



Annual General Meeting
Sunday, September 24th, 2023 at 9:00 am ET
Hôtel Universel Montréal, 5000 Sherbrooke St E
Montreal, Quebec

Present:

Kathleen Dawson, WPC President
Josée Lanouette, WPC Vice-President
Erin Lukie, WPC Director
Catherine Code, WPC Director,
Hélène Tournier, WPC Director
Kyam Shell-Schnitzer, WPC Director
Jared Gillespie, WPC Director
Bill Meyer, WPC Director
Nic Youngblud, WPC Director (Proxy held by: Catherine Code)
Jeff Deptuck, AWPA Treasurer
Dayna Christmas, AWPA Executive Director
Jana Salat, WPQ President
J.P. Chartier, WPQ Executive Director
Lisa Cupples, MWPA President
Ben Bouwer, OWP Treasurer & Interim President

Dwayne Donald, WPS President
Cyril Dorgigné, WPS Executive Director
Jenna MacEachern, President
Steve Chenier, WPC Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Muir, WPC Staff
Eric Smith, WPC Staff
Janis Loach, WPC Staff
Kelsey Dayler, WPC Staff
Olivier Pineau, WPC Staff
Rebekka Steenkamer, WPC Staff
Valerie Koch, Sport Law

Regrets:

Oleg Stratiev, WPC Director
Shane Solomon, WPW President
Keith Ryan, WPW Executive Director

Nishant Damani, OWP Executive Director
Mitch Kauffman, WPC Staff
Water Polo Newfoundland and
Labrador

Minutes recorder: Valerie Koch, Sport Law

Action Meeting convened at 9:04 am ET.

Item 1 Meeting called to order

- K. Dawson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am ET.
- K. Dawson welcomed attendees on behalf of Water Polo Canada (WPC) and thanked WPC's funding partners and staff.
- The traditional lands of the Indigenous peoples recognized and acknowledged.
- Welcome on behalf of the WPC directors to members and staff.
- A moment of silence was observed to remember lost members of the water polo community.

Item 2 Confirmation of voting credentials

- Water Polo West (WPW): *Not Present (0 votes)*
- Alberta Water Polo Association (AWPA): Jeff Deptuck (13 votes)
- Water Polo Saskatchewan (WPS): Dwayne Donald (7 votes)
- Manitoba Water Polo Association (MWPA): Lisa Cupples (6 votes)
- Ontario Water Polo (OWP): Ben Bouwer (24 votes)
- Water Polo Quebec (WPQ): Jana Salat (13 votes)
- Water Polo Nova Scotia (WPNS): Jenna MacEachern (2 votes)
- Water Polo Newfoundland & Labrador (WPNL): *Not Present (0 votes)*
- Directors
 - Kathleen Dawson (0 votes)
 - Josée Lanouette (1 vote)
 - Catherine Code (1 vote)
 - Jared Gillespie (1 vote)

- Erin Lukie (1 vote)
- Bill Meyer (1 vote)
- Kyam Schell-Schnitzer (1 vote)
- H  l  ne Tournier (1 vote)
- Nic Youngblud (1 vote) – proxy given to Catherine Code
- Oleg Stratiev (0 votes) – not present

- **There are seventy-three (73) confirmed votes in total.**
- Thirty-eight (38) votes will be required to pass a resolution.
- Forty-nine (49) votes will be required to pass a special resolution (two-thirds majority).
- Fourteen (14) voting members are present representing six (6) Provincial/Territorial sections.
- **K. Dawson declares quorum.**

Item 3 Vote on adoption of agenda

Motion #1: To approve the agenda as circulated.

- Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved.

Item 4 Declaration of conflicts of interest

- No conflicts of interest declared.

Item 5 Vote on acceptance of previous minutes

Motion #2: To approve the minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting with revision.

- D. Donald indicated a typographical error at *Item 11 – Financial Report*. Minutes should read “federal funding,” rather than “provincial funding.”
- Error has been noted and minutes will be revised.

Motion carried.

Item 6 Business arising from previous year’s AGM.

- There was a motion made and passed at the 2022 AGM

requiring a review of WPC's Safe Sport Surcharge. This was to be completed in conjunction with WPC's Member PSOs.

- K. Dawson informed the attendees that the Safe Sport Surcharge review has been completed, and the results were shared with WPC's Member PSOs. Going forward, the Operations Council is committed to looking at the best ways to increase the surcharge, as needed.
- The following action items from the 2022 AGM have also been completed or are underway:
 - WPC financial statements with clear line items were provided to WPC's Member PSOs as part of the 2023 AGM package.
 - Emails and a small gift of recognition will be sent shortly to the winners of Volunteer of the Year, including past years.
 - The Presidents' Council will further discuss the official language of the WPC by-laws .
 - Planning for a Leadership Summit has begun, and an initial plan should be in place by the next Annual Meeting.
- D. Donald asked about Section #7 of Resolution #10: to refund athletes any surplus from the Age Group National Program.
 - S. Chenier informed the attendees that the refunds have been distributed and financial summaries were included in the 2023 AGM package.
 - O. Pineau clarified that the refund process remains ongoing for some teams.

Item 7 Annual reports from provinces and corporation committees

President's Report – Kathleen Dawson

- Written report.
- Thanked the WPC staff and Board of Directors for their hard work and support throughout the year. Welcomed new staff to the organization.

Member PSO Reports

WPW – Keith Ryan

- Written report.

AWPA – Dayna Christmas

- Written report.
- D. Christmas elaborated on points from her written report.
- The second year of the Club Alignment program has been a great success. AWPA has teams competing in all NCL divisions and two U15 teams going to Montreal to compete.
- Club retention at the 14U level has been great. This is a positive change seen post-Pandemic.
- AWPA is also continuing with the safe sport initiative and pilot program which is in its third year and has been going well.

WPS – Cyril Dorgigné

- Written report.
- C. Dorgigné elaborated on some points from his written report.
- WPS and its clubs continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- After many years investing in programming in Saskatoon, WPS is finally starting to see success. Key was finding an individual to champion water polo in the area.

MWPA – Lisa Cupples

- Written report.
- L. Cupples elaborated on points from her written report.
- MPWA experienced some challenges with respect to clubs merging and this was a very time-intensive process.
- MPWA has not completely recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic but has ideas for recovery.

OWP – Ben Bouwer

- Written report.
- B. Bouwer elaborated on some points from his written report
- OWP is seeing growth in its Regional Development Centres.
- David Hart has been brought on as the New High-Performance Advisor for OWP.
- OWP is seeing the emergence of smaller clubs rather than bigger clubs which were previously the predominate

model within the province.

WPQ - Jana Salat

- No written report submitted
- J. Salat provided verbal highlights.
- WPQ has experienced a challenging year due to staff turnover but are now fully staffed again.
- WPQ is looking forward to a fresh start and getting back on track.

WPNS – Jenna MacEachern

- No written report submitted.
- J. MacEachern provided verbal highlights.
- Jenna recently joined WPNS as President.
- WPNS was impacted by Water Polo New Brunswick’s decision not to join WPC this year.

WPNL

- No report received.

WPC Committee Reports

Audit & Finance Committee – Catherine Code

- Written report.
- The committee met eleven times this past year.
- Committee recommended the approval of WPC annual financial statement and annual budget.
- Financial statements were included in the 2023 AGM package.

Nominations Committee – Josée Lanouette

- Written report.
- J. Lanouette acknowledged the work of Matt McCormack.
- Committee has started examining recruitment and integration of an Athlete Representative to WPC’s Board of Directors.
- Moving forward, hoping to have an external Nominations Committee which will be independent of WPC’s Board of Directors.
- J. Lanouette also acknowledged that most nominees for election are from the Eastern provinces.

Governance & Risk Management Committee – Jared Gillespie

- Written report.
- Bulk of work during the year centered around updating policies to ensure compliance with the UCCMS and to become a signatory to the OSIC Agreement with the SDRCC.

Operations’ Council – Steve Chenier

- Written report.
- Intend to continue to have productive exchanges.
- S. Chenier thanked B. Meyer for being the Board Liaison to the Operations’ Council.
 - B. Meyer: The process is well established and there is a great opportunity for the Council to continue to grow from here. Andrew Muir did a great job with the RISE program.

Athletes’ Council – Erin Lukie

- Written report.
- Focus on important work being done in equity and diversity and safe sport.
- Thanked athletes on the Council for their time and effort.
- One position on the Council is still open if anyone knows any athletes who might be interested.

Hall of Fame Committee – Bill Meyer

- Written report.
- Planned and executed the second successful induction ceremony with a new format.
- The committee met monthly over the past year.
- B. Meyer acknowledged the members of the committee and the work they did.
- New members will be joining the Committee as others depart.

Presidents’ Council – Kathleen Dawson & Josée Lanouette

- Written report.
- The Council has a productive year with lots of participation.
- It has been a great venue for sharing best practices.
- K. Dawson indicated she will be scheduling phone calls with new presidents in the upcoming months.
- J. Lanouette invited presidents to invite other individuals from their boards to attend.

Item 8 Correspondence.

- No correspondence received.

Item 9 Notices of motion

- Four (4) documents were shared related to by-law updates and will be voted on.
- Motions to change WPC's by-laws require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Resolution #1: Motion to accept proposed amendments to the WPC by-laws for language and purpose.

Motion by C. Code, seconded by E. Lukie.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2: Motion to accept below listed additions/updates to the WPC by-laws to comply with the Canadian Sport Governance Code and the Canadian Not-for-Profit Act.

Motion by J. Lanouette, seconded by J. Gillespie.

L. Cupples proposed the following amendments to the resolution:

- Specify that Athlete Representative means a person who is retired and was a member of the Canadian National Team program.
- Remove “or competed at the international level” from the definition of Athlete Representative.
- Alter proposed update to section 5.8 Election Procedure, subsection d) to make the language more inclusive of all gender identities. Amend subsection to read “To ensure diversity, the Nominations Committee will take into consideration the gender identity of each director on the board whose term is not expiring at the meeting of Members. If more than sixty percent (60%) of individuals remaining on the board identify as one gender identity, nominees of that same gender identity will not be permitted to

stand for election.”

- Move the modified text from subsection d) of Section 5.8 Election Procedure to the end of Section 5.7 Nomination Procedure (will become subsection f).
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Motion to accept proposed amendments to Resolution #2 by L. Cupples, seconded by D. Donald – **Amendment carried.**

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #3: Motion to accept below listed additions to the WPC by-laws as proposed by the Board to allow for merged provincial/territorial bodies to act as a single member.

Motion by B. Meyer, seconded by E. Lukie.

L. Cupples proposed the following amendments to the resolution:

- Remove the abbreviation “provincial” from the definition of Provincial/Territorial Section in section 1.1 of the WPC by-laws.
- Remove “The board reserves the right to combine multiple provincial/territorial bodies and recognize them as one section for membership purposes.” from the definition of Provincial/Territorial Section in section 1.1 of the WPC by-laws.
- Add the following definition for Combined Section to Section 1.1 of the WPC by-laws: Combined Section “means the Board may propose to combine multiple Provinces/Territories to act as one combined section. Approval will be required at a meeting of the members.”
- Remove “bodies as approved by the board” from Section 2.1 of the WPC by-laws. Language is redundant.

Motion to accept proposed amendments to Resolution #3 by L. Cupples, seconded by B. Bouwer – **Carried.**

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #4: Motion to accept below-listed addition to Section 1.4 of the WPC by-law to define the language of the by-laws as proposed by the Board.

Motion by L. Cupples, seconded by J. Lanouette.

- J. Salat requested a recorded vote.

In favour:

- Manitoba Water Polo Association – 6 votes
- Alberta Water Polo Association – 13 votes
- E. Lukie – 1 vote
- J. Lanouette – 1 vote
- C. Code – 1 vote
- J. Gillespie – 1 vote
- B. Meyer – 1 vote
- N. Youngblud – 1 vote
- H. Tournier – 1 vote

Opposed:

- Water Polo Québec – 13 votes
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Abstained:

- Water Polo Ontario – 24 votes
- Water Polo Nova Scotia – 2 votes
- Water Polo Saskatchewan – 7 votes
- K. Shell-Schnitzer – 1 vote

Motion defeated.

There were no further motions from the floor.

Item 10 Financial report

- C. Code highlighted some key points of the written report and the audited financial statements.
- Finished the year in a net surplus position.
- Safe Sport Fund has decreased slightly.

Item 11 Appointment of auditor

Motion #3: To appoint KPMG as auditors for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Motion by C. Code, seconded by J. Gillespie.

- L. Cupples inquired as to how many years KPMG has been the auditors for WPC.
- D. Christmas indicated WPC has been using KPMG for at least 14 years.
- C. Code clarified that the Audit & Finance Committee indicated that because different managers oversee the audit between years, the length of use is not an issue at this time. In addition, KPMG offers very competitive rates.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 12 Volunteer of the year awards

- K. Dawson acknowledged that many PSOs have not had their AGMs yet and indicated that PSOs may email the name of their winners at a later date if needed.
- WPC – Recipient has not been selected yet.
- WPQ – Recipient has not been selected yet.
- OWP – Angelos Kotzambasis, past President of OWP
- MWPA – Will not be awarding this year.
- WPS – Alanne Lapierre, acknowledging her great work with WPS’s social media.
- AWPA – Jane Robarts, President of Calgary Wild Water Polo Club and instrumental to the club realignment project.
- NSWP – Recipient has not been selected yet.

Item 13 Appointment of scrutineers

- The WPC Board of Directors has appointed Valerie Koch of Sport Law to serve as the scrutineer for this meeting. Rebekka Steenkamer to assist as required.

Item 14 Election

- K. Dawson informed voting members that seven candidates put forth their name for election. The membership and directors can select up to four candidates when voting or abstain.

The results from the 2023 WPC Board of Directors elections are:

- Catherine Code, Ontario
- Adam Deffett, Ontario
- Christine Preece, Ontario
- Christina Skinner, Ontario

Item 15 New business

Motion #4: To thank departing WPC Directors – J. Gillespie, O. Stratiev, E. Lukie, B. Meyer – for their contributions to WPC and more generally to water polo in Canada.

Motion by J. Lanouette, seconded by C. Code.

- K. Dawson thanked the departing directors and highlighted their valuable contributions to the WPC board discussions.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 16 Next Annual Meeting

- The next AM will happen around this time next year. Exact dates and location will be announced at a future date.

Closing remarks

- K. Dawson thanked the Board for their work leading up to the AGM. She also acknowledged WPC's staff's hard work in organizing the AGM despite some challenges.

Item 17 Meeting adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am ET.