

UNITED STATES CURLING ASSOCIATION

Directors Meeting

April 22-23, 2006

Embassy Suites O'Hare, Rosemont, Illinois

Final

Minutes

Present:

Mark Swandby, in the chair

Andy Anderson

Paul Badgero

Andy Borland

Geoff Broadhurst

Maureen Brunt

Bob Fenson (*Saturday only*)

Peggy Hatch

Nicole Joraanstad

Art Jytyla

Judy Maier

Richard Maskel

Jack McNelly

Chris Moore

Jay Packard

Bob Pelletier

Steve Pickle

James Pleasants

Donna Purkey

Leland Rich

Chris Sjue

Bill Todhunter

Dick Urevig

Georgia West

Sam Williams

Jon Wilson

Not-present:

Grayland Cousins

John Benton

Jason Larway

Also present:

Dave Carlson, chair, USCA Legal/By-Laws Committee

David Eaton, chair, USCA Revenue Development Committee

David Garber, USCA Chief Operating Officer

Rick Patzke, USCA Director of Communications

Bev Schroeder, USCA Member Services Manager

Terry Luder, USCA Communications Specialist

Jen Culver, USCA Senior Administrative Assistant (*Sunday*)

1. Call to order. **Swandby called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.**
2. Welcome, introductions, welcome & ratify new directors. Swandby asked all present to introduce themselves. Swandby commended retiring USCA directors Cousins, Purkey and McNelly (the latter after 18 years on the board). Swandby noted that Borland's and Wilson's status going forward has not been settled. Janet Farr will replace Purkey as USWCA director. Swandby welcomed new directors Steve Pickle, from North Dakota, and Maureen Brunt, who is replacing AAC rep Caitlin Maroldo.
3. Roll call. Anderson took the roll, listed above, and announced there is a quorum present.
4. Appoint parliamentarian. **Swandby appointed Dave Carlson as Parliamentarian for the meeting.**
5. Additions to printed agenda. Swandby noted there will be a report on an assessment of USCA business operations by the Pros Consulting firm this afternoon; sponsor recognition at the end of the session today, and a reception for David Garber this evening. Election voting will take place tomorrow morning.
 - A. Election of replacement director. Anderson announced that Maroldo has resigned, and the USCA AAC has selected a replacement director. **Anderson nominated Brunt to be a USCA board-elected director, Moore second. Approved.**
6. Approve minutes of previous board meetings. **Motion by Pelletier, Badgero second, to approve the minutes of the September 10-12, 2005, board meeting. Approved.**
7. Approve actions of Executive Committee Special Meetings. **Motion by Wilson, Jytyla second, to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Committee at its meetings October 27, 2005. Approved.**
8. Nominating Committee. McNelly reported. The slate has been sent to the board. The By-Laws require an 18 hour time interval between introductions of the slate, nominations from the floor, and the subsequent vote, so if there are nominations from the floor the election will be held tomorrow morning. McNelly reviewed the election procedures. Swandby reviewed USCA requirements regarding board-elected directors. A USCA officer must be elected from the current board.

The USCA By-Laws allow for a maximum of three board-elected directors, and USCA officers must be current-term USCA directors. In the current term there are two board-elected directors, Anderson and Cousins. Therefore there is one position available in the current term. No 18 hour wait is needed for this type of election.

McNelly asked if there are nominations from the floor for board-elected director for the current term through April 30. Maskel nominated Walter Erbach, Purkey second. There were no additional nominations. **McNelly declared the nominations closed.** Discussion and distribution of ballots. **Nominee was not elected. Motion by Moore, Urevig second, to destroy the ballots. Approved.**

For each office below, McNelly reviewed the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, then called for nominations from the floor.

**The slate for USCA President is Georgia West
There were no nominations from the floor.
McNelly declared the nominations closed.**

**The slate for USCA Vice President is:
R. Chris Moore, Chris Sjue and Richard Maskel.
From the floor, Rich nominated James Pleasants. Purkey second.
From the floor, Maier nominated Sam Williams. Purkey second.
From the floor, Broadhurst nominated Bob Pelletier. Badgero second.
From the floor, Borland nominated Jon Wilson, Pickle second.
There were no additional nominations from the floor.
McNelly declared the nominations closed.**

**The slate for USCA Secretary & Treasurer is Albert Anderson.
There were no nominations from the floor.
McNelly declared the nominations closed.**

Motion by Fenson, Todhunter second, that the USCA will have four Vice Presidents. Approved.

McNelly facilitated a discussion for the contested positions, and for presentations by the candidates. The candidates present made brief presentations. The candidates then left the room to facilitate further discussion.

**The slate for USCA Representative to the World Curling Federation (WCF) for the three-year term expiring in 2006 is Leland Rich and Albert Anderson to succeed themselves.
From the floor, Broadhurst nominated Dave Peck. Badgero second.
There were no additional nominations from the floor.
McNelly declared the nominations closed.**

(The nominating process was completed by 2pm)

9. Miscellaneous items.

- A. West reported on updates to the USCA Strategic and Business plans.
- B. Swandby announced that at 3pm, as part of operations, Dale Neuberger of Pros Consulting will present findings of his USCA study. See item 14D.

10. Finance. Anderson reported.

A. Financial results. The Finance/Audit Committee has reviewed USCA financial results as of March 31, 2006, including major variances against budget. Overall, the USCA is close to its budget targets. The committee has reviewed the current report from the office on dues payments received from clubs. Some clubs are behind on dues. The committee is reviewing a policy to clarify the definition of individual curlers and the relationship to payment of dues. Donation program revenue is under budget. Anderson suggested that 100% of directors should participate in the Donation program and insure that the program receives sufficient support in their state/region.

B. Nutmeg Curling Club and the WCF DAP loan program. The World Curling Federation Development Assistance Program loan to the Potomac CC has been a success. Potomac has built its facility, and has made its first loan repayment to the USCA, which in turn pays the WCF. About 18 months ago the WCF put a “hold” on new loans. The Nutmeg Curling Club has reiterated its request for a loan in conjunction with building its new facility. Adequate collateral is required and is available. The USCA assumes responsibility for repayment to the WCF. When and if the WCF re-opens the program, the Nutmeg application is ready for processing. Broadhurst stated that he had learned in conversations with the WCF past and current presidents that the WCF is holding loan applications that have been submitted to it even though the WCF is not processing applications at present. This would imply that the USCA can submit an application to the WCF so that it is ready when and if the WCF restarts the loan program. **Motion by Anderson, Purkey second, that the USCA board support the \$50,000 Nutmeg WCF loan application.** Discussion. Moore requested clarification that if this motion passes that does not presuppose approval of any loan from the USCA or to the USCA from the WCF. Anderson agreed that this motion only indicates USCA support for the application to the WCF and that any loan from or to the USCA would still require the explicit action by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. **Approved.**

11. Treasurer. The Treasurer reported under Finance, in 10.A. above. The office has distributed a detailed report to directors with year-to-date results versus budget.

12. Legal/By-Laws. Carlson reported the proposed By-Laws Amendments that have been Noticed to the board.

A. Regarding interim adjustments to the number of member-elected directors, which allows growing member regions a procedure to increase directors prior to the three year regular adjustment period. **Motion by Rich, Borland second, to approve the amendment as Noticed.** Discussion. **Approved with one opposed.**

B. Carlson noted that the proposed amendments to by-law section 3.2 were not purely of a “housekeeping” nature and explained the nuances. **Motion by Badgero, Borland second, to approve the amendment as Noticed, striking the words “up to three” and the words “and such additional directors such that.”** This action would nullify direct election to the board of athlete directors (which had been an unintended consequence in the Notice). Discussion. **Amendment approved as amended. Motion by Anderson, Borland second to adopt the changes. Approved.**

C. The other amendments are of a “housekeeping” nature. **Motion by Pelletier, Borland second, to approve By-laws amendments to Sections 3.4, 3.5, 5.2, 6.5, 7.2, 7.3, 9.4, 12.3, 13.2 and 13.5 as Noticed.** Discussion. **Approved.**

13. Chief Operating Officer. Garber reported that Patzke and Schroeder have submitted detailed reports to the board reviewing their activities. Other activities of staff are noted in the various committee reports. Noting the succession transition scheduled to take place July 1, Garber thanked staff, volunteers and athletes for their contributions to the notable successes of the USCA in the past two decades. Garber stated he would have more remarks this evening. Swandby read a letter from past USCA president and USOC representative Tom Satrom, reflecting on Satrom’s lengthy tenure as a member and later chair of the USOC Membership and Credentials Committee, complimentary of the USCA, its staff and volunteers.

Applause.

Vice Presidents areas reports.

14. Championships. Moore reported for Cousins.

A. The Championship and Elite Programs committees held a joint committee meeting yesterday. Proposed format changes include elimination of the Men's trials preliminary rounds. The four men's qualifying rounds will require a minimum of five teams at each site for the qualifying round to be held at that site. If a site has less than five teams assigned, those teams must play at another site. The proposal will also require a minimum number of teams for each of the women's qualifying rounds, the number to be set by the new Championships Committee. The format changes will be referred to the new Championships Committee for review and final approval over the summer.

B. Event Site Selection. Maier proposed event bids for board approval, and noted the board previously approved the 2007 Junior National Championships to be hosted February 3-10, 2007 at the Seattle Granite Curling Club.

Motion by Wilson, Moore second, to approve event bids as follows: the St. Paul Curling Club for the 2007 Men's and Women's National Championships, March 4-10; the Utica Curling Club for the 2007 Wheelchair Curling World Team Selection event December 7-10 and for the 2007 Men's and Women's World Trials February 17-24; the Centerville Curling Club for the 2007 Winter World University Games (WWUG) U.S. team selection event November 17-19, 2006. Approved.

Motion by Maier, Borland second, to host the 2008 Junior National Championships at the Portage Curling Club. Approved.

Sites are being solicited for these events: 2007 Senior National Championships, 2007 Mixed National Championships, 2007 Trials Challenge and Qualifying Rounds.

For the 2009 Olympic Trials event, Maier noted there is a bid from the St. Paul Curling Club, and Rich noted there is an expression of interest from the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau. Swandby stated that bids for the 2009 Olympic Trials are being held for consideration at this time because the USCA wishes to plan carefully to maximize event revenue and promotion and television opportunities for the 2009 Trials.

Maier asked the board for permission for certain event bids to be approved at the Committee level in future. **Motion by Moore, Rich second, to delegate authority for site selection to the Championships Committee for all events except for the World Team Trials and Olympic Trials. Approved.**

Maier noted there is a scheduling conflict between the end of the WWUG and the Men's and Women's Challenge Rounds, both of which can be considered "protected" events under the Amateur Sports Act. The USCA must do its best to "minimize" schedule conflicts between protected events. The maximum potential impact is on two teams. After consideration of the USCA 2007 event schedule, the committee concluded it had taken all reasonable steps to minimize schedule conflicts. The committee is not requesting board action but wishes the board to be aware of this schedule conflict.

The 2007 season “junior playdown window” will be December 23-January 3 to minimize conflicts with school obligations.

Maskel noted that the length of some events could change from the dates indicated on the current USCA schedule based on participation levels. He asked that this fact be posted on USCA Calendars to provide notice to athletes to consider that the dates may change when making travel arrangements.

Maier noted that the event schedule had changed somewhat from last season, usually to add another week between events. **Motion by Maier, Purkey second, to approve these 2007 event dates: Senior National Championships, January 18-21; Men’s and Women’s Trials Qualifying Rounds, January 4-7; Men’s and Women’s Challenge Rounds; January 25-28; and the Mixed National Championship, March 18-25. Approved.**

The directors applauded Maier’s efforts in site selection.

C. Event name. **Motion by Pelletier, Maskel second, to rename the Men’s and Women’s National Championships the Men’s and Women’s Club National Championships; and change the World Team Trials to the Men’s and Women’s National Championships.** Discussion, including use of terminology as history; original reasons for the new event, the names, trophies, etc.; and responsiveness to members; impact on marketing and sponsorship (confusion in promotions). Extensive discussion. **Approved, with four opposed.**

D. Officiating. Maier announced that Gwen Krailo has earned the designation USCA Certified Level 3 Official.

E. Field of Play: Lukowich reported. For the sensor handles, a maintenance and coordination person budget will be needed. Mark Shurek and Hans Wuthrich are buying five new sheets of stones from WCF, which could be a possible set for USCA purchase. Swandby noted that funds for this type of project come from the Playdown Entry Fee “Field of Play allocation.” A senior ice technologist has been asked to get involved in administering and developing the USCA ice technology program and is considering acceptance.

15. Sponsor recognition. Sponsor Dan Field, owner of AmerAust, was introduced. In recognition of five years as a USCA sponsor, Field was presented with an actual size handcrafted wooden curling stone in recognition of his financial support and his personal time commitment to support USCA office operations and events. Patzke noted that AmerAust provides the USCA office with Information Technology support; sponsors the popular web-audiocasts from national and world events on the USCA web site; supports the USCA web site with servers and bandwidth; and has assisted Patzke on-site at a number of national, world and Olympic events. The board applauded Dan Field’s efforts on behalf of the USCA and curling.

*Meeting adjourned for the day at 5:25pm.
Meeting reconvened at 8am Sunday.*

16. Elections

Note on election chronology: between ballots and during ballot counting, Swandby utilized the time to conduct other board business. For reading clarity, the election minutes have been placed in the section below. During the contested elections, ballots were distributed. McNelly supervised tellers Schroeder, Luder and Culver.

McNelly called the elections. Anderson noted there are 23 voting directors present, and directed the tellers that 12 votes would comprise a majority.

President and Secretary/Treasurer. **By acclamation, the board elected West as USCA president and Anderson as USCA Secretary and Treasurer.**

Vice President. McNelly announced the first-ballot results: **Moore, Sjue, Pleasants have been elected as USCA Vice President.** Directors will vote for one additional vice-president nominee on the second ballot. There was no majority on the first ballot so on the second ballot, the lowest vote getter is dropped, leaving three candidates. After the second ballot, McNelly announced that **Wilson has been elected as USCA vice president.**

WCF representatives. McNelly announced the first ballot results: **Anderson and Rich have been elected as USCA representatives to the World Curling Federation.**

Board-elected directors. USCA officers must be USCA directors. **Nomination by Urevig, Maier second, for Anderson as board-elected USCA director. Nomination by Borland, Urevig second, for Wilson, as board-elected USCA director. Approved by voice vote.**

Nominating Committee members. McNelly noted that Fenson becomes chair of the USCA Nominating Committee; Swandby will join the Committee as immediate past president. Wilson announced his resignation from the Nominating Committee in view of his election as USCA Vice President. Thus, two positions need to be filled, one for a one-year term and one for a two-year term. Nominating committee members must be a USCA board or USCA committee member. **Nominations for the one-year term on the Nominating Committee: by Pelletier, Wilson second, for Broadhurst; by Maskel, Borland second, for Dave Carlson. By Moore, Maskel second, for Peggy Hatch.** Ballots distributed. McNelly announced there was no majority. Two candidates remained on the second ballot. **McNelly announced Dave Carlson has won election for a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. Nominations for the two-year term on the Nominating Committee: by Anderson, Sjue second, for Urevig; by Badgero, Wilson second, for Broadhurst; by Maskel, Brunt second, for Hatch; by Purkey, Wilson second, for Maier.** McNelly announced there was no majority. Three candidates remained on the second ballot. **McNelly announced Hatch has won election for a two-year term on the Nominating Committee.**

Destruction of ballots. **Motion by Moore, Urevig second, to destroy the ballots. Approved.**

17. Coach recognition. **Motion by Moore, Rich second, to approve the Coaching Committee's selection of Bob Fenson as 2006 USCA Coach of the Year. Approved.** Moore reported that the USCA Developmental Coach of the Year selection is under consideration.

18. Citizenship eligibility. **Motion by Maskel, Maier second, to add a U.S. citizenship eligibility requirement for all USCA events leading to world play, with deadline at the event sign up date.** Citizenship is already required for men's and women's worlds and Olympic qualifying. This motion would add the Junior, Senior and Wheelchair National Championship events. **Approved, with four opposed.**

19. Operations & Marketing. West reported.

A. General. Building on the Pros Consulting study, the USCA is identifying skills needed on the USCA board/volunteers, using input from officers and committee chairs. A recruitment plan has been developed. A USCA policy manual is being developed, to complement the Championships and Financial Policy Manuals. One component of the new policy manual would be USCA election voting procedures. The COO Succession planning project is near completion. USCA staff now has access to a "flex benefit plan."

B. Athlete/Curler Recognition. Maskel reported. The deadline for submission of candidates for the USCA Hall of Fame is June 1, 2006. The one-page Nomination form must be signed by the president of the sponsoring region, to be submitted to the USCA office with narrative support for committee consideration. Swandby noted that Lisa Schoeneberg's USCA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will likely be held later this spring at the Madison Curling Club.

C. ACF&M Liaison. Urevig reported. Jim Miller is doing good work as the ACF&M curator. The eight-end patch awards process up to date. Urevig asked the board to forward names of people with fund raising experience, especially in the endowment area, as potential volunteers. The ACF&M plans to apply for a grant from the Chicago Community Trust for the purpose of educating and training new curlers.

D. Revenue development. Eaton reported. The Committee has improved the information flow regarding USCA license grants and contracts for sponsors, merchandisers, etc., and is regularly reviewing renewals and new prospects. The committee wishes to develop opportunities to expand the USCA product licensing program. The current grant from the Chicago Community Trust will fund a demographic study of members and TV viewers, which will assist the USCA in sponsor development. The Donation Program is being thoroughly reviewed. All board members are encouraged to participate in a top-down re-energizing of the Donation Program.

E. Hilton sponsorship. Swandby described the importance of maintaining and growing the Hilton Family sponsorship of the USCA by encouraging all curlers to book Hilton Family hotels through the USCA Team Advantage portal on the USCA web site. The prices are indeed very good (10% below Hilton's best rate, with no other source for better prices). Groups booking 10 or more rooms, should call Mike Hill (800-823-9327 or mike_hill@hilton.com) at Hilton's National Sales Office and say "the USCA sent me," for the USCA to get credit. The Hilton office will handle the arrangements and will negotiate the best prices. Hatch stated, "I've used this for business and personal and there is no way you can beat the rate."

F. Other sponsorship. Patzke summarized activities with sponsors. An event with Nike and the bronze medal Olympic team is in planning stages for this summer. Renewal of the Nike contract is in process and includes substantial provision of athlete on-ice apparel. Patzke hopes to beef up incentives in the USCA Athlete Marketing Agreement

using Nike uniforms and other sponsor benefits. The USCA continues to solicit new sponsors. The USCA has partnered in TV programming with U.S. Luge and U.S. Bobsled in the past and will continue to look at partnerships for both TV and sponsorships. An "Ice 2006" one hour program is in development this fall although the program is conditional on funding. USCA and CNBC are discussing new programming possibilities.

G. Pros Consulting report. Dale Neuberger of Pros Consulting summarized his written report (distributed to directors prior to this meeting) and responded to directors' questions.

20. USOC. McNelly reported. The USOC staff and volunteers do a superb job supporting the U.S. team at the Olympic Games, with 18-20 hour days the norm. USOC governance has settled in to the new model with a very small board and staff-driven operations. The USOC favors NGB Council representation to be the NGB head of staff and president. **Motion by Anderson, Urevig second, to appoint the USCA COO and president as USOC NGB Council representative and alternate, subject to necessary USCA By-Laws changes.** Discussion. **Approved.**

21. Incoming COO presentation. Patzke will become USCA Chief Operating Officer effective July 1. He conducted a presentation to the board describing his vision and some plans. Patzke noted the importance of utilizing the USCA Athlete Marketing Agreement (AMA), approved last fall. No individual athletes have signed up yet, because the incentive portion needs an infusion of athlete benefits. Patzke is working with two USCA sponsors to beef up AMA incentive benefits.

Patzke showed a DVD of "movie surfers" children's TV program in which Jon Wilson helped celebrities learn to curl. Patzke reported that the Disney firm had bought ads in the recent ESPN2 TV shows from 2006 Worlds. There is potential for television from the 2008 Grand Forks Worlds but many pieces of the puzzle have to come together, including funding. The WCF reps should stay involved in this project at the WCF level.

Patzke's vision:

Maximize growth and profit from USCA events

Develop better defined brand awareness and knowledge of why curling has mass appeal

Grow curling leadership in the sports industry, community development and worldwide growth

Elevation and enhancement for members, volunteers, staff

Television growth must be maintained

Integrate and interact

Marketing: create value, package for easier sales

Partnerships: create alliances, targeted development, community involvement

Relationships: sponsor development, connect with members, build trust, invest in future

Stand as one, be united, pursue common goals, maximize resources

Increase value of USCA membership, enhance programs, build sponsor values

Entertainment—improve the curling show, involve celebrities, make it cool to curl

Summary acronym: "ABLE TO IMPROVE"

22. Member Services. Sjue reported.

A. Club Membership & Development. This Olympics also provided great exposure for curling, and this year, people “got it” about curling. Sjue surveyed USCA clubs and got a good response: over 60 clubs reported they conducted open houses with over 9,000 people attending; the national totals are higher since not all clubs responded. To promote growth in arena curling, the USCA will this summer operate a booth at the North American Rink Convention & Expo in Chicago. The annual Member Services Conference is scheduled for July 27-28 in Minneapolis; the conference will focus on arena curling; all arena clubs will be invited, including clubs in the early stages of formation. Hilton will be invited to make a presentation. Carlson asked if the USCA has examined the “hot shots fantasy camp” programs and what attracts attendees.

B. College Curling. The program, under Rich Larko’s direction, is thriving. Thirty-eight teams participated in 2006 regional events, and over 300 students at the 2006 National College Bonspiel in Chicago

C. Youth Curling. There are usually waiting lists at junior camps. The junior camp program this season will include Cape Cod in July, Eau Claire/Rice Lake in August and North Dakota in October. Sjue urged interested juniors to apply soon as the camps fill up. Lynita Delaney has done outstanding job as USCA Junior Athlete Development Director. Sjue encourages an adequate budget to continue the program.

D. Training & Instruction. USCA brochure stocks are low after busy Olympic open house season. Brochures will be updated and reprinted. Web based toolboxes are being developed by Jon Mielke. New drills for the USCA Junior Merit Program have been developed. Williams suggested that the USCA look into development of “web seminar” approach for coaching, officiating and ice technician training. Hatch and Sjue noted success some clubs have had in charging a modest fee for open houses and first time curling sessions.

E. Scots (American) Tour. Anderson reviewed plans for the 2007 Scots Tour in the USA, January 13-February 6, 2007.

23. Competitive Programs. Moore reported.

A. ADD report. In evaluating the competitive season, Lukowich ranked the USA third overall in combined top four world and Olympic finishes. To continue improvement, it is important that U.S. teams participate in and enjoy success on the World Curling Tour. USCA goals for 2006 were to have a top ten finish for women and top 20 for men. Team McCormick was 9th on the women’s tour (5th after recent Players’ Championship); Team Fenson finished 31st (18th after the recent event). It is important to develop the U.S. tour. For the 2010 quadrennium, Lukowich wants to raise the milestones to include an Olympic gold medal in 2010; a men’s world gold medal during the quad; and another women’s world gold in the quad. Lukowich noted that even with this success, there is always a need to replace the top players through a healthy pipeline. Our top athletes need further revenue development programs. The athletes themselves are working to secure a sponsor to provide funds for an Athlete winnings pool. Plans for the coming season include a fall planning camp for elite teams. The USA must qualify for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games through ranking points earned at Worlds, so there is a great need for excellent World Team Preparation. The ADD and assistants will spend more time the next 2-3 seasons building coaching and lower levels in the pipeline.

B. Athlete Funding. The USOC-funded Incentive Program payouts were near “full” this season with three men’s and two women’s teams earning payouts. Elite Programs Committee continues to adjust the program to encourage maximum results.

C. Disabled curling. A subcommittee of Elite Programs will be established to oversee development of wheelchair and possibly other disabled curling programs. The committee will include at least one person from USCA Member Services. **Motion by Moore, Anderson second, that the USCA continue to serve as the NGB for Wheelchair Curling leading to World Championships and Paralympic Games, in partnership with the USOC Paralympic Division and subject to continued adequate funding. Approved.**

D. WWUG. The Winter World University Games eligibility includes both genders, ages 18-28, full time college students. There appears to be lots of interest in the WWUG selection event in November in Centerville. The sign up deadline is November 1, 2006.

E. Continental Cup. The 2006 Continental Cup, North America vs. Europe, will be held in Chilliwack, B.C., Canada, November 23-26 (Thanksgiving weekend). The committee has decided to select Team Fenson and Team McCormick, based on their performance at the 2006 Olympic and World Curling Championships as well as precedent to send the national champion in an Olympic year. Ongoing policy will be to select the USCA World teams in non-Olympic years.

F. World Team Preparation. Moore thanked Joraanstad and Todhunter for their help with world team preparation this season. Hatch will chair the World Team Preparation Committee going forward.

G. Team Leader development. A Team Leader Development Program is needed and will be developed by the committee.

H. HPP plan and USOC grant. Moore described the work being done on the 2010 quad High Performance Plan, and the changes in the USOC funding program. The USCA (Moore, Lukowich, Todhunter, Garber and Patzke) will make its presentation in applying for its 2007 USOC grant May 1 in Colorado Springs.

I. Possible disciplinary action. Swandby advised the board of a pending disciplinary process regarding athlete behavior at a curling event.

J. Junior worlds results. Anderson asked about plans to improve USA performance at junior worlds. Moore discussed proposals in the High Performance Plan and also in the Coaching and Youth Development Committees to continue to invest in junior athlete and coach development. Todhunter suggested that the USCA use the “Page” playoff system at Junior Nationals.

24. Athletes Advisory Council. Joraanstad reported. The AAC annual member elections are taking place. The AAC annual meeting will be held in May or June. Joraanstad thanked all AAC members for their efforts.

The USCA USOC-AAC Representative Todhunter reported that the USOC Athletes Advisory Council (AAC) is meeting this weekend in Denver. Todhunter is on the USOC AAC Anti-Doping Committee, which has three goals: to work with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

(USADA) for a better testing system; to develop a contaminant-free supplement program; and for preservation of A&B drug test samples. The USADA Out of Competition testing pool athletes have been surveyed for their comments with a full response. The next meeting of the USOC AAC will be in June in La Jolla, CA. Todhunter has worked with Lukowich and Moore on pipeline and High Performance Plan issues. Bill urged he be kept in the loop on any potential disciplinary actions as part of his rep responsibilities (agreed by Swandby).

25. World Curling Federation. Hatch reported the World Curling Federation Annual General Assembly and committee meetings were held in Lowell two weeks ago, with USCA WCF reps Rich, Fenson, Anderson and Hatch in attendance. The WCF elections results: Les Harrison (Canada), President; Kate Caithness (Scotland), Vice President; Warren Lowe (USA), Director of Finance; and these additional members of the WCF Executive Board: Hiro Saito (Japan); Patrick Hurlimann (Switzerland); Leif Ohman (Sweden); and Niels Larson (Denmark). This is almost a whole new Executive board. The WCF will consider establishing staggered board terms. The WCF should receive nearly \$12 million in funding from the International Olympic Committee. A significant portion of the IOC grant comes from NBC TV sponsorship. This is one rationale for the strong WCF funding for USCA non-Olympic television productions. The WCF Development Assistance Program (DAP) grants are set \$10,000 per member nation next season. A singles curling competition is under discussion as a possible new event for Vancouver 2010, with details to be worked out. One perceived advantage of singles is to make it easier for smaller nations to qualify athletes for the Olympic Games. U.S. sited World Championship events in the near future include the 2007 Junior Worlds at Eveleth, and the 2008 World Men's at Grand Forks.

The WCF has increasingly looked to the USCA for more involvement, coordination and control for U.S.-sited events. Fenson is the USCA liaison for Eveleth; a liaison system for Grand Forks is in the planning stages. The USCA had a sponsorship agreement with Lowell. This can serve as a model for USCA relationships future US-hosted world events. The USCA should be aware of any future IOC bricks and mortar funding to National Olympic Committees for sports facilities.

26. USWCA. Purkey reported. The USWCA President for 2007 is Star Pfiffner of Illinois. Janet Farr will replace Purkey as the USWCA member of the USCA board. The USWCA has contributed \$8,000 to U.S. clubs over two years in the form of club equipment grants. The USWCA also supports four regional junior bonspiels. The USWCA Scotland Tour and Friendship (Canada) Tour will both be held in November, 2006. Members of both U.S. tour teams have been selected. Purkey also noted that the Nutmeg Curling Club has a professionally produced video that the curling community is welcome to use for sponsor development.

21. Open board action items. There were no open board action items. West led a brief discussion of USCA plans to expand the screening of leaders at future junior camps and clinics. **There was consensus to proceed with these youth instructor screening plans.**

22. Unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

23. New business. Swandby thanked everyone present for their support. He thanked the officers, citing the very busy workload with the USCA; and the staff, noting the extraordinary workload. Swandby passed the USCA president's gavel to West.

A. Next USCA Board of Directors meeting. West set the fall board meeting date for

September 8-10, 2006. The USCA annual budget meeting is set for June 9-10, 2006. Both meeting sites will be at a Hilton Family hotel at the Chicago or Minneapolis area.

B. Commendations. West lauded Swandby for ably leading the USCA through great change and achievement in past two years. West assured Swandby his USCA Past President's Shield will be forthcoming. The board responded with standing applause. Swandby thanked all the directors, and lauded the USCA staff, without whose help the USCA operations could not be maintained.

27. Adjourn. **Motion by Urevig, Moore second to adjourn. Approved at 11:40am.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Garber
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and authorized,
Albert Anderson
Secretary