



**Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors
Sunday, January 27, 2013
Marriott-Minneapolis West**

Board Members Present:

President Dave Margenau
Director Tom Mickus
Director Mark Jacobs
Director Tom Christenson
Director Steve Oleheiser
Vice President John Perry
Director Nancy Wefler
Vice President Dave Bakke
Referee –in-Chief Eric Olson
Director O'Brien-Gillen

Vice President Scott Gray
Director Michelle Merth
Director Doug Kephart
Director Tim Timm
Director Dennis Bushy
Vice President Dave Stigen
Vice President Terry Evavold
Director Dave Swenson
Past President Dennis Green

Secretary-Treasurer Jerry DeMeo
Director Scott Dornfeld
Director Rich Rakness
Director Pete Hill
Director Mark Elliott
Director Scott Macho
Director Tim Morris
Chris Evanson for Director Brad Hewitt
Director Ralph Hayne

Staff Present:

Executive Director Glen Andresen, Administrative Assistant Kathy Hayes; Marketing Intern Derek Ricke; Parliamentarian Ginny Altman

Minnesota District Representatives:

Director Margenau Director Green Director Oleheiser Director Perry
Referee –in-Chief Steve Tatro Disabled Representative O'Brien-Gillen Risk Manager Bruce Kruger

Guests:

Rules Committee Chair Bob Halverson; North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association President Greg Evanson

President Margenau called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM, the roll was taken and 28 voting members present with 19 2/3 majority and 15 simply majority.

Minutes for the September were distributed previously for consideration and were approved with no corrections or additions.

There were no agenda changes or additions.

Treasurer's Report- Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo distributed the Balance Sheet and the P & L financials through December 31, 2012 and Profit and Loss for September 1-December 31, 2012. Cash & cash equivalent totals were shown at \$1,543,810.00. To date we have received 35% of our projected income and only 9% of our projected expenses. Based on our current budget analysis, we have projected a revenue deficit \$3,226.00 for 2013. This report was referred to audit with no objections.

Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo referred to the 2012 Annual Report that was previously distributed to the Board. This report contained a copy of the certified audit, including the Management Letter, and a copy of all stipends paid during FY 2012. He discussed some of the pertinent audit statements and the Management Letter, and asked for questions. A Motion was brought forth from the Finance & Budget Committee to accept the 2012 Annual Report with accompanying documents as submitted. Vice President Evavold seconded the Motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

A motion was brought forth from the Finance & Budget Committee to place the FY 2012 Audited Annual Report on the Minnesota Hockey Website. The motion is 2nd by Dennis Green. . **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Report – President Margenau recognized everyone’s time and effort to provide all of our players a place to play. The continuing challenge to all of us is to grow the game, keep a focus on developing all of our players and ensure our players are safe on and off the ice.

Executive Director: Executive Director Andresen referred to his written report that was included in the board packets, a copy of which is attached and incorporated into these Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Admin Management- President Margenau welcomed Glen Andresen, our new Executive Director, to his first Minnesota Hockey Board meeting.

Adult – Director Swenson reported that Hockey Finder has a new program in St Cloud and we are also looking to expand into Duluth. Adult Hockey Association (AHA) introduced 2 women’s programs adding 6 teams. Blaine’s numbers are flat but the winter season may correct that. AHA and Hockey Finder will help support and promote the Women’s Learn to skate at the Women’s Frozen Four. Our committee is still working on creating a Recreational Level State Tournament for Adults.

Adult Women- Director Wefler reported that WHAM has the season well on the way. We have the same amount of teams as last year. We are allowing some to move up and roster on 2 teams. We moved our State Tournament from the Super Rink to the Dakota ice Arena, March 15-17, 2013. We have been asked by USA Hockey to run a Try Hockey for Free event during the Women’s Frozen Four.

Audit – No Report

Disabled Hockey – Director O’Brien-Gillen reported that the Coaches Clinic Curriculum was not provided and we had to cancel the coach’s clinic event. We have 2 new teams in Duluth. We are introducing our first Disabled Hockey scholarship this year. There was a story in Let’s Play Hockey regarding one of the players and how his life changed once he started playing sled hockey. The article helped Treasure Island reverse their decision to reinstate their contribution to Disabled Hockey.

District Directors –Steve Olheiser reported that the group discussed the CEP and screening process. Tournament location for Bantam AA and Peewee AA will be put in the rotation next year to be in the same districts as the single A Tournaments. With the AA being a pilot program we will be evaluating the program so we are requesting feedback from all districts. After discussion we will follow the directions USA Hockey is taking with the major penalties. It has been noted that the teaching of checking at the Peewee level was lacking and would like to direct the Coaching Education program to address that issue. The districts survey regarding how game officials are addressed in each district will be passed out to the districts by President Margeneau.

- **District 1** –Director Mickus reported that the district is discussing the growth at Edgecombe, which has brought up a request to change their affiliate agreement which states they are a “C” level and would like to see it changed to “B2”level. Langford would like to get permission to scrimmage B2 teams.
- **District 2** – Director Merth reported that all is well.
- **District 3** –Director Dornfeld reported that the district preparing for February tournaments
- **District 4** –Director Jacobs - no report
- **District 5-** Director Kephart- reported that the combination league for District 4 and 5 creating a 22 team double elimination Peewee B district playoff has been challenging but will run smoothly.
- **District 6** – Chris Evans for Director Hewitt – No report
- **District 8** –Director Rakness- reported that the district is dealing with coaching issues.

- **District 9** –Director Christenson – reported that the district is getting ready for February playoffs.
- **District 10** – Director Timm –reported that the district is dealing with preparation for playoffs. District 10 has obtained a new scheduling program that Tim highly recommends.
- **District 11** – Director Hill-no report
- **District 12** – Director Olheiser –no report
- **District 15** –Director Bushy- no report
- **District 16** Director Elliott – no report

Diversity – Director Mickus –no report

Executive Committee – President Margenau reported that the committee discussed the recent financial plight in District 2. A Motion was brought forth by the committee to authorize and charter the Finance/Budget and Audit committees to develop a proposal to perform financial reviews of the Districts and report back to the board during the April meeting with a plan and related costs. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

The Executive Committee has been dealing with concerns of Hockey Operations and Terry Evavold has worked hard to put into place a process that all coaches and managers are screened and have certification.

President Margenau appointed an ad hoc committee, led by Bob Halverson, to look at Bylaw Article 6 - Appeals and Grievances - to help provide more guidance to our associations and board members, to simplify the grievance process and to better align with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

The Minnesota Hockey Fall meeting will be held at Arrowwood in Alexandria.

Finance and Budget –Secretary –Treasurer DeMeo reported that the Metro League Junior Gold committee requested a change in their budget to reduce revenue by \$1200 and increase expenses by \$1640.00. The committee recommended that the board approve this request. Without further discussion, **the Motion was approved with 27 for and 1 opposed.**

One Certificate of Deposit held by Republic Bank expires Feb 18, 2013 and may be renewed for an additional 13 months at the rate .85%. The certificates value is currently at \$132,212.00. The committee recommends renewal. **With no objections Motion carried.**

The committee recommended that the board approve a new credit card program which was recently introduced for non-profits by US Bank. The program carries no fees and offer a 1%cash back rebate. **With no objections Motion is carried.**

Girls League –Vice President Perry reported that thy met on Oct 7 in St Cloud. Doug Foster is the new League coordinator conducted the meeting. Region tournament formats have been established and will be put on the website. The Olympic Division was determined and will be announced soon. All teams have been made aware of the locker room policy and the League will follow up to make sure the policy is followed.

Grievance Committee- Secretary-Treasurer DeMeo reported that 3 grievances were addressed;

In District 3, a parent alleged that certain coaches were hazing team players. The association investigated the allegation and found that no hazing existed. The matter was brought to the District where, after a Hearing, determined that hazing did exist and referred the matter back to the association for handling. The matter was then appealed to the Maroon Region, where a 4 game suspension was levied against the team’s head coach and the association was placed on a one year probation, with a potential to lose the right to host invitational tournaments, for its failure to act in a timely fashion. The parent then brought the matter to the Grievance Committee, alleging that not all of the association’s members were penalized in accordance with USA Hockey’s policies. The committee agreed in part with this allegation and required that the team’s assistant coach also be given the same penalty as the

head coach. They added a hazing education requirement for both the coaches and key administrative members of the association. The parent has appealed to USA Hockey and their decision is pending.

A District 4 Parent alleged that the association rules regarding the placement of its players were too restrictive and requested relief from those restrictive rules. The committee affirmed the decision of the association as the rules, while deemed as restrictive by some, were made and approved by the association's members.

In District 3, an association suspended a parent for 3 years because of several association rules violations. After hearing the complaint, the Committee felt 3 years was too restrictive and amended the suspension to 1 year. This was also appealed to USA Hockey and their decision is pending

High School Girls – Tim Morris - no report.

High School Boys - Scott Macho reported High school coaches are currently submitting names for the High Performance. He provided a summary of the high school players trip to Russia. The players were selected through a nominations process and committee selection. The trip was funded by the State Department. . Scott reported that it was a great experience for all and there were no negative incidents during the trip.

Hockey Operations – Vice President Evavold referred to the reports that were included in the board folders, which included reports on the HP program and HEP. Copies of these reports are attached herewith and incorporated into these Minutes.

Handbook - Committee Chair Bob Halverson had no report

Junior Gold –Committee Chair Bruce Kruger reported that the Junior Gold A, B, and 16 State tournament will be in Plymouth hosted by Wayzata. John Perry questioned regarding the Jr. Gold B National Division league. There will a meeting with the coaches and will get more feedback. It is understood that there was some misconception issues.

Juniors – Director Hayne reported that there 210 junior teams in the USA. Most are for profit. The Minnesota Junior League is non-profit. There are three Minnesota for profit junior teams sanctioned by USA Hockey, but are playing the Superior International Junior Hockey League. This league has lost teams and is declining. Recently, the Duluth Clydesdales have been shut down by the league, due to numerous cancellations of games. The team has appealed to Hockey Canada.

USA Hockey is currently dealing with a number of issues with junior teams. The Junior Council is changing the structure to a caucus. 1 caucus is going to be formed from Pay-to-Play organizations and another caucus will be non-play to play organizations.

The junior team in Owatonna, currently owned by the MJHL will be locally owed. The 5 men who have been running the team have been successful and the MJHL is in the process of selling the team to them. Next year there will be a North American Hockey League Tier II team in Richfield.

MIAMA – Director Rakness reported there have been numerous issues with older teams breaking glass when playing cross ice games & practices.

Nominating committee - Past President Green, serving as Chair, reported there are 5 terms expiring.. President, VP Maroon coordinator, VP Publicity Promotions , Women's Director and the USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Section. The elections will be held during the Annual Meeting in April.

Planning committee – Vice President Bakke stated his report presented during the Planning Committee meeting on Saturday, January 25, stands as submitted.

Publicity and Promotions – Vice President Gray referred to his written report that was included in the board folder. A copy of his report is attached hereto and is incorporated into these Minutes.

Recreation League – Director Mickus reported the league is up to 18 teams from 15 last year. Ice is still a concern. We have received Scholarships from the NHL Alumni association. There are 265 kids registered. Director Swenson questioned where the voting numbers for these members are allocated. The President votes for these members.

Referees- Referee-In-Chief Olson reported he is focused on Checking From Behind enhanced penalties reporting. He provided a report that summarizes their findings. We were able to get the word out to the officials and at the seminars. District Directors are supporting the USA Hockey Safe sport progressive penalty for majors. Questioned by Director Olheiser why the number of major penalties has almost doubled. Penalties that were minors last year are now majors under the “Penalty Pilot” program.

Regional Coordinators – Vice President Stigen had no Gold Region report. Vice President Parry reported that the Maroon Region is sending the tournament brackets to Derek Ricke for publishing. The State and Region banners for the tournaments are being sent out ahead of time. Later banners of participating teams will go out.

Rules – Committee Chair Bob Halverson brought forth several proposed Bylaws & Rules changes:

Bylaw change B1 Article 7-**Board of Directors**-this change will allow all women teams, including those who are not a part of the Women’s Hockey Association of Minnesota (WHAM) to vote at a caucus for their director as is done with Adults and juniors and not just women’s teams from WHAM. If approved, this change would become effective immediately. **Motion carried unanimously**

Bylaw change B2 **Article 15 USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors**. This bylaw change will allow only female votes to be used in matters concerning USA Hockey Women’s Section Representative . There was some discussion regarding the need for such a change. Director Mickus questioned why the voting requirements aren’t the same for both men & women. A Motion was made by Director Mickus, and seconded by Director Merth, to take this vote by written ballot. **The Motion carried by a vote of 14 for and 8 opposed.** After a tabulation of all ballots, **the Motion was defeated by a tie in voting.** A Motion to destroy the ballots was made by Vice President Perry and 2nd by Director Timm. Motion carried unanimously..

Youth Playing Rules Change R1 – would amend the language in **Section II, Registration, paragraph B; sub-paragraph 2; Special Events** to remove the statement *“must comply with requirements established by MH”* and incorporate language which states *“and are subject to requirements imposed by MH”* . Without objection, **the change was adopted unanimously.**

Youth Playing Rules Changes R2 & R3 were presented in conjunction with each other. Change R2 would amend the language in **Section IV, Participation, Paragraph 2. Definitions**, by adding to the definition of the Association of School Attendance, after the word “waived”, the words and continues to attend school; and in **Subparagraph 3**, adding after the last sentence the words . If they stop attending school in that association’s area, they revert back to their Association of Residence for participation or waiver. Without objection, **the changes were adopted unanimously.** Change R3 would amend the language in **Paragraph 7** by deleting the last sentence *“Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.* Without objection, **the changes were adopted unanimously.**

Youth Playing Rules Change R4 would amend **Section VIII, Playing Rules** to delete **Paragraph E** in its entirety. Without objection, **the change was adopted unanimously.**

Youth Playing Rules Change R5 would amend **Section VIII, Playing Rule, Paragraph L** to change the last sentence to read *“Exception #1: For Mites, the time between activities can be reduced to 1 ½ hours.”* and insert a new sentence which reads: *“Exception #2 – in cases of limited competition, three games can be played in one day with the approval of the involved District Directors.”* The proposed change was referred to Safety and District Directors for comment..

The committee recommended withdrawal of proposed Affiliate Agreement change AA1 to allow further conversation with USA Hockey's legal counsel. Without objection, **the proposed change withdrawal was approved unanimously.**

The Committee proposed a change to the Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer protocol which would amend the language in paragraph one, adding to the end of the first sentence *"and is intended to be used for season-long transfers"* Without objection, **the change was adopted unanimously.**

The complete Rules Committee report is attached hereto and is incorporated into these Minutes.

Scholarships- no report.

Screening – Vice President Gray had no report. A question was brought forth by Director Timm regarding coaches who have been screened during the season and will also be coaching in the High Performance program. Vice President Gray responded that the best practice was to require that these coaches provide another consent form.

Tournaments –Director Timm reported that the committee will work with the District Directors for rotation for A/AA playoffs. We will be working with Districts 2, 3, 8 for the rotation on Junior Gold tournaments. A summary was provided about complaints regarding early start on Fridays for invitational tournaments. All members should be reminded that invitational tournaments are subject to a "buyers beware" situation.

The committee recommended the approval of a request from the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association that the Board rescind its previous motion approved during the 2012 winter meeting to withdraw the policy to pay for referees lodging during state tournaments. **The recommendation to rescind was approved with 26 for and 2 against.**

The committee recommended that the board approve payment for referee lodging expenses up to \$3,400 for the 2013 State tournaments, with such payments coming from the Tournament Committee's budget. **The recommendation to pay up to \$3,400 for referee lodging expense was approved with 27 for and 1 against.** The Tournaments Committee's budget will be changed accordingly.

Secretary-Treasurer requested that all committees submit their reports in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting so they may be included in the board folders.

USA Hockey Reports:

Director Margenau - referred to his written report, a copy of which was included in the board folders and is attached to these Minutes. He supplemented his report by providing an update on USA Hockey matters to come for the 2013-14 season, such as Growth of the game, USA Hockey fees, 7 years and up are free if they come out of a "Try Hockey for free event". Safe Sport Rule changes- Safe Sport off ice issues a comment was made by a representative where some complaints are never satisfied. Finance committee 35 Million income and expenses were 36 million. The biggest contributor was air fare and travel cost. President Margeneau serves on the committee on Alternatives to the fee structure. Committee is looking at no cost for 7 and 8 year players these reduction would reduce USA Hockey income by \$600 thousand dollar. . ADM Minnesota Hockey is behind the curve for using the hard dividers. 10 Affiliates are not asking for an exception to the mite cross ice rule. 5 have applied for exception and USA Hockey has accepted 2 and sent 3 back.

Director Green – Youth council, rink dividers can be found at Rink systems their phone number is 507-373-9174. Hockey Day across America is Feb 15-17th. "Try hockey for free" are running on that weekend. USA Hockey Membership committee is looking at eliminating signatures on rosters. Annual Congress June 5-8th. The winter meeting in Orland January 16-19th. Safe Sport training March or May for Scott Gray and in June Minnesota Hockey will get the information out to the associations.

Director Olheiser—referred to his written report.

Director Perry- Attended Council meetings as an observer. Attended 8U discussion also Safe Sport. Rules is switching to every 4 years in reviewing and changing. Council meetings it was asked to all recipients about how block grant was used. Growing the game was the majority answer. Attended Legal Council meeting and listened to debate regarding Article 6.

Referee-In-Chief Tatro – We are down 14 officials. Revamp education program and bring in more technology.

Risk Manager Kruger – accident claim forms can be obtained from your local registrars. 31 crime claims Minnesota had 7 claims.

Representative Foster referred to his written report, a copy of which was included in the board folders and is attached to these Minutes. He called special attention to a new program described in #3 on report-associations recognized for what they have done for girls hockey. 2013-2014 2 on 2 8U numbers are down. Only down 18 in retaining players. Event USA Hockey Frozen 4 "Try Hockey for free" for Adult women hockey and girls hockey. We are working on an Adult 1st goal program. 24 sets have been made available for the adult try hockey for free. Requesting minor officials for the girl's national games. For 2 out of 3 games is still pending.

Representative O'Brien-Gillen referred to her written report, a copy of which was included in the board folders and is attached to these Minutes. She emphasized that the "Try Hockey for free disabilities" is in the planning stages. This year's Festival is held the 3rd weekend in March in Philadelphia.

Old Business: There was no Old Business to discuss at this meeting

New Business:

Vice President Evavold referred to a report generated by an ad hoc committee established to study the impact of USA Hockey's recent proposed ruling requiring 8 & Under players to play cross ice. On behalf of the committee, he moved that the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors seek an exemption from the USA Hockey 8 and Under ruling that requires all games to be played cross ice to permit Minnesota to adopt a rule that will require 8 & Under teams to play cross ice or ½ ice during the first half of the season and no more than 10 full ice games during the 2nd half of the season, except with the district director approval. If this is accepted by USA Hockey, the Minnesota Hockey Board will support the rule change when it comes to them during the next meeting. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11: 45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Olson
Recording Secretary

I have reviewed the above Minutes and confirm that they represent the proceedings of this meeting of the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors, held on the 27th day of January, 2013.

Gerald R. DeMeo, Secretary-Treasurer
Minnesota Hockey