



River City Youth Hockey (RCYH) – February 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present

- Lucas Schwaller, President
- Regis Stief, Vice President
- Brittany Henderson, Secretary
- Jamie Melde, Treasurer
- Matt Hansen, Board Member
- Ryan Sauter, Co-Director of Hockey & Board Member

Agenda

1. February Association Meeting
2. Governance & Administration
3. Community Fundraising Opportunities
4. Ice Operations & Facilities
5. Financial & Capital Improvements
6. Sponsorship Night
7. Additional Items

1. February Association Meeting

Association Meeting Agenda

The board reviewed the agenda for the upcoming February association meeting.

Discussion topics will include preparation for the 14U Girls State Tournament, Sponsor Appreciation Night, end-of-year party updates, volunteer participation, election setup, and a mid-season association update.

Members agreed the meeting should remain focused on organizational updates and upcoming association priorities.

2. Governance & Administration



Election Planning

The board discussed preparations for the annual election cycle and reviewed the nomination process.

Matt reviewed the existing position descriptions and nomination timeline. The board agreed to begin election communications during February and continue preparing for nominations and voting this spring.

Director of Hockey Position

The board discussed the structure of the Director of Hockey position and whether it should continue as an elected role.

Following discussion, the board approved changing the Director of Hockey position from an elected position to a board-appointed position. Members felt the role is critical to hockey operations and should be filled based on qualifications and organizational needs.

The board discussed the possibility of Cody assuming the position in the future while Ryan Sauter continues serving as a board member and coaching resource for the association.

Bylaw Review

The board continued discussion regarding modernization of RCYH bylaws.

Members agreed that social media expectations, communications standards, governance processes, and election procedures should all be reviewed as part of an overall bylaw update effort.

A committee will be assembled to review existing bylaws and recommend updates.

3. Community Fundraising Opportunities

La Crosse Soup

The board discussed participating in the upcoming La Crosse Soup fundraising event.

Members agreed that the opportunity aligns well with the association's mission and provides another avenue to support youth hockey participation and equipment access.

The board discussed focusing the presentation on Mite equipment needs and scholarship opportunities. Lucas and Regis will work together to prepare the pitch and presentation materials.



4. Ice Operations & Facilities

Lightning Lacrosse Facility Request

The board discussed a request from the La Crosse Lightning lacrosse program to utilize Green Island following the regular season.

Members expressed support for accommodating the request and discussed charging a facility rate or utilizing an in-kind sponsorship arrangement similar to previous years.

Lucas will continue conversations with Lightning representatives regarding dates and facility usage.

Wi-Fi Improvement Discussion

The board reviewed current Wi-Fi limitations at Green Island.

Members discussed the need for improved facility-wide coverage to support Trane equipment monitoring, broadcasting, coaching resources, and future technology upgrades. Several options were discussed, including mesh networks, additional access points, and hardline extensions.

The board agreed to continue evaluating options and costs before making any decisions.

Facility Equipment and Coaching Resources

The board discussed purchasing whiteboards for all locker rooms to improve coaching instruction and communication.

Additional discussion centered on future coaching resources, including the possibility of installing a television or projector for video review and player development purposes. Members agreed that Wi-Fi improvements should be addressed before moving forward with those purchases.

Locker Room Improvements

The board discussed future renovations to locker rooms 5 and 6, including restroom and shower improvements.

Matt reported that approximately \$15,000 in city funding may still be available for portions of the renovation work. The board agreed to begin evaluating project scope, costs, and contractor bids.



5. Financial & Capital Improvements

Utility Savings Update

The board reviewed recent utility costs and discussed the impact of facility upgrades completed over the past several seasons. Matt reported that monthly utility costs have dropped significantly, crediting recent refrigeration and facility improvements for much of the savings.

Dehumidification System Improvements

The board discussed long-term capital improvement needs associated with the arena dehumidification system.

Members specifically discussed eventual replacement of the desiccant wheel and noted that replacement costs are estimated to be approximately \$60,000. The board discussed treating the project as a future capital improvement and potentially utilizing future utility savings to support the investment.

No action was taken at this time.

6. Sponsorship Night

Sponsor Appreciation Night

Matt provided an update regarding Sponsor Appreciation Night scheduled for February 7.

Preparations are substantially complete, including sponsor jerseys, food arrangements through Pogie's, sponsor recognition activities, and the senior send-off ceremony.

The board discussed encouraging strong attendance from RCYH families and the broader hockey community to help recognize the association's sponsors and supporters.

7. Additional Updates

State Tournament Volunteers

The board reviewed volunteer needs for the 14U Girls State Tournament.

Members agreed additional volunteer recruitment efforts will be necessary to ensure adequate coverage for concessions, scorekeeping, and tournament operations.

The board discussed sending updated communications regarding outstanding volunteer hours and encouraging additional participation from families.



High School Hockey at Green Island

The board discussed final preparations for the upcoming high school hockey game at Green Island.

Members reviewed livestreaming support, concessions, staffing, facility setup, and communications plans. The board expressed enthusiasm regarding the event and the opportunity to continue building relationships with area high school programs.

The board also confirmed that no alcohol sales will occur during the event.

Action Items

Owner	Action Item
Regis & Lucas	Get together to prepare pitch for La Crosse Soup fundraiser opportunity (March 17th or 19th date)
Lucas	Work with Brittany on election setup messaging based on last year's communications before the association meeting
Matt	Update position descriptions sheet with new people and adjust timeline to February for nominations
Lucas	Follow up with Ginny from Cooley Region Sled Hockey regarding facility use in March and confirm \$50/hour rate or in-kind donation
Lucas	Explore Wi-Fi improvement options at Green Island including mesh network installation and add to facility planning list
Matt	Call Jared to discuss floor scrubber options, including potentially borrowing one from the La Crosse Center
Lucas	Talk with Tony about desiccant wheel replacement opportunities and Trane contacts
Ryan	Confirm date for Over 30 Championship end-of-year event with Heidi Ferry
Lucas	Purchase whiteboards for all locker rooms



Owner	Action Item
Lucas	Address Wi-Fi capability before proceeding with TV/projector purchase for coaching and video review
Lucas	Talk with Jared about locker room 5 and 6 renovation plans, available funding, and beginning the bid process
Brittany	Continue pushing volunteer signup requests for state tournament weekend
Lucas	Send association-wide communication regarding volunteer hours and follow up individually with families
Matt	Write association communication promoting Sponsor Appreciation Night attendance
Lucas	Finalize election and nomination messaging

Meeting Adjourned: Approximately 8:45 PM.