

West Elk Hockey Association Board of Directors
Regular meeting 8-19-2026 by Zoom at 7:00 AM

Attended by Board: Bill Frame, Michael Lady (ED), J Wenum, Jen Willett, Scott Shondeck, Tucker Brown, Jon Schumacher, John Solanik (Gunn Rink Mgr)

Absent: Scott Reamer, Chris Mochulsky

Members/Guests: Kari Roberts, Laura Silva

Call to Order at 7:06 AM

Confirmation of Quorum: Yes with 5 of 7 Directors present

Approval of July Meeting Minutes: Moved by Tucker B, Second by Jen W. Approved

Rink Updates: John Solanik, City of Gunn/Jorgenson Event Center Mgr

Floors in the main area near concessions are currently being replaced, John met with Michael L yesterday and they had a good conversation. Ice crew comes in the week of 9-14, compressor motors are currently being rebuilt, dasher boards have been cleaned, general housekeeping in preparation for opening. Opening is scheduled for 9-28-26.

Question by Laura Silva on any plans to change/improve the sound system in the rink portion of the building? SHe has worked with the system for 15 years and believes the speakers are blown. John did not have that on his radar but is willing to look at the sound system and see what it may need. It may be a future project depending upon cost.

Question of the possibility of a "soft opening" on the weekend prior to opening date. Yes it is a possibility but contingent upon quite a few other parts falling into place in a timely manner.

CB Rink: Per Bill High School players are doing dryland training on Wednesday evening each week.

Executive Director Report: Michael introduced himself and extended a "huge thank you" to Bill for staying on to help with the transition to new ED. Joel is scheduled to start 9-1. Michael has been working with Solanik on rink schedule for WEHA practices and game times. They have also talked about dasher board sponsors/logos and in ice logos. Current logos are vinyl and Michael has experience with rink management/operations and suggests textile logos as an option as they are easier to use and more durable.

Grand Junction summer skates- HS has 9 registered for practices, U10 & 12 have 19 Registered for Sept 5, and a session on Sept. 6 for U 14 & 19 with HS. Based on current registrations WEHA is losing about \$1300 with summer skates. GJ ice costs are significantly higher than Gunnison. We need to increase participation in summer skates or reduce the number of sessions and reevaluate summer skates.

Michael will work on renewals and commitments for sponsors. He spoke with Solanik about different materials for dasher board logos.

On 8-12 Michael and Bill attended the Community Foundation of Gunnison Valley event in CB. And Michael will be attending the CB Rotary event for non-profits on 9-2. Michael and/or Joel will attend Mountain Select tryouts in the future. Unable to this year with the transition ongoing.

Question on sponsorship costs for this year. Per Bill costs have stayed the same the past 2 years and will for this year. There has been some resistance to increases. Dashers run \$1200 to 1400, Banners \$1000 to 1100, small banners are ½ the larger size cost.

Treasurer's Report: Bill covered this. Minimum revenue inflow at this time of year. Grand Junction ice costs for summer skates are nearly 3 times the cost of Gunnison ice and thus is a big part of the cost. Bill advised we need 20 participants per session to break even on cost of ice and a coach's stipend for gas. Using Crossbar and a new program they promoted created some confusion this year with summer skates.

The budget has been reviewed and approved. Big thanks to Jen for her help with that and her ordering socks and jerseys.

Funds for grants typically release in early September and Rotary's grant increased to \$4100 for this year to WEHA.

Old Business: Signature authorities are being done for the GB&T account but is taking time. Bill currently is the only person on the account and will be removed once others are in place. Michael advised he has completed his part, Jon S. advised he will do so today and Jen W. said she would as well. GB&T seems to be wanting to get all done at the same time.

Budget and registration fee changes (increases) have been reviewed, approved and included in the budget.

New Business: Bill-Fall registration has opened and a few people have signed up. Michael met with Josh Townsend on Meta/Social Media access. Michael recommends going to Youtube for live games. Coach and referee recruitment is ongoing. In need of a U19 coach and Paul O'Conner is looking for an assistant high school coach.

Laura S. asked about the process for becoming a ref. Junior Silva is interested in doing so. Process basics were outlined. She also asked about the possibility of HS boys and U19 girls sharing practice ice.

Mention of Crossbar having a "Click" option for indicating interest in being a ref or coach and that of 35 adult registrations so far, 5 have clicked for information. Kevin Stanley may be interested in helping as a goalie coach.

An issue with the difference in fees for WEHA U19 girls and GJ's fees. Striving for a more workable relationship for practices. WEHA has 8 U19 girls for this fall, but issues with a new WCHL rule may reduce numbers to 6. Rule involved double rostering on A, AA teams (Mtn Select) and requires WCHL board approval to participate. General feeling is WCHL board will

deny permission. Two WEHA players tried out for Mtn Select and then opted to play with Front Range teams so WEHA could lose 2 players.

Member comments: Laura S. asked ED if he has any interest or plans for a “never ever” program to help rebuild the girls program. Michael advised he has seen a progression of “learn to skate” and “learn to play” programs work in developing programs elsewhere. Laura suggested looking at Steamboat’s model which has developed a solid girls program. Noting WEHA has previously had a very strong girls youth hockey component with multiple winning seasons.

Jon S. brought up that an adult member approached him about questioning the need for adult leagues to be covered under USA Hockey. Brief discussion and J offered to talk with Jon on history and pros/cons/concerns of doing this.

A request for motion to adjourn was made, J moved and Tucker seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 AM

After the meeting there was a short discussion of concerns about the fall HS jamboree. A front range coach has booked ice slots Nov. 19, 20, 21 for 9 CHSAA games in Gunnison. Concern with conflicts with local youth practices and their expectation for WEHA to supply referees/linespersons. WEHA does not have enough referees/linespersons to cover this many games in a 3 day period, especially with 2 of the days being weekdays and likely including daytime game slots when people are working.