



## MNRFU Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 2, 2018 | 7:00-8:30pm

Phone Meeting

Present: Alexis Saari, Anne Barry, Dan Franklin, Eric Fallon, Rachel Hill, Angie Gaare, Megan Braun, Ryan Gatzke, Becky Reynolds, and Dan Talyor (listening)

### I. Welcome

Angie welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the time frame work in their schedules.

### II. AGM Recap and Action Items

AGM was held on February 24, 2018 at St. Johns University. A few open items discussed at the meeting include:

- **ACTION:** The following teams were not in attendance and did not attend via the webinar:
  - University of Minnesota – Duluth Men
  - St. Olaf Women
  - Luther College Women
  - Menagerie

The respective collegiate commissioners – Rachel & Eric – will reach to the clubs as appropriate to make sure they have all of the handouts and their invoices for the upcoming year. Rachel Hill will follow-up with the Menagerie since she currently plays for that club.

- **ACTION:** Technical Director – Ryan Gatzke - will make a plan for player and team development to spend the current development budget and a plan for future year's development
- **ACTION:** Request by teams for the Referee Society to share their financial report with the Union and teams to show use of the development money allocated by the Union. Tammy will work with Terpy to get a financial statement.

### III. Financial Report – Anne B.

- Currently have a balance of around \$3,300 in our checking account. To date, 5 teams have made their 2018 union dues and player fee payment. Payment have been made by women's collegiate club and senior men.
  - Expenses for this year to date: referee development and St. John facility use.
- *Request from Metropolis:* The Minnesota Valkyries have joined under the Metropolis for their administration. According to USA Rugby, they would need to register separate clubs and pay separately since co-ed rugby options end at 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Megan asked if there is a date that should be set for the spring that teams need to pay before they are put into Bad Standing. Anne said that last year the teams did a good job of paying and would like to do something similar.
  - **ACTION:** Collegiate Commissioners will follow-up with the teams reminding them that their dues and fees were due on April 1. Those teams with outstanding payments due from last year are: St. Thomas Men, UND Men, and St. Olaf women.

- **ACTION:** Anne will connect with Megan the week prior to All Saints to put any attending teams in Bad Standing as needed.

#### **IV. Disciplinary Update – Megan B.**

- Going into Spring 2018, there is still one player suspended – Geo Humphries – who has also been marked as suspended in USA Rugby’s system as well.
- There is an upcoming Midwest Disciplinary call, Megan will share any new disciplinary news that arises after this call.
- St. Thomas Coaching issue – Tom Schmitt – has yet to respond to the last communication which was a second request for him to select Board Members for an appeal. St. Thomas players asked about it at the AGM and were told it is waiting on his response. He has not been marked as suspended with USA Rugby. His initial suspensions would be complete following the Spring 2018 season.

#### **V. Referee Society Update – Tammy**

- Referees held a Level 1 Officiating in conjunction with the AGM.
- **ACTION:** Tammy will work with Terpy to get a breakdown sent out as to matches covered and overall expenses that includes the development allocation from the Union. This can be sent out through the newsletter that will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### **VI. Calendars and Roundtable Updates – Angie/All**

- Events on the Calendar
  - Wayne State Tournament – April 7-8
  - U24 Women & Senior Women – April 14-15
  - Fool’s Fest 7s (Winona) – April 14
  - All Saints – April 21-22
  - Senior Men Midwest Regional – April 21-22
  - SNAFU (Fargo) – April 28
  - U24 Men & Senior All Star Event – May 5
  - UND Sandbagger (Grand Forks) – May 5

#### **VII. Communication Discussion – Becky**

- Facebook Set Up – Looking to change the name of our Facebook page to include Senior teams and information. The page is currently name MN Men’s and Women’s Collegiate Rugby; so by changing the page name to the MN Rugby Union it can cover both.
  - There can be groups on the page set-up so each commissioner can manage and communicate through in a timely manner.
  - **ACTION:** Becky will request the name change from Facebook for the page and will set-up the groups and name the Commissioners as Admins of the group.
- Member Communication – would like to have a newsletter platform through MailChimp or the USA Rugby email communication. Would require everyone to commit to submitting articles in a timely manner. We would look to have information like: law updates, disciplinary items, calendar, schedule updates, etc. Tammy gets one from Eastern Penn that she will forward to Becky for a sample.
  - Dissemination would for sure go to club contacts, players, and then posted to Facebook and website as well.

- **ACTION:** Would like to start this in April before people leave school, so would need to have information from the board by April 10. Looking for articles on the following:
  - Angie – introduction letter
  - Rachel – article for Women’s Collegiate
  - Tammy – law section & financial report
  - Becky – update club contacts before you leave
- Website updates:
  - **ACTION:** Update the Officer page to put emails with their name. See if there is a different
  - **ACTION:** Update news articles and calendar with current information.

**VIII. All Minnesota Tournament Discussion – Eric**

- Eric and Rachel both heard from their teams at the AGM that one of the barriers is not having full sides that early in the season. Looking for a way to facilitate combining partial teams to compete.
- Out of state teams – Becky R had sent out emails to teams in Minnesota and Wisconsin in the past years to invite them to attend.
- Give discounts for second teams and those that help with set-up and tear down. There is not a discount for the registration fee because the tournament is subsidized by the union fees, so outside union team pay a lot more to attend.
- In the past years, Becky had sent out the emails to teams on July 1 with the registration deadline with three follow-up emails. It is also on the website and on the Facebook event. It can be put in the newsletter as a Save-the-Date reminder as well.
- Dan Franklin handles the overall logistics of the event.

**IX. Strategic Plan – Angie**

- Angie would like to create a 20-year strategic plan for the vision of rugby in Minnesota. From all different perspective to help with development of players, coaches, referees, and administrators.
- Volunteers to assist with the process: Ryan Gatzke and Megan Braun
- Angie will talk about this in her newsletter article.

**X. Additional Items**

- Tammy asked about when the schedule for the fall would be out as well as the future of ICC in our conference.
  - Rachel said that she has a couple of draft schedule from Roger and a few notes that she needs to follow-up with clubs like Morris Women who do not currently have a full 15s side for playing options.
  - Eric will be looking at the past schedule as taking the idea of the hybrid league from two season ago to make the collegiate men’s schedule. At the competitions meeting, it seemed like more teams wanted to play that style – especially the NSCRO teams – rather than the one crossover match they had this fall.
    - ICC – Eric spoke with the coach afterwards and he seemed most interested in playing in a D2 league next year. Granted there are still some player issues that may be forced by regulations from either USA Rugby or NSCRO to dictate their play.

- Tammy asked if they needed to be in our conference and since they were accepted by the membership in 2017, it would take a 2/3 vote of the teams to remove them from the competition. This motion of a meeting would need to be done by a member team – this is not something the board can do unless there are disciplinary issues (which there are not in this case).
- **ACTION:** Eric will reach out to ICCC again and see if they are still looking at the D2 national pathway. As well as speak with other teams about their thoughts on their continued competition in the Northern Lights Conference.

Next meeting will be in May – Angie will send out some date options.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.