



**ROWING**  
**CANADA**  
**AVIRON**

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**Rowing Canada Aviron**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Conference Call**  
Wed. February 18, 2015  
5:30PM (PST) / 8:30PM (EST)

**Attendance:**

Michael Walker, President  
Brian Lamb, Director (Treasurer)  
Carol Purcer, Provincial Director  
Debbie Sage, Director  
Joel Finlay, Director  
Jon Beare, Athlete Director  
Rick Crooker, Director

Staff: Donna Atkinson, CEO  
Sid Murdoch, Secretary

**Other Presenters:**

Canadian Hall of Fame Working Group – Greg Rokosh, Chair; Bill Stephens

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

President Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. PST.

**2. Additions/Acceptance of Agenda**

- Nominating procedure will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.
- National Training Centre item was added.
- An In Camera item on Sponsorship was added

**MOTION #1: Board Meeting Agenda**

Moved: Debbie Sage                      Seconded,

That the Board Meeting Agenda, February 18, 2015, be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

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**3. Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION #2: Board Meeting Minutes – January 23-24, 2015**

Moved: Joel Finlay                      Seconded,

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Member of: F.I.S.A./Membre de F.I.S.A., Canadian Olympic Committee/Comité Olympique Canadien  
Canadian Paralympic Committee/Comité paralympique canadien

That the minutes of the January 23-24, 2015 meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

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### **3. Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame - Greg Rokosh and Bill Stephens**

The Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame Working Group (CRHF) representatives, Greg Rokosh and Bill Stephens, were welcomed to the meeting. Greg and Bill provided the following update to the Board.

The CRHF working group includes Greg Rokosh, Chair; Ian Moss, Secretary; George Darte; and Bill Stevens.

- The importance of RCA's support for the project was emphasized.
- There are 3 key issues that have to be addressed according to the CRHF:

#### 1. Budget:

- In order to continue and progress with the project, a funding source is required. It was noted that a detailed business plan including a budget have not yet been provided by the CRHF.

#### 2. Commitment:

- RCA and the Canadian rowing community need to show support for the Hall of Fame. It was noted that almost every other sport organization has a hall of fame except rowing.

#### 3. Expertise:

- A standing committee needs to be formed. This includes people with the expertise required to manage the business plan, create websites etc.
- A decision needs to be made if the CRHF will proceed immediately to prepare for initial Hall of Fame announcements at the 2015 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. This includes a reception, announcement details, communication with the recipients and other requirements. The Henley Commission has been contacted and are they ready to include a Hall of Fame ceremony at the 2015 event. Staffing and funding from RCA will be required in order to make it happen. However, the CRHF realizes that there are only 3 months to prepare.

#### Discussion:

- It was noted that the logistics of inducting 100 recipients at the initial ceremony might be difficult. It is very important that Hall of Fame inductees are honored properly and professionally.
- The business plan needs to be developed before proceeding with any announcements. There needs to be good communication around what the Hall of Fame is (ie. Virtual) and image | branding needs to be such that it is something we are all proud of.
- It was also noted that there is a building under development on Henley Island – the concept of including a form of “Hall of Fame” (ie. Museum, displays, recognition wall) has been and continues to be discussed.
- A preliminary budget has not been provided but the CRHF has provided an estimated per person cost for each individual proposed to be inducted into the first round of Hall of Fame inductees.
- If supported by the Board, the CRHF proposes to take the project to the initial ceremony. Following that, a standing committee of Rowing Canada should be formed to take over the project.

- The CRHF has approached Brock University to develop a website through a student internship at minimal cost.
- The CRHF requested that RCA consider and approve funding and development of the Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame and promote the idea among rowing clubs.
- Greg and Bill were thanked for their work on this project and left the meeting.

### MOTION #3: Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame

Moved: Joel Finlay    Seconded

That the RCA Board supports in principle the establishment of a Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame, subject to the development of a business plan to be developed in concert with the CEO.

CARRIED

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#### 4. President – Mike Walker

- The President and CEO met with a long term RCA donor in Ottawa recently and presented him with a national team signed oar blade for his contributions. It was a pleasure to meet he and his wife and have the opportunity to personally thank him for his support

#### 5.1 Governance Calendar

- A calendar of important governance dates was reviewed by the Board.
- The March Board meeting will begin Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> in the morning and conclude Sunday early in the afternoon. The schedule will be set to allow enough time for people travelling to Toronto to catch an afternoon flight.
- The election for directors will be held in September 2015. At its March meeting, the Board will consider amendments to the By-Laws related to the Semi-Annual Meeting voting. The importance of getting all members to vote was noted – this can be communicated through PAC also.
- There will be a fall in-person Board Meeting, date to be confirmed.

#### 5.2 Annual and Semi-Annual Meeting Debrief

- The voting participation rate was discussed. 75 out of 80 registered members voted for the Annual Meeting – a strong percentage for the first online meeting.
- The Semi-Annual meeting was well organized with few issues.
- It was noted that the plenary session could be limited to the Dues and Fees Committee report, except in years when there might be the need for extensive discussion on proposals, such as rules of racing changes.
- Need to organize the Board and PAC meetings at the conference so the Provincial Director can attend both meetings.

#### 6. CEO – Donna Atkinson

##### 6.1 Fundraising - COC and NSF Enhancement

- Rick and Donna met with the Canadian Olympic Fundraising (COF) regarding a proposal for funding and marketing. Strategies and challenges were reviewed at the meeting and support for RCA's funding proposal was given by the COF.
- Donna then met with the COC in Ottawa and a final proposal was discussed. The amount of funding proposed is \$300,000 for the period of February 2015 to December 2016. This includes the engagement of a professional (sport) fundraising consultant and start up commitments required to launch a professional and sustainable donor development

campaign. This also ties to facility enhancement and capital campaign initiatives.

- Waiting for final approval from the COC.
- Rick noted that the COF was ready to work with RCA immediately on the development of terms of reference for and selection of a professional fundraising consultant.

#### 6.2 National Training Centre Update

- The CEO provided an update on the meetings and work of staff regarding facilities
- A meeting was held with the staff of the Minister of Trade / BC regional minister regarding federal support that might be available
- Valuable information and advice on the availability of gas tax funding for recreation and sport infrastructure as well as contacts and process, was provided.
- The Board was update on several meetings held with municipal contacts to discuss facility options.

#### MOTION #4: In Camera

Moved: Brian Lamb    Seconded

That the meeting be move *In Camera*.

CARRIED

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#### MOTION #5: In Camera

Moved: Joel Finlay    Seconded

That the meeting be held *out of In Camera*.

CARRIED

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#### 7. Treasurer – Brian Lamb

- No report.

#### 8. Secretary

- Declaration forms will be delivered to members with the annual dues invoice sent in April. This is well in advance of the voting registration deadline.

#### 9. Provincial Director – Carol Purcer

- Meeting was held with PAC after the Semi-Annual Meeting. Major issue is the coaching pathway to have coaches ready for the Canada Summer Games.
- The next PAC Meeting is March 4th.

#### 10. Athlete Director – Jon Beare

- Met with Martin McElroy and Howard Campbell - physiological scores were good even though many of the athletes have been sick. Meeting with Al Morrow in Burnaby as well.

#### 11. Director – Rick Crooker

- No report.

#### 12. Director – Joel Finlay

- No report.

**13. Director – Debbie Sage**

- Regatta season in BC.
- The National Team Men attended an event at Brentwood College and spent time speaking with junior athletes – very well done by our team.

**14. Other Business**

- One of the athletes, Daniel DeGroot, was injured in an accident while at university in Princeton. Get well wishes have been sent to Daniel.
- It was noted that some of the womens lightweight rowers are training in Victoria. This is being managed and supported by the Women’s National Team Coach, with certain parameters set on timing and funding.

**15. Next Meeting**

**15.1 March Board Meeting:**

- March 21 – 22, 2015

**16. Adjournment**

- President Walker adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m. PST.