time at state should be considered. Consensus was to accept coach's nomination of an athlete who can be shown to be at same caliber of selected athletes who was sidetracked by injury or illness.

f. Sponsorship - Super Jock and Jill and Brooks have provided good support. Can Brooks provide shirts for All-Star coaches?

Coaches will be contacted to determine interest. A certificate will be given to All-Star coaches.
Discussion about entry regulations. Should establish an entry deadline then perhaps there could be entries beyond the original number. This led to the selection discussion of point e.

h. Letters will be sent out by Doug. Date = July 21st Time = 10:00 Place = upper Lower Woodland
There will be one race unless registration numbers indicate need for more.
Awards - will stick with the same number of awards as last year
Joe will check on availability of power at the picnic shelter.

4. Scholarship Report (Jeff Sowards)

a. Last year WSCCCA distributed 1 x \$1000 and 2 x \$500 scholarships to both the boys and the girls. Special circumstances also led to the distribution of an additional \$500 to the girls.
Funds were distributed to the athletes after notification of enrollment was received by Bruce.
Date was set for reviewing scholarship applications = Monday July 2nd site TBD. Scholarship applicants are not limited to those invited to race as All-Stars.

8. WIAA report - Theresa

Theresa arrived at this point in the meeting, so agenda was moved out of order.

a. There will be an online rules clinic developed. Theresa asked the Association to provide points of emphasis. The clinic will be adapted from the track and field clinic.

Suggested points:

- Obtain and read the meet syllabus
- Uniform rules as they apply to cross country (same as relay rules for track)
- number of meets allowed in a season
- General information - possibly including scoring a meet, reporting scores etc.

b. Nothing significant is on the horizon. The letter of agreement with the community of Pasco runs through 2007. There has been little interest expressed by other sites in terms of hosting the state meet.

5. State Meet report

a. What worked. The coaches viewing area received a lot of positive feedback though a request will be made to extend the length of time before it is closed. It closed only a minute or two after the start of the race which didn't allow coaches to make it to the area and watch the start. One or two more minutes would be helpful.
Theresa asked to deliver a report based on facilities issues and management issues. This will make it easier for her to address issues.

Management:

Awards - several complaints about the scheduling of the awards, particularly the girls'. Several girls' teams coaches were not at the awards because their boys' teams were preparing to start. Could management hold the awards so that the classification awards are held together. ie. 2A girls and boys awards at the scheduled time for 2A boys. This would allow extra time if needed for both awards, eliminate the issue of coaches missing awards and highlighting an entire classification with more spectators at the awards.

Schedule - the question was raised why the schedule was changed this year. What is the rationale? Could those needs be met in some other way? Should schedule be adjusted so that small schools are not always the first event of the day?
Discussion ensued about reasons for schedule. This may be issue to poll membership about. Bruce indicated Bs and 4As don't socialize.

Access to games committee - several coaches felt the need to file appeals or protests but there were no forms available nor was there a venue for filing these. With the current situation it is virtually impossible to appeal to the games committee because no process is available nor is a site available for contact. Games committee and Jury of Appeals should be different groups and the Jury of Appeals should have no other responsibilities in order to respond without prejudice.

Finish line - there were several questions about the finish line mechanism. (This falls under both management and facility concerns). There is a need for experienced people picking places and making sure those are held in the chute. There may need to be more people at the front of the chute to keep athletes in order especially with races now being decided by one or two places.

Facility

Awards area - much better movement around this area. There was much less of a bottleneck around this area and it was much easier to move from point to point and gave a great viewing area of the awards for spectators.

New viewing area - very positive response - just need longer time to get there from the start. Suggestion to bring this a little lower to use the natural barrier of trees. This should help setup time.

Corners - much better since last year - typically positive feedback to course changes.

Housing development - what issues may the management be facing in the future. It might be best to consider a course configuration which eliminates movement around the development. Though it might be best to explore these possibilities but not take action until forced to change.

Bleachers - more would be great. The number of spectators is increasing as is the number of spectators who need to be able to sit while the races progress.

10. Length of Season

Change of length occurred in 1985 after snow at Hangman Valley in 1984 and along passes forced some schools to stay overnight. At issue is whether or not to add an additional week to the end of the current season. Weather analysis for the Pasco areas indicates very little difference.

Advisory board members have been asked to poll membership. Feedback has been largely positive for a change, but there is some resistance especially on east side of the state where there are different weather issues. Joe spoke to the need to determine how to value each set of interests - coaches, JV athletes and post-season athletes.

The question was asked of Mike Colbrese what would make this be viable before WIAA. It will be important to address concerns of various districts. A.D.s. and principals will need to understand the issues and the importance. What will make their lives easier or better..

Bus transportation

Meets do not have to be scheduled on SAT weekend

What will be issues of housing with the 1B and 2B volleyball tournament

This will be an issue that is best addressed with face to face conversations. It will also be important to document votes as well. It will be important that each school vote once - even if they have a boys and girls program. WIAA leadership feels this is an important point.

Pasco may be an issue. Meet management will have to be addressed especially if no other area shows interest in hosting the meet.

6. Hall of Fame

a. Plaques - Phil English (vice president) has offered to head fundraising for plaques to be placed at WIAA headquarters in Renton like those of other sports. Hope for a possible display at the State meet before the first installation of plaques.

b. The Hall of Fame committee is being asked to establish nomination process for 2007. Nominations will be limited to 3-4 a year, though there may be a couple of "bubble" years in the future as a large number of strong coaches retire at about the same time.

National and State Coach of the Year discussion There is an October deadline for National Coach of the Year. Joe asked the question whether there should be a small schools and large schools coach of the year. This discussion was tabled until the July meeting.

Coaches recognition: To come in line with other state associations where coaches are recognized for career achievements guidelines were established for a two level recognition process.

Both steps would require a minimum of 12 years as head coach

Level 1 - 8 years of teams at state (one gender) or 16 athletes (one gender) who place in the top 12 (podium position at state)

Level 2 - 8 years of teams at state (one gender) who place in the top 8 at state

7. Scholarship Fundraising

Association will need to contact major sponsors (SJJ and Brooks) to determine whether seeking other similar sources of scholarships would cause a conflict. The hope is that the advisory board can begin to generate contact with companies to contribute to the scholarship fund. Contact should be made by spring break in order to avoid conflict with track responsibilities.

9. Website Report

Doug suggested it would be valuable to move away from a single sponsor (SJJ) of the website and instead move towards advertising links with income earmarked for maintenance of the site and for scholarships. Bruce will talk to Ty at SJJ to

determine comfort with this move.

Other: Should the association consider developing a new organizational structure in order to expand involvement and take multiple responsibilities off one person's shoulders (Doug).

Meeting adjourned at 4:20

Respectfully submitted

3/1/2007

Patty Ley
Secretary