



**U.S. Biathlon Association, Board of Directors Meeting  
8:30 A.M. June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Meeting Minutes, Submitted by Art Stegen, Secretary**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman, Bill Burke called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the U.S. Biathlon Association on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 8:30 A.M. at Pineland Farms Conference Center, New Gloucester, ME.

**II. Roll Call**

Members of the Board of Directors present for the meeting were: Bill Burke, Charles Kellogg, Art Stegen, Roger Hartely, Sarah Konrad, Bitsy Kelley, Jerry Baltzell, Phyllis Jalbert, Bill Alford, and Walter Shepard . Carolyn Bramante, Brian Olsen and Bitsy Kelly were attending via teleconference call. CEO/President Max Cobb, Legal Consul Ed Williams and High Performance Director Bernd Eisenbichler were also present for the meeting. The members present represented a quorum.

**III. Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Bill Burke called the meeting to order and commented that he was honored to fill the role of Chairman. He thanked past Chairman Larry Pugh for his excellent guidance and said Larry often stated that the Board was here for the athletes and was motivated by their efforts. He was complimentary to the other members of the Board and asked for approval for the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

**IV. CEO/President's Report**

To begin his report, CEO/President Max Cobb asked High Performance Director Bernd Eisenbichler to provide a review of the previous season and update the members as to the current programs.

Bernd began his update by reviewing the highlights of the Olympic season. He stated that everyone was disappointed to not win any medals, but should not be disappointed with the overall season's performances. It was in fact the best Olympic Games results ever and three athletes from both genders gaining podium World Cup results; Tim Burke, Lowell Bailey and Susan Dunklee. He mentioned that it was a long climb for Lowell Bailey that took 13 years to reach that level of performance. He also reviewed the top ten performances and medal results of Sean Doherty and top-ten results of Maddie Phaneuf at the World Junior Biathlon Championships. After big improvements in the women's team, a quadrennial analysis revealed that the top-ten

## **Regular Meeting Minutes – USBA Board of Directors – 14 June 2014**

finishes had improved from 21 to 39, top-six results went from 8 to 18, top-three results improved from 2 to 4 and medals at the junior levels improved from 2 to 6.

For the future Bernd indicated that more attention will be focused on shooting at higher levels with more contact with others, skiing will remain focused on improving technique and greater care will be taken in the health management of the athletes with the hope of preventing some of the health issues that impacted some of the Olympic season's performances.

He also spent some time discussing athlete development in which he felt a change in approach was needed and has begun to materialize. He has implemented a new approach to talent identification with recruiting, one philosophy and team structure creating a new path for juniors. He indicated that there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm with the success at the World Junior Championships in Presque Isle.

With the conclusion of Bernd's update, Max asked for a motion to accept the 2015 team nominations recommended by the International Competition Committee previously distributed to the members. A motion was made and approved to accept the team nominations.

Documents were also provided to the members concerning the team selection procedure for the coming season. A motion was made and passed to approve the team selection procedure.

Concerning the IBU Max mentioned that there is to be an upcoming election at the IBU Congress and there was a challenge to President Anders Besseberg. There are also proposed changes in the system for IBU participation. Max is also standing for re-election to the IBU Technical Committee for which he currently serves as the chairman.

Concerning USOC matters Max reported that the USBA is highly respected and that High Performance Director Bernd Eisenbichler, who has now served with the USBA for 15 years, is recognized within USOC for his high performance planning. USOC has recently enjoyed record breaking funding that is allowing a focus on development without sacrifices in high performance efforts. The USOC continues to augment funding and support. Max commented that the USOC is moving forward in a thoughtful way using the AAC and NGB Council's input.

USBA membership had reached record numbers and is currently providing \$35,000 in revenue through membership dues which covers the costs of insurance. The goal is to double this membership to 1500 in the next quadrennial.

The Annual Fund drive has attained its goal as of June, however the drive will continue beyond that goal.

The proposed 2015 Budget that was distributed to the members is in line and with the logic to the past budgets. The support of TD Bank will end and State Street is looking to renew their support through 2018. A motion was made to approve the 2015 budget and was approved.

## **Regular Meeting Minutes – USBA Board of Directors – 14 June 2014**

Max reminded the members that there will be upcoming elections for the Board of Directors and a Nomination Committee is to be created with elections to take place at the Fall BOD meeting.

### **V. Athlete's Report**

Brian Olsen reported that the athletes were highly complementary of the Sochi efforts and that a survey of the athletes focusing on 9 areas had a high response. Masters athletes responded with more than 30 pages and that more data was still coming. The athletes have created a Facebook page that helps improve communication. Analysis of the survey and information provided by the athletes will be completed and presented at a later date.

### **VI. Next Meeting**

Max will circulate a potential schedule for the members to attend international events and fix a date for the next Board of Directors meeting. Current thoughts are for the next regular meeting to take place near the end of September and coincide with the Awards Dinner.

### **VII. Adjournment**

With wishes for a productive summer, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.