

Upper Valley Rowing Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2014, 5:45 PM (Rescheduled from June 2)
Murray Room, Howe Library, Hanover, NH

Board Members Present:

Eric Brooks, Erika Dade, Jonathan Edwards, Paul Gross, Dan Haedrich, Terry Harwood, Louise Moon, Carin Reynolds, Dan Ruml, Janet St Germain

Board Members Excused:

Christopher Bordeau, Sean Healey, Rowan Carroll, Kevin Cotter, Annette Kennedy

1. Review of May 5, 2014 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Purchase of oars

There was some concern that we did not have enough oars to accommodate the sculling demand. At this point we actually have a total of 18 sets which should be sufficient, although if the opportunity presents itself to purchase good oars, we should consider the purchase of additional oars as long as it fits into the approved budget.

The new sets of oars that we do have should be used for racing and for the more experienced scullers. We need to build another rack for the oars (free standing) and put it behind Fuller next to other oars or under the trailer with the boats. The existing rack is very good except that it is handle up and should be handle down. If handle down, it should not be on the ground – it should have a socket that drains. Dan will build a similar one.

It would be helpful to create labels for each set of oars. Louise will make labels and Carin will apply them. Oars should also be repainted – perhaps a winter painting party?

3. Google Group and guidelines for using it/Website

Eric created a UVRF Google Group but did not want to launch it without discussion on guidelines and how to use it.

Google Group is an excellent communication tool in which a list serve can be set up and that people can opt into. We can use it for club-related content such as getting a group together to use a quad, row in the Prouty, buy/sell equipment, etc. Eric can set up an email list for UVRF members, invite them to join and anyone can post whatever they want. Members would get a digest once a day rather than receiving an email each time something is posted. This could include an electronic bulletin board so that we don't have to contact Janet every time there is an announcement.

Eric will send a link to the board for testing. Once it is ready, an announcement can be sent to members. A link to the Google Group could be added to the left side of the website home page. We will see how it goes and issue guidelines if necessary as it evolves.

UVRF club sculling has changed substantially in the last five years. Now there are two types of sculling reservations – for club boats and for certified scullers in the more advanced doubles and quads. In addition to a hard copy signup for racing doubles and the quads for certified scullers in the log book, we should also have an online signup. Janet will show Carin how to use the website and will add a signup link on the Sculling tab.

4. Sweep Program

Erika reported that masters and club programs have started. Enrollments so far: only one women's eight but there are 15 novices and the men's program is great. We have not met all enrollment targets yet but it is still early in the season.

A suggestion for an additional rowing opportunity was made by Dawn Carey – a bonding experience for TDI staff. A learn-to-row session could be held on Friday, July 18, 4:00-6:00 pm. UVRF would supply 2 eights, experienced rowers (3 in each boat) to help row the eights, coaches, coxswains. Erika will help organize this (we had 30 people rowing in 2 hours for National Learn to Row).

Also, in addition to a fall program, Tuck students would like a learn-to-row program in the tanks on Friday afternoons, that would include going out on the water in the last two weeks with some of the more experienced Tuck rowers. Erika could reserve the tanks on Fridays in the fall term, starting on September 10. Erika will look into this further.

5. Sculling Update

There have been a number of Sweep-to-Scull clinics and we need to have more since there is still an interest in them. Jen Friend had a good outline for the S2S curriculum which Carin has updated. Participants in the clinics are expected to volunteer as afternoon dock monitors.

There have also been two Learn-to-Scull clinics with two more coming up. Additional L2S clinics may be offered.

Coached sculling will be offered once per week for beginner and intermediate sculling as follow-ups to L2S. Six people have signed up so far.

UVRF started club sculling two weeks earlier this year. This made it difficult for the high school coaches because this is also the height of their season. Next year we don't need to offer the S2S so early and perhaps we don't need to have a dock monitor that 1st week.

Afternoon dock monitors will be offered for five afternoons a week for 18

weeks. There is a signup link on the UVRF website.

6. Budget

Paul sent the budget to board members but he has not had a chance to analyze the budget, including donations.

7. Volunteering

There are many rowers who are authorized to take out a racing double or a quad who could coach a S2S clinic. We have 52 rack tenants who can be afternoon dock monitors. Board members should not be the only ones who volunteer! Sweep rowers can also serve as dock monitors. Members would only have to do one afternoon if everyone volunteers.

8. Equipment update

It is great to have good equipment for club scullers!

We may have a new double – a 2010 Fluid midweight. The Fluid was offered as a loaner when we sent Peter’s boat to be fixed. There was discussion about whether to get a lightweight double instead, in which case we might downgrade the BBG (lightweight) to a club double. No firm decision was made – this will be explored further.

Jonathan has labeled the racks on the trailer.

9. Other

- a. The AED (Automated External Defibrillator) was paid for in April, but only arrived two weeks ago and still needs to be installed. Dan wrote to Dartmouth and asked about attaching it to the wall. Dartmouth will have the AED on its rotation.
- b. The racing double policy will basically be a modification of the quad policy. Anyone can take out a double if there is a certified bow in the boat or a coach. It requires the same steps to reserve a double but does not require quite as high a level of experience. Carin will modify the policy. It was emphasized that experience in sculling is essential - “Defensive driving” sense and good judgment.
- c. Dan will send out a “muddy water” document about changes in our club sculling and the need to change practices, as well as review how we deal with cold water safety, including a flip test, requirement to own a vest, etc.
- d. Waivers – Louise will collect and file.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm, seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Moon, Secretary