



ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

503 Sophia St. Suite 100 | Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

Phone: (540) 907-4460 | [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

## American Canoe Association Board of Directors

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**Location:** Virtual

Board Members Present: Robin Pope, Scott Mann, Lili Colby, John Traendly, C.C. Williams, Adam Joseph, and Rainey Hoffman

Non-voting attendees: Gerry Seavo James

ACA Staff: Beth Spillman

#### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Pope called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM EST.

Mr. Williams called roll and noted that a quorum was present.

#### 2. February 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval: C.C. Williams

**Ms. Colby moved, and Mr. Traendly seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2021. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### 3. Executive Director Report: Beth Spilman

Ms. Spilman reported a new staff person has been hired, Richard Lauridsen., to assist with Safety, Education, & Outreach. Richard comes to the ACA with a background in education, considerable experience in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, a captain license, and is bilingual in Spanish. Efforts are underway to find spring and paralympic athlete representatives for the Board of Directors.

Ms. Spilman reported that the ongoing financial audit continues to proceed as expected and noted that the financial position continues to be positive due to the fact that we are currently on budget.

Ms. Spilman provided an update on the ongoing website updates. The anticipated launch date for the new website is May 1. There has also been some discussion and work done to refresh the logo.

#### **4. Board of Directors Structure (Size/Roles/Committees): Robin Pope**

Mr. Pope reviewed the recent changes to the Ted Stevens Act and provided several reminders on the key impacts the changes will necessitate to the ACA Board of Directors, bylaws, and organization structure. There was significant discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of directors being elected to represent key constituent groups.

Mr. Traendly suggested, and the Board agreed, that he would work with the SEIC Executive Committee to provide feedback from the instructor community on board structure and constituency representation.

After significant discussion about board size and composition, the Board agreed to proceed with a working draft of 12 directors.

#### **5. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Report: Gerry Seavo James**

Mr. Seavo James provided a brief overview of the history and current state of the DEI Workgroup and Paddlesports Action Committee. He answered several questions from the group about how the Board and ACA Staff could increase support for these two committees and work to increase diversity in paddlesports. Mr. Seavo James noted that two actionable items that could be addressed in the near term are the DEI Module for ACA Instructors and a DEI Resource Guide for ACA Instructors. There was also some discussion on the need to increase visibility of the DEI Workgroup on the website to highlight the DEI efforts being made by the ACA.

Mr. Traendly noted that the DEI Module for Instructors has been identified as a top priority for the Introduction to Paddling Committee.

There was significant discussion about the proposal from the DEI Workgroup to hire a contractor to work various DEI initiatives. Several directors requested that any contract for DEI work include specific deliverables or objectives.

**Mr. Mann motioned, and Ms. Colby seconded the motion, to approve the Executive Director moving forward with negotiations on an Memorandum of Understanding with the Paddlesports Action Committee. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Traendly moved, and Mr. Joseph seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM EST

Respectfully submitted,

C.C. Williams  
Board Secretary