



WHAM Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2011	Time: 6:30 – 9:46 p.m.
Location: Davanni's Pizza, 66 th & Penn in Richfield	Minutes by: Erica Weiler

Meeting Attendees:

	4-11-11	5-16-11	7-11-11	8-8-11	9-6-11	10-3-11	11-14-11	12-12-11	1-9-12	2-6-12
President (term): Terry Provo							X	X		
President: Beth Larson	X	X	X	X	X					
Secretary: Sandi Wewerka	X	X								
Secretary: Erica Weiler			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Treasurer: Lori Jorgenson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Vice-President A: Alison Hanson		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Vice President B (term): Beth Chaplin							X	X		
Vice-President B: Carrie Peterson	X	X	X		X					
Vice-President C: Terry Provo	X	X								
Vice-President C: Gina (Ryan) Wright		X	X	X		X	X	X		
MN Women's Hockey Dir: Nancy Wefler		X				X	X	X		
Guests: Taylor Dornik, Dani Larson, Julie Hokeness, Lil MacDonald, Tito Elumba										

Attachments: None

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS/WHO
Previous Action Items:	<p><u>Completed Action Items from November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October minutes posted to website Teams with outstanding invoices have been notified Shooting Stars grievance has been resolved Email addresses for Grievance Committee members have been removed from WHAM site Official rosters have been corrected on WHAM site for all teams President & B Division VP email addresses have been routed to the new Board members <p><u>Action Items Still Requiring Attention from November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add Current President's name to bank accounts Need to confirm that there is a GC member from A1 Division for this year 	<p>Bank accounts – Provo, Jorganson</p> <p>A1 GC Rep – Hanson</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B Division VP needs to log in to WHAM email • Discount Wild Tickets announcement needs to be posted to the website • Gather information about a Whitecaps sponsorship for this year • Discussion with Referee scheduler & supervisor about how to avoid Officials working games at their skating level • Ad Hoc Committee discussion regarding league growth – January 2nd at 3:00 pm 	<p>B VP email – Chaplin</p> <p>Wild Tickets & Whitecaps info – Hockinson-Spande</p> <p>Referee Discussion – Provo</p>
President's Report: Terry Provo	<p>Due to the length of the discussion regarding the issues brought up by the guests, the discussion of WHAM apparel & advertising will be tabled until January Board meeting.</p> <p>New tracking system for issues (grievances, complaints, and disciplinary actions) received by the Board to date in this season is detailed under last item of "New Business".</p>	<p>WHAM Apparel & Advertising discussion in January – Provo</p>
Secretary's Report: Erica Weiler	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes from 11/14/11 Board meeting and the motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Post November minutes to website – Weiler</p>
Treasurer's Report: Lori Jorgenson	<p>Fall meeting outstanding notices – 3 teams have received notice of fines but have not yet paid them. A2 MN Maroons, C1 Inside Edge and C2 Galaxy have been contacted by their respective Division VPs regarding these fines.</p>	<p>Follow up with teams who still have outstanding fines – Hanson & Wright</p>
A Vice-President's Report: Alison Hanson	<p>Alison was not at the meeting because of birth of her first child. Congratulations to Alison!</p>	
B Vice-President's Report: Beth Chaplin	<p>Working on some of the issues in the B Division including the Puck Hogs style of play in B2 and the Shooting Stars grievance.</p>	<p>Continue to work complaints in B2 – Chaplin</p>
C Vice-President's Report: Gina Wright	<p>Working to close out issues regarding the complaints about level of play of some Macalester players in C2.</p>	<p>Finish up level of play complaints in C2 – Wright</p>
MN Hockey Women's Director:	<p>MN Hockey meeting will be after WHAM's January Board meeting; Nancy will have a MN Hockey report to share at the February WHAM Board meeting.</p>	



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Nancy Wefler		
Old Business/Previous Action Items		
League Administrator Contract	Updated contract has been signed by the President & sent to the League Administrator for review.	Sign & return contract – Hockinson-Spande
Processing Score Sheets	Confirm with the stat coordinators for that teams are in compliance on the score sheets effective December 1. Any teams that have late score sheets after December 1 should now have their points adjusted accordingly.	Confirm whether or not teams are in compliance – Provo
New Business		
Inclement Weather Policy – Lil McDonald	Lil McDonald came to the meeting to ask whether WHAM would consider adding more specific language to the rules regarding the procedure for dealing with game cancellations during inclement weather. She had raised the issue last season when her own team was involved in a disagreement with another team about whether to cancel and reschedule a game that occurred during a particularly bad snow storm near the end of the 2010-11 season. On the date in question, youth & adult hockey games were being cancelled, but neither WHAM team wished to forfeit the game because a forfeit that late in the season had the likelihood to change the outcome of who would go to the League Tournament for that division. Despite the close team standings issue, neither team felt it was safe to travel either. Lil was asking for specific language that gives teams clear and safe guidelines for cancelling games when weather and/or road conditions may be dangerous. An example might be that when it is a matter of public safety (i.e. when there is an advisory such that public officials are warning against unnecessary travel), the WHAM Board could step in & say that all games scheduled for that day that have not already been played are cancelled for the safety of the recreational organization's members. Other sports associations communicate this information via their website; WHAM could do something similar – posting on whamhockey.org that games are cancelled for that day in addition to contacting the affected team managers individually via email or phone. Any changes proposed in the inclement weather policy would not go into effect until the 2012-13 season, at earliest. Lil was asked, that is she had access to similar policies from other associations, to please send those to the Board for consideration.	Consider specific language in the 2012 – 2013 handbook that gives more objective guidance about the cancelling of games during dangerous weather or road conditions. - Board
USA Hockey Women's/Girls' Representative from MN District – Tito	Most adult women who play hockey and wish to find significant competition must travel elsewhere to do so. For women who live in Minnesota, that is not necessarily the case. Minnesota hockey is the third largest hockey organization world-wide in terms of membership numbers behind Hockey Canada (#1) and USA Hockey (#2). This also means that, because of size, Minnesota may be permitted to send an "extra" team to tournaments	



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<p>Elumba</p>	<p>if there were an open berth because another organization inside USA Hockey was not fielding a team for a given year.</p> <p>USA Hockey holds three meetings a year, in September, January and June. Tito takes the formal declarations for teams going to Nationals from Minnesota by the appropriate deadlines. A- and B-level teams go to Nationals from Minnesota every year; sometimes Minnesota fields a C-level team, and sometimes not simply because of the difference in level of play between WHAM and the rest of the country. It was suggested that if a C-level team is going this year, Sue Ring-Jarvi may be helping to put one together. Bonnie Hasen, the MN Hockey Women's Registrar will need copies of the rosters for these teams.</p> <p>The USA Hockey website also has information in its annual guide regarding competitive levels, including a description of play at that level. The Annual Guide can be found here: http://www.usahockey.com/uploadedFiles/USAHockey/southeast48/Document_Library/2011-12%20Annual%20Guide.pdf. WHAM levels of play, particularly the C division, are not necessarily in sync with levels of play in other districts simply because WHAM has so many more participating members than some other districts do. Because of this, WHAM is able to break down experience levels a lot more than other districts can.</p> <p>Numerous tournament opportunities exist if any WHAM teams or players from several teams would like form a team to travel and participate in hockey a little further away from home. For example, registering a 30 & over team for a tournament requires little formality in terms of games played together as a team, as long as the team is comprised of skaters who are USA Hockey members and who meet the age requirement.</p> <p>Getting sanctioning for tournaments can get complicated. If a tournament is sanctioned, all teams involved in the tournament have been properly (and completely) registered under USA Hockey (and its insurance).</p>	<p>Find out from Sue Ring-Jarvi if a C team is planned for Nationals -- Hanson</p>
<p>Puck Hogs – Penalty Minutes & Division complaints – Dani Larson & Taylor Dornik</p>	<p>Multiple complaints in B2 regarding the Puck Hogs' aggressive style of play and number of penalty minutes have been received by the Board. Representatives of the Puck Hogs attended the Board meeting to discuss these complaints with the Board, as well as the team's proposed plan of action for addressing the complaints received.</p> <p>The Puck Hogs was formed as a new B1 team several seasons ago by players who all assessed at the B1 level. The players were new to WHAM and new as a team, so that first</p>	<p>Continue to work on this issue cooperatively with the Puck Hogs managers – Chaplin</p>



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	<p>year was filled with the frustration of learning to work together as a team while losing by significant margins to the more established teams in B1. That season the team was also assessed a large number of penalty minutes, generally because of the frustration the new players felt during those B1 games. Last season, the team moved down to B2 and after playing in B2 for a year, the team believes they are a good fit because they are competitive with most of the teams there without utterly dominating the division. However, the team is still comprised primarily of younger players who have been coached to play a more physical style of play than many of the established B2 teams feel comfortable with. When the team moved from B1 to B2, the average number of penalty minutes per game dropped for the team, but complaints have persisted in the division, especially since a particularly rough game on 11/18/2011. Terry Provo and Beth Chaplin have been working with the Puck Hogs on this and several games have been attended by Board members to monitor the team's style of play. Dani Larson stated that she has working with the team to further decrease their penalty minutes, and that this point has been stressed by managers in the locker room before the game and on the bench during the game. She stated they've been consciously trying to avoid penalties and have been making a concerted effort to play in a less physical manner. The Board was pleased to see the improvement since the complaints were brought to the team's attention, and the Board will be monitoring the team closely throughout the remainder of the season to make sure their style of play does not regress, and that penalty minutes are kept within averages for the division. The Puck Hogs asked that opposing teams give them feedback on their style of play and was receptive to the having Beth Chaplin write a letter in this regard to all B2 teams.</p> <p>The second discussion point with the Puck Hogs was regarding a current Puck Hogs' player who had an outstanding financial obligation to a previous team and who had recently had her eligibility revoked until the obligation was met. A check for the debt was given to the Board, who will pass it on to the previous team. The player's eligibility will be reinstated. Dani Larson mentioned that in a previous season, they had asked for the Board's help in settling a debt owed by a previous player and evidently the Board was unwilling to assist, stating it that it was a team issue. The Puck Hogs wished simply to point out this inconsistency and requested that the Board enforce the rules in a consistent manner. Terry stated that the Board can, and will, intervene if there is a reasonable amount of documentation that the debt has not been paid. The Board encourages all teams to consider having players sign a letter of understanding that spells out the financial obligation of all players. A template for that letter may be found on the website at:</p>	



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	http://www.whamhockey.org/page/show/101484-wham-rules-and-forms .	
Women & Girls in Sports Day	<p>Suggestions for how to get word out that WHAM exists, both in general and specifically at the Women & Girls in Sports Celebration was discussed. WHAM will be renting a table for the event. Suggestions included table runners, pop-up banners, brochures, bracelets or wristbands. A suggestion was also made that local arenas are often looking for sponsors – putting signage on women’s bathroom doors inside arenas would also get the word out to women who are there watching youth games.</p>	<p>Work on marketing ideas for WHAM booth – Wefler, Hockinson-Spande</p> <p>Confirm that check sent to pay for table at event has been received – Jorgenson</p>
Clarification of Misconduct vs Game Misconduct	<p>Discussion had regarding misconduct & game misconduct. Reminder should be made to the officials that a misconduct penalty needs to be reported if it happens in a WHAM game, as do 3 minor penalties by a single player in a single game. Officials are already aware that game misconduct penalties are reported to the referee supervisor.</p>	
Incident Log	<p>Terry has initiated an Excel spreadsheet that will be used to keep track of all incidents (e.g. disciplinary actions, grievances, complaints, etc.). This will permit better and more timely follow-up on incidents, and will better allow the Board to keep itself up to date on the status of these types of issues. This spreadsheet will be reviewed for progress at each Board meeting. Additionally, all incidents will be assigned a tracking number to facilitate the filing of the correspondence related to the issue. All documents, once the incident is closed, will be sent to the secretary for filing on the WHAM computer.</p>	<p>Update the Incident Log and send out prior to the January Meeting – Provo</p>
Next Meeting Date:	<p>January 9, 2012 at Davanni’s ‘Party Room’ 6345 Penn Ave S in Richfield at 6:30 p.m.</p>	