

February 28, 2026 SEIC Meeting Minutes
Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/_VqRTjC00Ak

Voting Members in Attendance: Ryan Rushton, Alan Cammack, Raff Kuner, Patrick Frehner, Robert Kauffman, Ashley Brown (Proxy for Jeff Atkins), Jim Coffey, Geoff Luckett, Jess Lewis, John Browning, Melinda Moree, Anne Sontheimer, Susan Eda, Rachel Nagle, Mike Aronoff, Lance Elzie, Ge Wu

Guests in Attendance: Beth Spilman, Wayne Douchkoff, Robin Pope, Kelsey Bracewell, Suzanne Britt, Kaycee Maas

00:00 - Meeting called to order (Ryan Rushton, SEIC Chair)

01:20 - Introductions

16:45 - Ground rules for the meeting, resources and procedures for this meeting

20:30 - [Presentation by ACA Executive Director, Beth Spilman](#)

40:40 - Presentation by ACA Board President, Suzanne Britt

49:25 - [Presentation about certification activation and retention](#) by Kelsey Bracewell

56:45 - Discipline Committee News & Updates from Chairs

- Canoe Committee by Susan Eda
- Coastal Kayak Committee by John Browning
- Packrafting Committee by Patrick Frehner
- Rafting Committee - Jess Lewis
- River Kayaking Committee - Anne Sontheimer
- Safety & Rescue Committee - Jim Coffey
- Stand Up Paddle Board Committee - Rachel Nagle
- Surf Kayak Committee - Melinda Moree
- Universal Paddling Committee - John Browning
- Paddlecraft Fishing Committee - Geoff Luckett

1:17:51 - SEIC Curriculum Committee Report (Ryan Rushton)

-Reminder to nominate 2 people per committee for a Leader Pathway working group (maybe discipline committee in the future).

1:37:35 - 10 Min Break

Motion 1: [Previous meeting minutes](#) - Passes 15-0-1

1:47:55 - Motion 2 Passes 15-0-1

1:49: 50 - Motion 3 Passes 15-0-1

1:53:00 - Motion 4 presented by Jim Coffey, S&R Committee Chair

- Motion Passes 15-0-01

1:57:01 - Motion 5 presented by Ryan Rushton

- Motion Passes 13-1-2

2:26:52 - Motion 6 presented by Ryan Rushton

- Motion is tabled and will return more formally in June SEIC Meeting

2:51:38 - Meeting resumes after lunch with election of IPC chair

- 15 voting members voted
 - 5 votes for Jake Vitak
 - 10 Votes for Robin Pope

2:57:45 - [Social Media Marking Campaign](#) (presented by Kaycee Maas, ACA Communications Manager)

3:25:45 - Breakout Session 1: Improving Instructor and Trainer Retention (Cert Renewal)

- [Data analysis to support discussion](#)
- Brainstorm 2-3 ideas to increase retention

3:54:27 - Breakout Session 2: Exam Guidance for Instructor Certifications

Upcoming SEIC Meetings

- Summer 2026 - June 16th from 7PM to 9PM Eastern
- Fall 2026 - September 28th from 7PM to 9PM Eastern
- Winter 2026 - December 5th from 10AM to 4PM Eastern

4:17:46 - Motion to Adjourn

Action items: each committee nominates 2 people for Leader Pathway Working Group (does not need to be on the committee) and 1 person from the committee to serve on IPC (must be current voting member on the committee).

February 28, 2026

SEIC Meeting Motions

- **Motion 2026-02-01: Approval of [previous meeting minutes](#)**
 - **Passed 15-0-1**
- **Motion 2026-02-02: [Leader/Guide and Instructor/Trainer Update Clarification](#):**
“Motion to define acceptable cross-program updates for ACA certified instructors, trainers, leaders, guides, leader trainers, and guide trainers.”
 - **Passed 15-0-1**
- **Motion 2026-02-03: [SEIC Policy Manual Revisions - To Include Leader Pathway](#)**
“Motion to approve the revised SEIC policy manual which now incorporates and outlines the distinctions between the ACA Instructor Pathway and the ACA Leader/Guide Pathway.”
 - **Passed 15-0-1**
- **Motion 2026-02-04: [Update tethered rescue swimming information in level 4 and 5 course outlines](#)** *“Motion to approve the attached course outlines which contain updated structure and content of the tethered rescue swimming information”*
 - **Passed 15-0-1**
- **Motion 2026-02-05: Motion to amend the Guide Certification Criteria to remove multi-craft requirements.** *These remain highly recommended but will no longer be strictly required. Certified Guides may conduct programming in the crafts in which they hold ACA skills awards. (multi-craft requirements still in place for Leadership Certification Criteria).*
 - **Passed 12-1-3**
- **Motion 2026-02-06:** Motion to amend the Guide Certification process to require a personal trip log only prior to Paddlesports Guide Certification Exam (GCE). Trip logs are not strictly required prior to participation in a Paddlesports Guide Development Workshop (GDW). **This does not apply to the Advanced Paddlesports Guide certification process.*
 - **Motion tabled**