

September 29, 2025 SEIC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/_VRetsx8Vgo

Please use the time stamps outlined below to navigate the video recording and find the item/discussions you need.

Voting Members in Attendance: Ryan Rushton, Alan Cammack, Anne Sontheimer, David Hughes, Jeff Atkins, Ashley Brown, John Browning, Patrick Higgins, Rachel Nagle, Sam Fowlkes (for Tom Burroughs), RJ Forth, Ge Wu, Stacey Leigh Wildes, Robert Kauffman, Anthea Raymond, Elisha McArthur, Mike Aronoff, Tommy Gram

Guests in Attendance: John MacDonald, Krista Lenzmeier, Robin Pope, Suzanne Britt, Kelsey Bracewell, Ben Morton, Beth Spilman, Trey Moore, Susan Eda

0:00 - Meeting Called To Order

1:15 - Quorum established

1:54 - Two word check in

10:22 - Ground rules of the meeting review

11:51 - Leader Pathway Roll Out Update (Ryan Rushton)

- 86 ITs and ITEs have completed the requirements to become LTs and LTEs, which is 50% of the current ITs and ITEs
 - [List of current LTs and LTEs](#)
- Currently 45 Leader Trainer Candidates
- To date, 72 Coastal Leader certifications awarded, 11 River Leader certifications awarded

16:59 - Motion to approve the [previous meeting minutes](#)

Motion passes 18-0-0

20:13 - Motion 2025-09-01: [Lower auxiliary discipline prerequisite to Level 2 from Level 3](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Lower the auxiliary discipline prerequisite to Level 2 from Level 3, for Coastal and Advanced Coastal Leader Trainers

Need for change: We believe in the spirit of this requirement, but not as written. The original purpose of this requirement is to confirm a broader understanding and competency beyond one's chosen craft. Level 2 introduces core applicable rescue skills and environmental exposure for the coastal leader. The Trainer does not need to operate in the Leader environment in a secondary craft, just needs to be able to teach and facilitate effective rescues. L 2 is sufficient. In addition, there is not an L3 in Touring Canoe and a very limited offering of L3 Coastal SUP. The L3 restricts greatly the number of potential Assessors and is

a barrier to entry into the Leader Program. Comment from Trey Rouss: As the person who initiated this entire project over 4 years ago, I can confidently say that a prereq at Level 2 more than rounds out our Trainer's ability to teach leadership across a variety of craft. The idea is to understand at a foundational level how rescues work across ALL craft. Our workshops will be focused on teaching leadership not paddling skills.

Motion passes 18-0-0

23:57 - Motion 2025-09-02: [PSF Program Re-Brand & Expansion](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Motion to re-brand the PSF program as "Smart Start for Safe Paddling," and expand those authorized to offer the program to include Paddlesports Leader Trainers and Educators.

Need for change: This will broaden the number of people who can deliver the program/certifications, which will help meet the training demands down the road. In the context of the leader pathway, PSF is essentially sub-CPL, and all certified leaders and guides have been assessed in knowledge/conditions higher than those required to deliver PSF.

Motion passes 18-0-0

26:38 - Motion 2025-09-03: [Expand the PSF program with new supporting materials](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Expand the re-branded PSF program and certification (to be named Smart Start for Safe Paddling) to utilize the collection of Smart Start resources.

Need for change: The ACA recently released an entry level program and resource library, Smart Start for Safe Paddling. It offers an extensive entry level introduction to safer and more enjoyable paddling. The program resource collection includes a student handbook, a student workbook with comprehension questions and activities, a facilitators guide for course presenters, a free online course, supporting PowerPoint presentations, along with more in-depth resources for those seeking more advanced content. Smart Start and PSF aim at the same entry level paddling audience. Combining the two programs provides dramatically better support for PSF participants while expanding the reach of Smart Start.

Motion passes 18-0-0

36:32 - Motion 2025-09-04: [Paddlesports Leader - Venue Adjustment](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Remove the word "tidal" from the following venue requirement for the Coastal Leader criteria: Coastal Leader Trainers will choose a location on lakes or coastal waters with some exposure to wind and wave conditions, with regular access to landing areas and within 1.5 nautical miles from shore: Participants must be observed in 3 of 4 of the following conditions during the exam:

- Winds: 8 - 12knots
- Waves: 1 - 2 feet
- Surf: 1 - 2 feet
- Tidal Current: 1 - 2 knots

Need for change: Tidal is not the only applicable type of current that can be used for this course, thus we open the accessibility of this program by being less specific.

Motion passes 17-0-1

39:10 - Motion 2025-09-05: [Level 2: Essentials of Canoeing Documentation & Roll Out Plan](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Add an L2: Essentials of Canoeing Skills Assessment Document, Add an L2: Essentials of Canoeing Instructor Criteria, and Add a Roll-Out Strategy Plan to inform current Canoeing Instructors and Instructor Trainers of the new course documents and to educate/introduce existing Touring Canoe Instructors as to the moving water specifics of the L2: Essentials of Canoeing curriculum

Need for change: The Canoeing Committee recognized a training need for a basic canoeing course that taught more strokes, maneuvers, safety and rescue skills, and paddlesport knowledge for beginning and novice paddlers who want and need to know more than is covered in the existing Level 1 Introduction to Canoeing course, but that also was more flexible in venue than the existing Essentials of Canoe Touring and the Essentials of River Canoeing courses in order to meet the needs of canoeists in different geographic locations.

The Level 2 Essentials of Canoeing course:

- can be taught by both Touring and River Instructors, IT's, and ITE's
- can be taught on flat and/or gently moving rivers with less than Class 1 rapids.
- gives the EC Instructors room to customize the EC course to meet the participants' specific needs and training venues
- is aimed at training recreational paddlers and personnel such as scout leaders, camp counselors, youth group leaders, and other staff who are supervising beginning paddlers in venues that are higher than the L1 venue.
- provides a higher level of training than what the L1 Intro to Canoeing course provides, but not as much detail or difficulty as the level of our two currently existing L2 Canoeing courses – specifically the moving water maneuvers in the L2 ERC curriculum and the more difficult strokes in the current L2ECT curriculum.
- teaches skills, maneuvers, safety, and rescue techniques to canoe safely on flat or gently moving water. The current Essentials of Canoe Touring course requires too many skilled maneuvers that are unnecessary in an introductory course and these maneuvers can be difficult to master in one day or even in one weekend.
- combines flat and gently moving water as possible venues and simplifies the strokes and maneuvers from both the ERC and ECT courses to better meet the needs of beginner and novice paddlers

The Canoeing Committee has already created and received approval for the L2 : Essentials of Canoeing Skills course (EC). What was missing was the Assessment Document and the Instructor Criteria and a Roll-Out Plan to disseminate information about the new courses to those who can teach it - all currently certified Level 2 and higher Canoeing Instructors and Canoeing Instructor Trainers and ITE's.

The Canoe Committee recognizes that the current Essentials of Canoe Touring course curriculum contains far too many strokes, skills, and complex maneuvers for a Level 2 essentials course (an introductory course), but it is perfectly suited for Level 3 criteria.

1:00:00 - Friendly amendment proposed and accepted to remove the L3/L4 Freestyle Touring Canoe components from this motion.

Motion passes 18-0-0

1:05:37 - Motion 2025-09-06: [Level 3-5: Surf Kayak Skills Assessment Documentation](#)

Exact wording of motion: Motion to approve the attached Surf Kayak Skills Assessment curriculum for L3-L5. Level 2 has already been approved.

- [Level 3 Skills Assessment](#)
- [Level 4 Skills Assessment](#)
- [Level 5 Skills Assessment](#)

Need for change: Surf Kayak does not yet have published L3-5 skills assessments.

Motion passes 17-0-1

1:08:33 - Motion 2025-09-07: [River Kayaking Skills Assessment and Guide Document](#)

Exact wording of the motion: Motion to approve the attached River Kayaking Skills Assessment and Guide document and replace the legacy documents. This document will act as a master document for all river kayaking skills assessments.

Need for change: This master document addresses incongruencies with the legacy documents and provides specific direction for completing all skills assessments for River Kayaking.

1:20:25 - Friendly amendment proposed and accepted

Motion passes 14-2-2

1:27:05 - Discussion about SEIC Discipline Committee Elections

Timeline:

- October 1-24, 2025
 - Nominations for available positions accepted
- October 27- November 14, 2025
 - Votes for Discipline Committee, International Representatives, and At-Large members accepted
- November 17, 2025
 - New Discipline Committee Members, International Representatives, and At-Large members are announced
- January 2026
 - Discipline Committees will elect their officers
 - Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
 - This will be conducted online and facilitated by the ACA National Office

- Discipline Committees will next elect their affiliate members
 - This will be conducted online and facilitated by the ACA National Office
- February 6, 2026
 - SEIC Discipline Committees shall be fully seated
- March 2026
 - Discipline Committee Meetings and SEIC Meeting to be conducted

1:34:56 - Motion to adjourn