

**United States Curling Association
Executive Committee Meeting
July 31, 2008
Via Conference Call
Minutes**

Present:

Chris Moore, in the chair
Jack Bernauer
Kent Beadle
Walt Erbach
Janet Farr
Nicole Joraanstad
Tom O'Connor
Robert Pelletier
Jim Pleasants
Chris Sjue
Bill Todhunter
Georgia West

Not present:

Judy Maier, Executive Committee member

Also present:

Rick Patzke, COO
Sandy Robinson, Controller
Andy Anderson, Chair – Finance Committee
Richard Maskel, Chair – Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee

Convene, welcome – Mr. Moore convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. CT. Roll was called and Moore declared there is a quorum.

1. Moore appointed Bernauer Parliamentarian.
2. **Additions, revisions to agenda** – Scheduled Agenda items were:
 - Discussion and approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 13, 2008.
 - Discussion and decision on participation in the 2009 Winter World University Games.
 - Discussion and decision on new office space/lease.
 - Discussion and approval of the 2008-09 budget.

Moore added one item to the agenda:

- Ratification of the Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee's recommendations for Team of the Year and Athlete of the Year.

Moore noted that Maskel is present as Chair of the Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee, and would be present during the discussion of the Winter World University Games (WWUGs) to provide additional insight into Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) views on this issue.

Moore noted that he has had discussions with Welling about adding him to the Executive Committee. In order to add Welling, Moore will also need to appoint one additional member-elected Director.

For informational purposes, Moore alerted the Executive Committee that USCA has been challenged for an American Men's spot in 2009 World Curling Championships. Canada, as host, gets an automatic slot. The Brazilian Ice Sports Federation (BISF) has informed the World Curling Federation (WCF) that they intend to challenge the United States for our berth in the 2009 Men's World Curling Championships. Because we are being challenged, we are able to host the event. Per WCF rules, it will be in January. Elite Programs will determine the Worlds Challenge selection process. At minimum, we'll be hosting the Challenge event, and depending on team selection process, may need to hold an additional playdown event. This will have budget impact.

Moore indicated there are no other changes to the agenda.

3. Discussion and approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 13, 2008

Pelletier moves/Farr seconds: approval of the June 13, 2008, Executive Committee Meeting minutes, with correction of the spelling of Pelletier's name. No other changes/corrections. **Motion carries unanimously.**

4. Ratification of the Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee's recommendations for Team of the Year and Athlete of the Year.

Moore noted that Maskel had provided documentation related to the Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee's recommendation in advance of the Executive Committee meeting. **West moves/Sjue seconds: motion to approve the Athlete/Curler Recognition Committee recommendations as presented by Maskel:**

- ◆ **Team of Year: Team Plys – 2008 Junior Men's World Curling Championship Gold Medal winners.**
- ◆ **Male Athlete of Year: Augusto Perez, skip of the 2008 World Wheelchair Curling Championship bronze medal winners.**
- ◆ **Female Athlete of Year: Allison Pottinger, third of 2008 Women's World Team.**

- ◆ **Motion carries with Joraanstad abstaining** because she was a member of the Women's World Curling Team.

Congratulatory letters have been prepared for Moore's signature. Moore asked Maskel to call the Team Plys skip and the two athlete winners in advance of the letters being sent. Maskel will notify Moore when he has done this.

5. Discussion and decision on participation in the 2009 Winter World University Games.

Moore noted that VP Championships Pleasants had provided documentation related to the WWUGs in advance of the Executive Committee Meeting. The AAC position is that the USCA should either send both a men's and a women's team to WWUGs, or not participate. Pleasants reviewed the considerations related to the decision about whether or not to participate.

Pleasants' recommended that the USCA should participate in the WWUGS, and that we should send both a men's and a women's team. The teams would be responsible for any costs beyond those provided for in the FY09 budget. **Pleasants moves/Sjue seconds: motion that the USCA commit to participating in WWUGS with both a men's and a women's team; that for budget purposes we allocate the full \$12,500 from the USOC and Nike VIK to support participation, and that any remaining costs for participation will be the responsibility of the individual teams, subject to any donations or contributions that we may receive for that purpose.**

Moore asked for discussion on the motion. Members expressed concerns about: the financial risk to the USCA as the deposit is nonrefundable; the quality of teams we will be able to field for the playdowns; whether or not we should establish minimum qualifications for teams or individual athletes; the costs that the teams would have to cover themselves; the conflict in schedule with the trials playdown process (the Championships Committee has already taken actions to minimize conflicts in the schedule for the 2008-09 season); possible Title IX issues if we were to enter only the Men's competition; reputation risks to the USCA of not participating at all or partially; the loss of an opportunity for international experience if we do not participate; and other issues.

Moore called for a vote on the motion. **Motion carries: 10 in favor, 2 opposed.** Robinson is directed to adjust the FY09 budget to include a Women's WWUGs team.

6. Discussion and decision on new office space/lease.

Moore noted that VP Operations/Marketing Beadle had provided information related to new office space/lease in advance of the Executive Committee Meeting. Beadle summarized:

- ◆ Current Central Office space is inadequate for staff and for organization's best ability to accomplish its missions.
- ◆ The staff and Beadle thoroughly investigated alternatives. Dawn Leurquin was recognized for excellent work compiling comparative information and costs.
- ◆ One of the drivers in seeking new office space is that our office building site is being targeted by the city for possible condemnation.

Beadle indicated that his recommendation is the site on Clem's Way. It has approximately the same amount of finished space as the current location, but that space will be much more suitable for staff use and there is warehouse space of equal size to the rear of the office. Beadle noted that the warehouse space would make shipping of championship items much more efficient.

Beadle indicated that the move would have a significant impact on the USCA's budget. The impact on FY09 is not as significant as it will be in future years because of the move's timing (mid-October) and because our agreement would specify that rent would start January 1, 2009. The total FY08 rent/utilities: est. \$22,000+; the FY09 budget would be \$35,270. With amortization costs factored in, the FY10 cost will rise to \$46,000. Beadle reiterated that there will be a significant budget impact, but that the move provides benefits to our organization and staff.

Motion Beadle/second Pelletier: motion to approve relocation of the USCA office to 5525 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, per the terms of the agreement, outlined in Mr. Beadle's memo to the Executive Committee for this meeting, that begins November 2008. Discussion. Finance Committee Chair Anderson indicated that there is no problem from a cash standpoint for covering the build-out costs. Erbach indicated he finds no notable problems with draft lease proposed. Beadle confirmed that Erbach (an attorney) will review the lease before it is signed. Treasurer Bernauer indicated support for the proposal. Patzke was recognized for his excellent job of negotiating terms for the lease. Moore noted that Patzke has existing authority to approve any minor deviations in the terms of the agreement that might result in minor extra expenses, or to seek approval to cover expenses that would exceed coverage allowed by policy. **Motion carries unanimously.**

7. Discussion and approval of the 2008-09 budget.

Moore noted that Treasurer Bernauer had provided information related to the FY09 budget in advance of the Executive Committee Meeting. Moore indicated that adding a women's team to WWUGs will increase the USCA-side budget by approximately \$1,000 and therefore reduce the estimated budget surplus for the year by about the same amount. He also noted that there will be budget additions related to the Men's World Challenge. Bernauer indicated that the initial goal was to develop a budget with a \$10,000 surplus and although this budget doesn't reach that, it is an improvement over FY08.

Bernauer commented on major variations between FY08 and FY09, focusing on the USOC approved carry-over from FY08 to FY09. Taking that into account, Bernauer noted that the USCA is receiving \$52,000 new dollars more from the USOC in FY09. Anderson, as Chair of Finance, recommended budget approval.

Moore invited Executive Committee members with questions or the need for more detail about specific areas (exception could be personnel) to contact Moore, Bernauer or Patzke. **Motion Bernauer/second Pleasants: motion to approve the FY09 budget as presented, with an estimated \$8,000 surplus, knowing that there may be some adjustments but that they will be immaterial.** No further discussion. **Motion carries unanimously.**

4:00 p.m. – Moore invited those interested to stay on the call to discuss the Men’s World Challenge. He indicated that no action will be taken. *Several people leave the call.*

8. Men’s World Challenge.

Pleasants provided background on the World Challenge. The WCF rules stipulate that the World Challenge take place in January. USCA Trials Regional Qualifiers occur first week in January; the Trials Challenge Round will be toward the end of January. At the time the World Challenge occurs, we won’t have a 2009 champion.

Suggestions: (1) hold the World Challenge one week before Trials Challenge (2 weeks after the Trials Qualifier). (2) Select our 2008 winner, our returning National champion, to be the team playing in the World Challenge.

Past World Challenges: We had a World Challenge on the women’s side and had a playdown to determine the team to participate in challenge. Last time we were challenged in Men’s, we had a playoff in the fall to determine who would play in the challenge.

Moore commented that that the U.S. will an opportunity to maximize our home-field advantage – so we should hold the World Challenge at home club of our U.S. team. That would argue for determining our team very early on.

Pleasants indicated that adding another playdown into the current schedule would be difficult, but not impossible, if it were held fairly early in the year. Beadle expressed concern that if the team selected to compete in the World Challenge doesn’t qualify in round one of our own championships, there might have a competitive concern about the Challenge Round. Todhunter suggested that it would be better for a team in that situation if the World Challenge were scheduled for one week after the Regional Qualifier (not two) so the U.S. team would have more time between World Challenge and the Trials Challenge, reducing the stress of back-to-back competitions.

Anderson reiterated that it might be worthwhile to see if the WCF would allow our hosting the World Challenge after we select our men’s team. Pleasants agreed that that

would be more desirable for the U.S.: the team would be playing for themselves and would have proven themselves. Anderson suggested that the USCA pick a date that occurs right after the Trials, but well in advance of Worlds – put that on the table and see if the WCF would accept that.

Current Schedule:

- ◆ U.S. Olympic Trials: February 21-28
- ◆ World Championships: 1st week of April
- ◆ Entire month of March in available between those two events.

Todhunter expressed a preference as an athlete, for selecting a team sooner – either using our 2008 World Team or the team with the most World Curling Tour points as of December 31. He noted that teams are looking for January competitions.

Patzke recommended getting input from the USCA's Athlete Development Director on event timing and team selection. Moore agreed.

Moore said that the main immediate objective was to ensure that the USCA does everything technically necessary to accept the Challenge, that all the proper paperwork has been submitted. Patzke confirmed that we have.

Moore directed Championships to work with Elite Programs to answer questions related to selection format, date, location, and to reach a decision by the end of August. The WCF deadline for submission of dates and venue for the World Challenge is October 31.

Motion Joraanstad/second Pleasants: motion to adjourn. Motion carries unanimously – 4:12 p.m.

Moore thanked everyone who prepared materials submitted in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bernauer
Secretary