

**Mankato Area Hockey Association
 Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Monday, September 17, 2007, 7:00PM
 All Seasons Arena**

Board Members attending: (X = present, E= excused absence)

Jason Westerlund	X	Darren Bruns	X	Kent Kvislen	X
Jeff Nickels	E	Lynette Cline	X	Holli Loe	E
		Tim DeSutter	X	Joe Sieberg	X
Traci Hays	X	John Goettl	X	Chad Sisco	X
April Austin	X	Ruthann Kragh	X	Sherry Stagg	X

Others Present:

Jo Nickels, Dan Devenport, Steve Isakson

Meeting Called to Order:

President Jason Westerlund called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Review and Approve current agenda

Motion to approve agenda

M/S/P: Darren/Joe

Review and Approve Minutes of last regular meeting

August 13, 2007 Regular Board meeting

General discussion on minutes.

Motion to approve minutes.

M/S/P: Joe/Sherry

Gambling Manager Report and Expense Approval: - Jo Nickels presented

Net profit (loss) \$9,233 for the month ended 8/31/07

Net profit (loss) \$(101) last year for the month ended 8/31/06

Jo reviewed bills paid in August and bills to be paid in September.

Hooligans and TJ's are expected to start operations in October. For the purposes of the MN Charitable Annual Report, for reporting estimated expenditures for lawful purposes, we are estimating 20% of gross proceeds will be donated to the MAHA general fund.

Motion to accept Gambling Report and approve bills for payment.

M/S/P Kent/Tim

Treasurers Report: - Traci Hays presented

In August, the general fund received \$10,000 from the Gambling account. Other August receipts included \$4,100 from home tournament registration fees. August expenses were normal operating expenses with the exception of a billing paid for March 2007 ice time.

There was general discussion regarding the amount of scholarships available from the Children's Project. A contribution to the Children's Project in the amount of \$1,400 was approved to provide funds needed for scholarships.

Motion to accept Treasurer Report.

M/S/P Joe/Darren

Fundraising Report: – Sherry Stag presented

Sherry reported that we had 23 families elect the Schwan's buyout option.

Expansion and Growth: – Dan Devenport presented

Dan reported that we have booked ice time in New Ulm through Thanksgiving to fill times that we are short here in Mankato.

The ice time is looking good for all teams and we may not need as much time from sports Institute.

Operations Committee: – Dan Devenport presented

There was general discussion regarding team sizes and Dan reported that the Operations Committee has not made a final decision yet regarding the number teams.

The Pee wee C coach position has been filled and the Committee is looking to fill positions for Squirt A2 and Bantam C.

Please see the full report attached.

Communications: – Kent Kvislen presented

Kent reported that with this being the first year of on-line registration, that we had 23 families registering on-line. There was general discussion on the benefits and disadvantages of the on-line process and how it went. With on-line registrations, it was difficult to obtain signatures for authorizations and fundraising obligations.

Overall, Kent reported that the process went smooth.

Follow-up Business -

- Apparel Update – Jane Lebert is working with MGA graphics.
- Sponsorship – Darren Bruns reported that we have lowered the team sponsorship from \$750 to \$500. Darren is looking for two to three more sponsors.
- Olson Insurance Issue – Jason Westerlund proposed that MAHA consider responding to the Olson’s request with one of three options:

A) Offer to pay nothing and acknowledge no wrong-doing by MAHA or any MAHA representatives. MAHA believes all actions were taken with the express concern for the safety of the skater;

B) Offer to pay \$500 towards their deductible as a “show of good faith” without acknowledging any wrong-doing on part of MAHA or any MAHA representatives. Again, MAHA believes all actions were taken with the express concern for the safety of the skater;

C) Same as option B, but offer to pay \$1,000 towards their deductible as “show of good faith”.

There was much general discussion regarding the facts that occurred as presented to the MAHA Board, what MAHA’s obligations and options are and USA Hockey’s recommendations.

The Board voted by a “show of hands” to approve option A.

New Business –

Wild Program Sales – Jason Westerlund reported that this would be a good fundraiser for MAHA. There was general discussion regarding MAHA’s past participation in the program. There was a general consensus that MAHA will participate in this fundraiser.

Insurance – April Austin reported that MAHA may need to assess coverage for equipment. April will look into adding MAHA owned computers to the policy.

Gambling Manager Compensation – This discussion was postponed until next month.

Secretary Position – Steve Isakson submitted his resignation from the Board and his position as Secretary effective immediately. Steve agreed to provide minutes of Board meetings until a permanent replacement is named. Steve will be serving in a volunteer capacity, not as a Board Member.

Next Meeting Agenda items
Gambling Manger Compensation

Next Meeting

October 15, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Location North Mankato Fire Hall #2

Adjournment: 10:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn

M/S/P: John/Ruthann

September 2007 Operation's Report

I. Hockey Operation's

-Well, the big question after registration is likely numbers. Where are we with numbers? As of Monday, September 17th, these were the numbers per age level:

Bantams – 32 skaters and 4 goalies. We are presently looking at our options, but are leaning towards three smaller teams, calling them “A”, “B”, and “C”. We had seven players move to high school early.

Peepees – 39 skaters and 5 goalies. We are going to go with three teams at this level, and call them “A”, “B”, and “C”. There are currently five players who played last year from this group that did not sign up.

Squirts – 45 skaters and 3 goalies (that we know about). Due to these numbers, and how well the fit into four teams, we are going to bypass our desire to have five Squirt teams this season. In order to do so we would have to bring up about 8-10 Mites, and this is not something we want to do. Therefore, we will be fielding an “A1”, “A2”, and two evenly split “B” teams. At present there are nine players who played last year from this group that did not sign up. We know that four of them are NOT Playing, and have not heard from the other five.

Girls – 9 skaters and 1 goalie on the U12 and 14 skaters with 2 goalies on the U10. We had six girls move up to high school early from the U12 team. Therefore, we are going to see where our numbers are at once camp starts and look at our possibilities. We WILL be fielding both teams this year, however.

Mites – At present we have 51 skaters signed up, with another 15 from last year we have not heard from. I have been trying to get the word out to those who did not sign up. Of these skaters, if/when we take 11 or so on an “Advanced Mite” team we are sitting at 40 for the time being. Therefore, we are going to go with four mite teams and any additional players will be added to those four. This will enable us to have some unused Mite ice time that we can get creative with. As with years past, I would be surprised if we didn't see another 5-10 sign up before December.

Mini Mites – At present we have 28 2nd years and 30 1st year. Again, we have a large number of kids from last year that have not signed up, so we are anticipating more numbers. Also, with this group we always have players continue to register through December.

All told, our numbers are down from last year. I am presently working on a study of how our numbers have fluctuated over the past five years, and will present this to the board once I am done...probably in the form of an email. I will say this....if our numbers do not increase in the In House program over the next couple of months we will be looking at a serious enough decline in numbers to put an action plan in place for recruitment next season.

II. Coaches

At present, most of our coaching staffs are filled, but we do have a couple of significant holes to fill:

Bantam A: Jim Tosch is the head coach, with no assistant's at this time

Bantam B: Tom Cusey is the head coach once again, with three assistant's who came as a package. These assistant's are Ryan Reibel, Jeremy Bundy, and Taylor Wallace

Bantam C: At present there is no coaching staff in place for such a team if we have one. This was only brought up after registration as an option.

Peewee A: Shawn Reddy, Tim DeSutter, and Jamie Como are back

Peewee B: Adam Fries is the head coach, and is working on his own assistant's at this point

Peewee C: Though not yet finalized, there is a good chance that Jon Dickerman will take this team. He was the Peewee B assistant last season.

U12: RuthAnn Kragh will be the head with Kari Snelson and Kevin Black assisting

U10: Kent Hays will be the head with Ryann Gildner and another possible assistant

Squirt A1: Nate Brekke will be the head with JT Miller and Brady Peters both helping on a "part time" basis. Neither assistant is able/willing to accept a head coaching role at this time.

Squirt A2: Unfilled spot. If worse comes to worse I am going to recommend the Operation's Manager coach this team until a proper staff can be found. There are a lot of qualified dad's at the Squirt level, and if some of those player's land here we could have a coaching staff quite quickly.

Squirt B Purple: Robby Dunbar and Brian Kershaw are back for a third year, with Kyle Rogers (last year's Squirt B2 head coach) as a third assistant.

Squirt B White: Justin Foth is back as a head coach with Dan Kaivo as his assistant. Also, with the abundance of qualified coaching dad's in this group there is a very good chance they will have a parent as well as a third coach.

Advanced Mites: Depending on how things go with the Squirt A2, Dan Devenport will be the likely coach of this team with John Shain back as the assistant.

In House Assistant Coordinators: Chris Hvinden and Scott St. Pierre are back as assistant in house coordinators

III. Programs and player development

- a. We are looking at the possibility of having an all girls Mite team. At present, however, numbers are making it very difficult. We would like to see if an "all girls team" would help spark some interest with that age group.
- b. With smaller numbers on all of our teams this year (by design for the most part), we are going to utilize more shared ice practices with a stress being put on coaches working together as much as possible. This will help us in many areas....coaches education, ice utilization, increased times on the ice, better relationships between teams and coaching staffs.
- c. Camps/Placements for all age groups will be starting on the 25th of September. Keep in mind that this is part of phase one of the three year vision, and changes will inevitably be made for next year.

IV. Ice Scheduling

- a. Scheduling has been finalized for all of our teams, and all of our home tournaments. However, with the addition of a possible third bantam team, and the loss of a fifth squirt team, changes will ultimately need to be made. At present, all traveling teams have about 10 or so hours of full ice to schedule games, but the rest are shared ice. As a result, all teams presently have more than enough ice schedules per our ice allotments.

- b. At present we are sending all of our teams over to New Ulm 2-3 times before Christmas. I have requested more ice over there for after the holiday, but will not be allowed to book it until after the New Ulm teams are done scheduling games.
- c. My intention is to work with Stacy Schulz once again to get us skating out there.
- d. We will once again be skating down at the AllTel Center when ice is available. Ice is not nearly as available this year as it was last year down there, however.

V. Miscellaneous

- a. Football. I am sure you have all heard the rumblings about our Camps coinciding with Football. I am well aware of it, and have worked with MAYAA closely to ensure no kids will need to make more than one decision when it comes to camp or a football GAME. Inevitably, there will be practice conflicts, but we are prepared to be as flexible as we can be to accommodate these players. A large article was posted on the front page of the website regarding this, so if you have any questions please steer people to the site.
- b. Fall Hockey. Numbers for my Fall hockey program have been very good. I have not heard any rumbling about this not being a "MAHA" program.