



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, August 18, 2021

**Location:** Virtual

Board Members Present: Robin Pope, Scott Mann, Lili Colby, John Traendly, C.C. Williams, Thom Crocket, Sarah Bahn, Adam Joseph, Rainey Hoffman, Heather Davis-Miller, Bill Micks

ACA Staff: Beth Spillman

#### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Pope called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM EDT.

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

#### 2. July 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval: C.C. Williams

**Mr. Pope moved, and Mr. Joseph seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 21, 2021. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. Spilman provided a Quickbooks-generated financial statement to the Board prior to the meeting.

Ms. Spilman highlighted several key aspects of the Quickbooks financial reports. The financial position continues to improve based on growing member numbers combined with the changes that have been made to reduce overhead and bring down expenses. Ms. Spilman answered several questions about the financial reports from Directors regarding key expense reductions, income and expenses related specifically to elite competition, and estore.

Ms. Spilman reported that a contract has been finalized and signed with a digital marketing company. Work will begin soon with an initial focus on targeting the 35,000+ lapsed ACA members.

Ms. Spilman provided an update and review of slalom and spring results from the Tokyo Olympics and provided a brief overview of the upcoming Supercup event in Oklahoma City. Directors expressed their



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Ms. Spilman, the entire ACA team, and the athletes for a solid performance in Tokyo and expressed anticipation for continued success at the upcoming Paralympic games.

Ms. Spilman reminded Directors about the upcoming audit by the USOPC and answered several questions from Directors regarding staff time demands to complete the audit, documentation needs, and requirements specific to Directors. Directors also discussed USPOC requirements related to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity policies and best practices.

#### 4. CDC Drowning Prevention Letter

Mr. Pope elaborated on previous information sent to Directors regarding the request for support and organization signature on a letter to the United States Senate in support of drowning prevention. Directors expressed their support for drowning prevention and unanimously supported that Robin sign the letter on behalf of the ACA.

#### 5. National Governing Body (NGB) Discussion

Ms. Spilman opened the conversation about the National Governing Body status decision with an update on her recent discussions with the USOPC. Ms. Spillman responded to a variety of detailed questions from Directors about the potential options the USOPC would have to support elite sprint and slalom athletes should the ACA membership decide that continuing to be the NGB for paddlesports is no longer in the best interest of our organization or members. There was significant discussion among Directors regarding the cost and organizational burden associated with maintaining compliance with all of the rules and regulations required of a NGB. Ms. Spillman highlighted the significant cost, staff time, and overhead expenses associated with maintaining compliance with the Ted Stevens Act and requirements of the ICF and USOPC.

Mr. Mann provided an overview of a few of the key lessons that were learned during the years when USA Canoe/Kayak was the NGB and did not have the direct support of the ACA. There was some discussion among Directors about the potential likelihood of financial solvency of an independent NGB model for paddlesports.

Mr. Hoffman requested that a detailed budget for elite competition, with NGB specific expenses, and specific needs for fundraising over the next 5 years be provided to Directors.

Mr. Pope requested, and received general support from Directors, to host several town hall events with ACA members over the next few weeks/month to discuss pros and cons of the options that will be presented to the membership.



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**Mr. Pope moved, and Mr. Joseph seconded the motion, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM EDT**

Respectfully submitted,

C.C. Williams  
Board Secretary