



WNSC Spring 2025 General Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, April 27th, 2025 at 1pm

Location: Steve Cooper Lodge

Attending: C Janes, D Alton, L Fisher, A, Smith, M Barnes, S Martin, G Poirier, M Poirier, D Gordon, R Scharbach, L Scharbach, P Chislett, E Chislett, G Rawlins, M Wild, R Hopkins, A Massier, K Perry, G Henry, A Udey, C Harris, C Rawlins

Regrets: Michael Morgan

1. Welcome and Attendance (Cam)

- *Call to order @ 1:00pm*

2. Land Acknowledgement (Cam)

3. Approval of Agenda

- *Moved by Randy Hopkins; seconded by Cori Janes*

4. Approval of Minutes from Fall General Meeting, November 24th, 2024

- *Moved by Doris Gordon; seconded by Matt Wild*

5. Chair's Report (Michael via email)

- *See Report attached.*

6. Financial Report (Serge)

- *New expense reimbursement process via electronic funds transfer (EFT) and fillable PDF form coming by end of May and will be hosted on the website so easily accessible for all volunteers.*
- *Electronic banking has due diligence built in - Bookkeeper reviews and two approvals required.*
- *Serge thanked the Board for their good questions and detailed review at monthly meetings*
- *Our new bookkeeper is getting a grip on the nuances of where revenues and expenses are reported.*
- *Balance Sheet:*
 - *Some lines showing zeros due to the banking transition / moved to other lines*
 - *Capital Assets = buildings and equipment / working on a long term Capital plan for replacements & Board is cognizant of the need for this*
 - *Questions from the floor? = None*
- *Income Statement:*
 - *Direct correlation between revenue and snowfall!*
 - *Board was happy with revenue so Membership fees were kept constant for Winter 2024-2025*
 - *Using a 3 year average for Budgeting going forward*
 - *Donations line – shows an error (it is actually a grant)*



- Questions? > (from the floor)
 - (Q) Some revenue groups showing lower than budget = why? (A) Zone 4 is a lump sum deposit and revenue was recorded in one place – need to go back and evaluate those further
 - (Q) Wage expense showing lower than budgeted = why? (A) Patrick not on full time employee hours and Operations Coordinator's position was vacant through the Winter months
 - (Q) How does the Banff Mountain Film Festival (expenses and Net) show on these reports? (A) Still some work to do on where they show up but the Net for January 2025 event was \$14,658.
 - (Q) Coaching Costs = where are these shown? (A) They are a straight in and out and Doris spoke to how it was originally set up.
 - (Q) Race travel – is this subsidized by general Club funds? (A) No, they are paid for by athletes and their respective programs; not from general memberships. Race hosted revenue is \$10,600 with expenses of \$7,505 so there is a Net and it is rolled forward. Could race team and biathlon be broken out and shown with Income? – would be good for more clarity / not criticism and show this area/detail on a separate page. Presentation on Teachers convention by race teams generated revenue.
 - i. Question > does the Board track the types of users that buy memberships? How do you identify? (A) Not at this time but we could get If we had a Membership Director (or possibly the new Operations Coordinator depending on their capacity) to collect and analyze in more detail.
 - ii. Question > Are "Winters" actually annual memberships? (A) Yes.
 - iii. Question > Endowment on Balance Sheet
 - iv. MOTION# 2025.04.27.01 – That the Financial Report be accepted as presented at the Spring General Meeting on behalf of the Membership. Moved by Davis Alton, seconded by Leonard Scharbach – CARRIED.

7. Items of Note

- a) Summer Program & Event Plans - Christine
 - Plans in place for a youth mountain bike program with recreational and competitive streams.
 - Hosting a NCCP Alberta Bicycle Association course on May 10, 2025 = Intro to Competition: Basic Cycling Skills
 - External events that have booked Wapiti Nordic as a venue includes Talk to Me Society's Color Run (May 3rd), Triple Terrain Trekker's Meet in the Middle Run (May 24th), Trekkers Outdoors Ltd's Dragon Mullet Duathlon (June 14th).
 - No specific Wapiti Nordic summer programs anticipated this summer as no Operations Coordinator in place.
- b) North Multi-Use Trail Management Plan Development - Matt
 - Matt circulated the Winter (will not interfere with the ski trails) plan and Summer plan (to avoid erosion hotspots = decommission them so will benefit Nordic trails too)
 - Board has approved the Plan to date.
 - Province is happy as it will comply with the Alberta Trails Act – ski trails are close to compliant. They want mapping in parking lot, mapping system, skill level posted, right of ways, etc.



- *Will be establishing a Trail Planning team and a Trail Building team early Spring 2025.*
- *Question > Where is the Cost-Benefit analysis? How much is it going to build and maintain? Haven't seen a budget circulated to date? (A) The development of the plan was all donated volunteer time; building trails will mostly be volunteers.*
- *Question(comment) > I would have been happier with rollout to membership to show a budget, maintenance costs, expectations re: liability. (A) There have been a lot of opportunities for input and some decisions made at the subcommittee level and Board levels.*
- c) Lease Renewal Update - Matt
 - *Have submitted the application to the Government of Alberta who are reviewing it*
 - *We are very fortunate to be situated on 1,000 acres of prime recreational land.*
- d) Request for Winter Season Member Feedback - Geo
 - *In previous years, volunteers supported the full time employee Groomer; this year there was a different approach*
 - *Winter Trail Director Geo Rawlins provided a verbal summary of the previous winter season – what worked well, what was challenging and some takeaways for next winter.*
 - *To date, there have been 59 responses to the survey – thanks to all who have taken the time to complete it. Still opportunity to do so via QR code or website links – closes April 30th.*
 - *Grooming team will be reviewing the feedback closely and incorporating feedback where possible into the 2025-2026 Winter season.*
- e) Summer Ski Trail Work Plan; maintenance, improvement – Cam
 - *Did a walk through with Geo to identify areas that needs work in the off season + areas we heard caused issues with winter grooming / widening work to allow equipment in and optimize - will get approval from Board for costing and priorities.*
 - *Camelbacks – did some work last year but not sufficient to make a difference so need to bring bigger equipment in Fall 2025.*
 - *Need to re-align Antler junction so classic and skate lines are good.*
- f) Branding & Logo Work - Christine
 - *Apologies that the project has taken longer than expected but have had a reset meeting with the designer and are moving forward again based on the original feedback received from Club Members.*
 - *Still pursuing a common image and leading with “Wapiti Nordic” in the text followed by interchangeable words “Centre”, “Ski Club”, “Biathlon”, “XC Race Team” and “Mtn Biking”.*
 - *Shared an image of the crest design to date and invitation to provide feedback or ask questions at the end of this meeting.*
 - *Next step is development of a color / story board, with goal of having the final package by then end of Summer 2025 or sooner and launch new logo in the Fall.*
- g) Fundraising – Serge & Christine
 - *Hard to find capacity / seeking someone who might step up to help with this in general – please refer to Board if you know someone. Support would be provided + boiler plate information that could be used for grant applications.*
 - *January 2025 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour was another success, netting the Club \$14,658 – almost exactly the same as in Jan 2024. There were 1150 tickets sold over*



three shows averaging 77% attendance (75% on Friday, 91% Saturday, 64% on Sunday). Still an opportunity to raise more funds next year if we can increase attendance further!

8. Winter Program/Event Reports

- a. Kids Learn to Ski Programs - Cori
 - i. *Just over 40 participants with majority taking advantage of the ski equipment loaner program.*
 - ii. *Ran from the first Saturday in January to early March despite challenging weather*
 - iii. *Special thanks to group leaders – Joann, Ian, Gabrielle and Nils. And to co-leaders – Ally, Cathy, Michael, Carol, Joanne and Milan.*
 - iv. *Actively seeking a Coordinator for this program for Winter 2025-2026. If one cannot be found, the back up plan is a less formal “Ski & Play” format where parents and children would engage in ski and play fun. Reach out to Cori or any Board member if interested.*
 - v. *Biathlon Bears Youth Program had three children in the program and used the EcoAim rifles. Started early November and wrapped up early March. There are plans to expand the program for Winter 2025-2026 via Try-It sessions and may move it from Sunday mornings to Saturday afternoons to take advantage of warmer afternoon temperatures. Cori and Davis plan to lead this program again.*

- b. Biathlon Development Team – Randy
 - *Had 15 athletes and three coaches this past season including several enthusiastic new young members and one older member who has joined the team. Evening ski practices were on Monday and Wednesdays, and Saturday + Sunday shooting practices.*
 - *Unfortunately, the weather played havoc with their competition schedule, cancelling all but one race.*
 - *Will take a break for a couple of months then begin dryland training – new faces welcome as summer is a great time to check out this sport before the snow and colder temperatures arrive!*
 - *New this year at some official events was the creation of the EcoAims category allowing parents and interested recreational skiers to try a biathlon race – turned out to be the largest category at the events where it was offered!*
 - *Planning is underway for next year with it being an Alberta Winter Games and an Arctic Winter Games year! Have applied for grants and camps are planned for Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray along with possibly a joint camp with Hinton Nordic.*
 - *Question > Were there only 2 races? (A) – Yes, Frozen Thunder and Hinton, with our Calforex was cancelled, then Canmore hosted a race shortly after – looking into this.*

- c. Cross Country Development Team - Amanda
 - *Had a great season with a full roster at majority of races; only missed one Alberta Cup which was cancelled.*
 - *Hosted the Alberta Cup in January 2025 and secured 150 registrations including local Jackrabbits. The Provincial technical delegates said our trails were World Cup class and gave great feedback to Wapiti Nordic groomers. While attending Cross Country Nationals in Canmore there was lots of talk about how excellent the event was.*
 - *The Team worked with Jackrabbits and the Biathlon Try-It to help out and cross coordinate.*

- d. Chicks on Sticks – Doris



- 86 chicks paid their fee = \$1,700 + \$70 day passes and rentals, with 45 ladies coming out at least once.
 - Started Nov 25th and ran until March 20th; cancelled x 6 due to weather + walked 6 nights.
 - Skied 28 days as Chicks averaged nine ladies per night. Biggest attendance was 21 chicks one night. Attracts a mix of people, an opportunity to meet others, -20c is cut off.
 - Was the 19th year of Chicks with Melissa and Doris hosting.
- e. School Programs – Doris
- Celtics Sports Academy is a key user group for skiing and snowshoeing and have their own instructor.
 - Other schools (usually Sports Academies) booking 4 x lesson series lead by Wapiti Nordic CANSI or NCCP certified instructors with a total of 34 x classes booked.
 - Most school groups include ski rentals (though not enough snowshoes on hand).
 - Planning for 100 kids to be on site on June 23 for end of school term activity.
- f. Lessons & Rentals - Christine
- Did not have an Operations Coordinator employee in place for Winter season so volunteer time was utilized where capacity allowed.
 - Thanks to our four Lodge Attendants this past Winter season: North, Miriam, JP and MJ who helped operate the rental room and keep the lodge ticking over.
 - Rentals were steady though challenged by fluctuation snow and temperatures on the weekends: 81 rental transactions, 63 of which were Classic ski sets, 11 Skate sets, 4 Snowshoes and 3 Poles.
 - Very busy between Christmas and New Years with 19 x rentals on Dec 28th and 9 more on Sunday 29th demonstrating it is important to have rentals available when people from out of town are visiting family in the GP area. Other rental peaks were driven by lesson days.
 - Several XC Instructors were not available this Winter – special thanks to Doug and Vashti who donated their time to teach the skate lessons.
 - Saw 14 x students total – would have had more but a very challenging winter with snow and temperature swings, especially for Beginners. Majority are “Never Evers” or “Haven’t skied since high school”. Good feedback on the 3 pack Classic Beginner lesson format.
 - Definitely need an Operations Coordinator to manage inquiries from the public, liaise with Instructors and students, post lesson options on Zone 4, reschedule lessons due to weather and host pre and post season sessions with Instructors. Winter 2025-2026 will be better!
- g. Provincial Event Hosting
- Alberta Cup was a very successful event in January 2025 and the volunteer support from the Membership and community was amazing plus great feedback from participants and parents.
 - Appreciate the financial support from all three local municipalities: County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview.
- h. Loppet - Cam
- Was a success even if it didn’t happen due to inclement weather making the trails unsafe.
 - Race course and medals were well thought out and will form the basis for next year’s event.

9. Board Member Elections 2025 – 2026

- Slate of nominees was confirmed via the voting chits distributed.



- *Note: Election of Board members requires the support of 50% + 1 of the members present at the General Meeting.*
 - *Election Results were:*
 - *President – Michael Morgan*
 - *Vice President – Cam Harris*
 - *Treasurer – Serge Martin*
 - *Secretary – Christine Rawlins*
 - *Directors: Randy Hopkins, Cori Janes, Matt Wild, Geo Rawlins, Eric Chislett, Ken Perry, Amanda Udey.*
 - **MOTION # 2025.04.27.02 – That the Election ballots be destroyed. Moved by Randy Hopkins, seconded by Geo Rawlins – CARRIED.**

10. Acknowledgement of Volunteers

- *Huge thanks to all volunteers in every capacity – including groomers and those that opened and closed the lodge through the winter months – everyone’s contribution keeps Wapiti Nordic active in your community!*

11. Adjournment @ 3:11pm