# Minutes USA Triathlon Board of Directors Teleconference Call July 2, 2012

#### **Board Members Present:**

Bob Wendling, President

**Barry Siff** 

Jack Weiss

Victor Plata

John Lines

Steven Sexton

Kevin Smeltzer

Kevin Sullivan

Charles Baker

Dave Kuendig

**Brian Harrington** 

Melissa Merson, Ex officio

Vince O'Brien – joined at 6:23pm MST

#### Staff:

Rob Urbach, CEO

Meeting Began at 6:07pm MST

**Motion** to add agenda item regarding the Nominating and Governance Committee's report regarding the status of paratriathlete's eligibility to serve as athlete representatives (Lines/Seconded). Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

# **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 2nd (Lines/Seconded) Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Treasurer's Report** – Jack Weiss (attached)

Memberships - Adult membership has flat-lined, but youth membership is still going up significantly. USOC audit report for years ending in 2010 and 2011 – It was a good report. Two items highlighted in the report included loss of one-day license fees and a recommendation for a different amortization method. One-day license fee issue should be corrected by the new online registration program.

Olympic distance racing is off 9%, possibly because of increased numbers in other distances.

Question: what are the most popular distances? The sprint is the most popular distance by sheer numbers.

#### Office Update - Rob Urbach

Update on Age Group National Championships in Burlington, Vermont. Increased spaces by 300 slots. Current registrations - ~2,300 for Olympic, ~1,100 for the sprint. The biggest Age-Group Nationals ever. Youth Aquathlon Series – 3 of 30 races have been held. Youth are being introduced to multisport

Website – arguably the best in the NGB business. The USOC has asked USAT to help them with their web site. Maintenance is expensive. Choices are to maintain it, take it in-house, or partner with the USOC or other large player like Yahoo.

Elite Athlete Election – working on finalizing the ballot.

New hire for paratriathlon.

Medical Review Panel – Any potential policy changes should be confirmed for the next board meeting to make recommendations.

### New Challenges:

USAT Race Calendar – can be made more robust on the web site.

Coaches program – can improve coaching referrals for members based on their racing patterns.

Staff Development – Plans to reward staff development and training opportunities to meet new challenges. Plan to emphasize meritocracy to promote and reward staff.

Double Gold at World Cup in Spain for Verzbicus and Jorgensen.

### Strategic Planning Committee Report – Barry Siff

The SP Committee is composed of:

**Barry Siff** 

Dave Kuendig (athlete representative)

Pam Zawada

Chuck Graziano

Eric Averill.

Rob Urbach and Bob Wendling have participated in meetings.

Burlington Meeting – the SP Committee will meet prior to Burlington with a facilitator to help develop a strategic plan. The USOC has offered financial support to cover the facilitator identified by Averill. Cost is estimated at \$5,500. Discussion of committee member Eric Averill as the point person on the SP Committee, and multiple members from the NE Region on the committee. No action taken.

#### New Mission and Vision Statement proposals:

New statements for the Board to consider for a vote at a future date.

Mission: Grow and strengthen triathlon and its derivative sports.

Vision: To provide all in the triathlon community the resources required to reach their full potential.

#### IR Committee Report – Melissa Merson (report attached)

Reported on San Diego ITU WTS event success, and that the bids for the 2014 Grand Finale would soon be published by the ITU and that San Diego could be a candidate city.

Triathlon America and ITU leadership had relationship building opportunity in TA's recent conference.

As a direct result of the meeting, a post Olympic Triathlon reception event has been organized in London. Active will sponsor the event.

Sport Accord Convention – Melissa attended the convention of Olympic federations and cities interested in hosting events.

IR Committee approved the USAT PATCO leadership nominations.

World Cross Championships – it was a successful race, despite being held one week after San Diego.

There may be potential for USAT to develop a relationship with XTerra in the future.

Question: when does the next decision need to be made regarding San Diego? The current contract is for two years. The bid will be for 2014 Grand Finale and Age-Group Worlds. The ITU Board vote will be in Auckland. One hurdle is that the San Diego venue is not available in September, which is the

typical month for the Grand Finale, though there is flexibility in the schedule as demonstrated by Auckland being held in October.

#### **New Business**

#### **USAT Foundation - Rob Urbach**

Reported on FAQs that were sent to the board.

Recommendation - the Foundation should be a separate entity, with limited liability risk to USAT.

The relationship between the Board and the Foundation – USAT Board would be the sole member of the Foundation. Specific funding decisions will be made by the trustees of the Foundation.

Question: where are the current Foundation funds sitting? In the USAT general fund.

**ACTION ITEM**: A formal Foundation Proposal will be presented to the Board at the Board meeting in Vermont for approval.

#### Board of Director access to USAT Records - Steve Sexton

Discussion regarding denial of Board member request for USA Triathlon documents. It was noted that USAT is still incorporated under California law, and that California Nonprofit Law Section 6334 requires directors of non-profit corporations to have access to all corporates documents under.

**Motion**: That the Nominating and Governance Committee investigate and make a recommendation to the Board as to the rights of Board members to access documents of USA Triathlon (Plata/Seconded).

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

President called a member (Sexton) out of order.

# Philadelphia Tri Disqualifications - Dave Kuendig

Half the women's elite field was disqualified at the Philadelphia triathlon for cutting the swim course. Four of them have filed an appeal. This may be a symptom that elite non-drafting rules may be antiquated. Rules changes have international implications. There was a discussion on the current state of WTC, ITU and USAT rules harmonization. The IR Committee was created to promote rules harmonization. WTC has indicated that it is willing to adopt ITU rules in the interest of harmonizing international rules. Regarding Philadelphia, the problem may have been due to pre-race briefing information.

**Motion**: To create a task force called the "Elite Non-Drafting Rules Review Task Force" with the following charter - to review all elite rules and enforcement of such rules (Weiss/Seconded).

Friendly Amendment (accepted by Weiss)—that the TF include Charlie Crawford, a race director, and athlete member.

#### **Unfinished Business**

Motion that the Board adopt the report of the Nominating and Governance Committee regarding the right of paratriathletes to run as Athlete Directors (Plata/Seconded).

Motion to table the Motion (Sexton/Seconded).

Barry Siff y

Jack Weiss n

Victor Plata n

John Lines y

Steven Sexton y

Kevin Smeltzer n

Kevin Sullivan n

Charles Baker y

Dave Kuendig y

Vince O'Brien n Motion to table failed

Motion withdrawn (Plata), accepted by unanimous consent.

Motion to adjourn 7:49PM MST