

**MPSRA annual meeting**  
**1/12/14**

**I. Call to Order, roll call**

Meeting called to order by Matt Zatorski and began at 1:15  
All programs present except Duxbury

**II. Acceptance of last year's minutes**

Unanimous vote to approve last year's minutes

**III. Treasurer's report**

\$13K currently in account  
League makes approx \$1000 per regatta

**IV. Fall**

14 programs participated

\$1700 profit

Eddie Bruce read report from coxn in fall regatta

- Westford-Littleton Girls novice 8, crashed during warm up with boat entering racing chute
- Holly requested more officials particularly at "the narrows" on the Worcester course, because there was not enough oversight/bouys/signage
- Westford-Littleton would like more responsibility on the part of coaches. This is a teaching moment for athletes
- Damages are covered by insurance
- As coaches on land we cannot know exactly what happened on the water and must trust officials and athlete's reports
- MPSRA regatta committee is addressing all issues that arise to hopefully avoid them in the future
- Every decision at MPSRA regattas is made for the safety of the athletes
- Regatta committee needs your feedback to make improvements in the future
- Bromfield Acton-Boxboro didn't attend because of restrictions they felt that another regatta was more useful that weekend. Were concerned about their viability in MPSRA league. Membership cannot be lost because of failure to attend a regatta.
- Date of Fall MPSRA cannot be moved because of Lake Quinsigamond racing schedule

**V. Spring regatta**

**No control over weather**

1086 students

\$1700 profit

**VI. Provisional programs**

Nauset Tech entering its second year of provisional membership.

Methuen-Travis Gardner

Supporting development of scholastic leagues in the area

School system is very supportive

Focus on younger athletes grades 5-9

Somerville/Everett-Rich Whelan, Stu Whitney, Alan Gehant

Somerville is combining with Everett with the plan of separating once they're off the ground.

A reminder from the board that all programs must be their own USRowing member. All provisional programs report that they are.

Middle schoolers are eligible to race as long as they are enrolled in the same school as the high schoolers

Per by laws, organizational committee will look at the possibility to change in the future.

## **VII. Proposal #1 – Brett Fournier**

Tabled for future reference on organizational committee

As one of the founding coaches of the MPSRA, I think we should consider expanding to include club programs in the regattas. This will allow more public school students to participate and help support sculling events. Since 2001 when we founded the MPSRA rowing in Mass has expanded greatly and I would like MPSRA to expand to meet the needs a larger body of rowers. The structure of education in the state is also changing drastically. School choice, charter schools etc... are changing the school systems in many ways and allowing club programs to compete at states will open the door for many more public high school students.

-Looking for flexibility in league rules that allow as many kids to get on the water as possible.

-Combining resources would be useful to allow more athletes on the water especially when money is an issue

-How can we best serve the public high school kids in the state?

-Want to take all the kids who want to be on the team and be cost effective

-Costs are rising, looking to offset with number of athletes

-Holly Hatton-tough to get kids on the water, looking for other bodies of water to expand and wish to accept kids from other schools

Want to expand offerings to take more athletes who are interested

-Boris Kusturic-all teams race at NY states, separate club and scholastic, possibility for this league in the future?

Need to address usrowing issues of one team per season

### **VIII. Proposal #2 – Ed McCormick**

The current schedule for the MPSRA championship matches that of the NEIRA championship within the Eights Division, but the MPSRA lacks a third and fourth varsity four. I ask for the addition to the Championship schedule of both the third and fourth varsity fours. This change will allow the NEIRA fours league members of the MPSRA to continue their boats through both championships over the Memorial Day weekend. MPSRA Crew that are currently in that league are CRLS, Milton, Medford, Worcester, and joining this year will be Mystic Valley.

Looking to expand fours offerings to match NEIRA

Looking to add race back in that was previously offered, but was unsubscribed and cancelled. Would like to add it back again.

CRLS, Medford, Milton, Worcester, Mystic Valley especially would benefit.

Unanimously passed

Discussion of infractions on race course because of addition of more lower boats

IF novice team is involved in crash, novice team is excluded

IF varsity boat is involved in crash, that boat is excluded

Will not be enacted unless there was clear intent

### **IX. Proposal #3 – Rick Stavros**

That the fall races be broken down as follows:

Boys & Girls 1<sup>st</sup> Varsity fours and eights

Boys & Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity fours and eights

Boys & Girls 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Varsity fours and eights

Boys & Girls 1<sup>st</sup> Novice fours & eights

Boys & Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Novice eights. \*

Boys & Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice fours. \*

Also for points only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> varsity boats be awarded points and only 1<sup>st</sup> Novice boats awarded points.

\* ONLY IF THERE IS A QUALIFIED COXSWAIN in the boat.

Would like to separate out events, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> varsity, 1<sup>st</sup> novice are only ones to garner points

Would like to amend to allow varsity coxns be allowed in 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> novice 8s and 2<sup>nd</sup> novice 4, to assure that there is a qualified coxswain in the boat

**Unanimously passed**

#### **X. Organizational expansion committee formation – Ed McCormick**

Need to step back and look at the organization, what it's about. At a precipice, we need to move forward in a positive way and not splinter.

Options to make a scholastic league to allow private schools and charter schools.

Need to address issue of clubs and dual teams.

Option to have a pure scholastic race and a separate club/dual team race all within our league.

Looking to have a five-member committee to have this discussion (open to more members)

Aim to have proposal for coaches at spring race wrap up meeting

Good for future health of the organization.

How do we grow this league?

Boris Kusturic would like to see small teams included that need help growing and gaining ground

Large, established private schools could help us as well to expand.

Pat Scott wonders if expanding the league would make for an even longer regatta

Rick Stavros want to see this happen to allow more kids to row

Look at moving away from USRowing officials because of their track record with MPSRA

Other regattas hosted by Lowell without USRowing referees have been very well received

Interested coaches are asked to contact Katy before the board meeting on Wednesday. The board will decide whom to appoint to the committee.

## **XI. Seeding committee**

Nick Wright head of the seeding committee, looking for volunteers to join

Pat Scott

Jess Murray

Mark Grinberg

Katy Ruderman

Will join Nick on the seeding committee.

3 seeding races for 1V8 and 1V4 against 3 separate teams

2 seeding races for all other events against 2 separate teams

Mark will post seeding form on website

Seeding race results must be submitted, do not refer the committee to row2k.com

## **XII. NSRA - Ed McCormick**

National Scholastic Rowing Association is an organization of scholastic rowing teams through the United States.

The impetus for founding the organization was USRowing wanting all rowers in country to be paying members of their organization.

NSRA has put together a national schools championship for this year, June 14/15 2014 in Saratoga

Bid for top scholastic team in MPSRA in

1V8, 2V8, LW8, 1V4, 2V4, 1V4x, 2V4x, 1V2x, 2V2x, LW2x, U19 1x, U17 1x

Events not offered at MPSRA can be entered by petition.

Might be possible to race a scholastic lineup from a dual team, Ed will check with NSRA and get back to us.

Representatives from all scholastic leagues around the country have gotten together to make decisions and form this organization.

Idea was to allow all scholastic programs from around the country to compete

SRAAs is Memorial Day weekend, which precludes most regions that are still racing. This is meant to be broader reaching.

## **XIII. New business**

Rick Stavros – any team that would like to donate \$500 for naming rights to a trophy for the Fall or Spring regatta should contact Rick

If you would like to have a spring trophy please contact Rick ASAP

Laura Rothman- looking for historic race results, and team photos (kids actually rowing) for the MPSRA website

Website is informative and representative site for schools/ADs/parents etc

Please link your team site to [www.MPSRA.org](http://www.MPSRA.org)

Photographer from fall regatta willing to allow her pics to be used

Holly Hatton-ergzilla, 2K erg race, 1K co-ed sliders

Looking to raise competition in winter and show ADs what the competition is and what the league is doing during the winter

February 1, 2014

Inspired by erg races in London, UK in secondary schools

Fun, small race to encourage athletes to compete

Ed McCormick-Queen City Icebreaker in NH, date TBA

Brett Fournier-Cranberry Crunch erg regatta January 26 hosted by Cape Cod Rowing

#### **XIV. Board Elections**

Dusan Nikolic and Ed McCormick each have 2 more years remaining on their terms

Matt Zatorski, Laura Rothman, and Katy Ruderman each have 1 more year remaining on their terms

Eric Girard is stepping down from the board after many years of service. We thank him for all of his contributions!

Pam Krause is not seeking re-election due to full schedule. We thank her for her service and will continue to look to her for advice.

Nick Wright and Rick Stavros would like to be re-elected to continue their work on the board.

Board is currently working on:

Financial history committee

Bylaws & procedural rules committee

#### **Nominations**

Nick Wright

Rick Stavros

Mark Grinberg

Pat Scott

Milos Nikolic

Doug McCaig

Brett Fournier (turned down nomination)

Motion was made to elect slate of six new board members. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm