Minutes - Board of Directors
October 12, 2026 7 PM @ STMA Arena Community Room

Board Members Present: Amy Hertzog, Tim Steier, Adam "Woody" Schoh, Kristin VanHeel, Megan McChesney, Brandon Schmidt, Kevin Hollman, Chad Olson, Rachel Johnson

I. **Call to Order-** 7:00 PM
II. **Addition or Amendments to Agenda as Presented-** N/A
III. **Approval of Minutes-** A motion was made by Adam "Woody" Schoh and seconded by Tim Steier to approve the September 14, 2026 Minutes and September 29, 2026 Minutes. Motion approved.
IV. **Gambling Report-** Tyler Stone
- A motion was made by Chad Olson and seconded by Adam "Woody" Schoh to approve the gambling report as presented. Motion approved.
- Expenses
  - Albertville 10% Fee
  - YOY Comparison Start FY 2023
  - August 2026: $331,716.82
  - Prelim Sept. 2026:$391898.21
  - NTE Oct. 2026: $480200
  - NTE Nov 2026: $488700
- Updates/Other Items
  - Annual Internal Audit - Finalizing Soon
  - Raffle Tickets:
    - Arriving this week.
    - Additional Volunteer Shifts
  - St. Joe Donations
    - Food Shelf: $3,000
    - Studio B Dance: $300
  - Turkey Bingos - November 14, 2026
    - Princeton & Albertville
    - Programs - win a turkey too!
  - LG1004 Board Reports
    - August 2026

V. **Executive Hockey Director Report -** John Swanson
- Tryouts: Tryouts have concluded. Overall, there were many positives and valuable lessons learned for future improvements.

- Player App: Scheduled to roll out to the membership tomorrow.
- Practice Plans: Discussed practice plans.
- Coaches App: Discussed the Coaches App.
- Coaches Meetings: Contact coaches meeting scheduled for November 10, with an on-ice session at 6:00 p.m. followed by a classroom session at 7:15 p.m. A virtual meeting will also be scheduled, with the date to be announced.
- 15U Teams: Final teams for the season after High School Trouts.
- First Aid Kits: First aid kits have arrived and are available for coaches.

VI. **Voting Board Reports-**

- **Mite/8U Director-** Brandon Schmidt
  - Mite/8U Meeting: Scheduled for October 20.
  - Mite/8U HEP Testing: Scheduled for October 25.
- **D5 Representative-** Chad Olson
  - Scrimmage Coordinator Meeting scheduled for October 13.
  - October D5 Meeting:
    - Officials' invoices will be issued twice monthly. Registration remains open for officials ages 14+, and new officials' scrimmages must be coordinated through WSOA.
    - Three Tier players are behind on payment plans.
    - Youth travel league fees ($135/team) are due later this month. Crossover teams are responsible for both D5 and D10 fees (approximately $500 for D10).
    - Misconduct penalties carry an automatic one-game suspension.
    - Attached, non-clear mouthguards, helmet ear guards, and neck guards are mandatory.
    - STMA was recognized for its tournament coordination. All tournaments must be sanctioned, with certificates posted at arenas.
    - On-ice officials' clinics will be scheduled Sundays through November.
    - Team declarations are finalized. Follow up on available 15UB roster spots for RiverBlades skaters.
    - GameSheet codes have been distributed. Crossover leagues will be uploaded soon; do not change team names until month-end.
    - D5/D4 scheduling is 95% complete, with 1,208 D5 games scheduled, excluding D10 crossovers. Associations will coordinate doubleheader ice payments.
    - Bantam AA and Junior Gold games cannot overlap at dual-sheet facilities. Avoid scheduling these games on Saturdays.

- Lena will follow up with presidents regarding waiver issues. Development League details are forthcoming.
- Affiliate and SafeSport agreements will be signed electronically. Contact Scott Gray with SafeSport questions.
- Out-of-state tournaments must be USA Hockey sanctioned, and approved rosters are required before scrimmaging.
- E-Bugs: Use rostered players when possible; otherwise submit a request.
- LRM violations may result in a $500 fine.
- Squirt teams are limited to 35 games, reserving one for districts.
- Mites may play seven full-ice games after January 15, including jamborees. WSOA officials are required.
- Three Executive Board seats are up for election in April.

- **Registration Director-** Megan Huggins
- **HOC Admin-** Kevin Hillman
  - IHS training with Max from Forecheck Hockey scheduled for November 11, for coaches only.
- **Girls/Youth Travel Level Directors-** Megan McChesney, Rachel Johnson
  - Tournament Update: All teams have received their tournament information. Pending distribution to 15U teams.
  - Tryout Jerseys: Review outstanding jersey returns and determine what needs to be ordered.

VII. **Executive Report**

- **VP of Operations-** Adam “Woody” Schoh
  - STMA Tournaments Update:
    - Joust: Registration will close by the referee scheduling deadline. Lindsay Asleson will confirm the date with Woody.
    - Rumble: Continue promoting the tournament.
    - Mite/8U: 15 teams each.
- **VP of Finance-** Tim Steier
  - Refunds: Team and coach refunds discussed.
  - Finance Committee: Committee established and operational.
- **VP of Communication-** Kristin VanHeel
  - Kickoff: Update provided.
  - Manager Meetings: Scheduled for October 19 and 20.
  - Volunteer Hours: Hours for coaches, managers, board members, and committee members will be credited in the coming weeks.
- **President-** Amy Hertzog

- Apparel:
  - Warmups: Update provided.
  - Mite/8U Sweatshirts: First round of orders submitted.
  - Coaches Apparel: Coaches to complete sizing.

VIII. **New Business-**

- Tryout Grievances, Requests, and Concerns: Share with the voting board for review.

IX. **Old Business-**

- Bylaws - Working with legal counsel to review the association's bylaws.
- Email Votes:
  - Legal Budget: Amy Hertzog motioned to increase the Association's legal budget to $30,000 to allow for additional consultation with legal counsel. Motion approved, 7–3.
  - High School Hockey Donations: Kristin VanHeel motioned to approve a donation of $5,000 to the STMA Boys High School Hockey program and $2,500 to the NWC Girls High School Hockey program. Motion approved.
    - The Board will review a second donation request for both programs due to increased expenses for the Boys to attend Hockey Day Minnesota.
  - Player Lanyards: Kristin VanHeel motioned to approve up to $5,000 for player lanyards for the 2026–27 season. The lanyards will provide each boy in the Association admission to STMA Boys non-playoff home games and each girl admission to NWC Girls non-playoff home games. The high school programs will be responsible for securing the arrangement and printing the lanyards. Motion approved.
  - Kickoff Party: Kristin VanHeel motioned to approve up to $2,500 for the STMAYHA Kickoff Party at Neighbors the night before Kickoff Weekend. Anticipated expenses include approximately $1,500 for the band, $500 for raffle ticket printing, and up to $500 for additional event expenses, including promotional materials, band-related supplies, and other necessary items. Motion approved.
  - Printer: Kristin VanHeel motioned to approve up to $500 for the purchase of a printer for Association use. Motion approved.
- Last Year's Tryout Review - Working with legal counsel to review..

X. **Open Forum-**

- 15U Teams:
  - Over the past month, the number of teams has shifted from three to two and back to three, creating frustration and uncertainty for families. One

parent shared that they withdrew their daughter due to concerns with the organization of the process.
    - Questions were raised about the long-term direction of the 15U program and how the association arrived at the current situation.
    - Currently have two goalies and are working to secure a third. Player numbers remain uncertain until high school tryouts are completed.
    - Concerns were raised about committing to three teams, potentially having to eliminate a team, and subsequently canceling tournaments.
    - John expressed that he would have preferred not to change the tryout process. Adjustments were made to accommodate two cut lines instead of three.
    - Recommendation to consider holding 15U evaluations after high school tryouts, allowing players to practice beforehand. Concerns were raised about evaluating players who may ultimately make high school teams.
- Tryout Process:
    - Continued frustration was expressed regarding the tryout process, particularly changes made during evaluations and a lack of clarity around scoring and weighting.
    - Changes initially made at the Peewee level were carried down to Squirts with the intent of improving the process. However, questions remain regarding how scores were weighted and the impact of those adjustments.
    - The 15U tryout process was also modified after skills evaluations had already taken place.
    - Concerns were raised about the need for more constructive and respectful discussions among those involved.
    - Additional clarification is needed regarding the changes made, scoring calculations, and overall evaluation process.
- Tryout Scores and Player Feedback:
    - Per association policy, families receive their player's final ranking.
    - Requests were made to provide individual timing gate results and additional scoring information.
    - Player development feedback should come through the Development Committee and coaching staff.
    - Coaches will provide player feedback at midseason and the end of the season, including areas for improvement.
- Tryout Scoring and Pool Placement:
    - Concerns were raised regarding percentage-based scoring and how the weighting changes as players advance through different evaluation tracks.

- Skills initially account for 100% of a player's score, but their overall weight decreases as additional scored events are introduced. Players completing different numbers of evaluations (three, four, or five) may have different scoring weights.
- Requested that the board review standardized scoring percentages versus the current weighted system to ensure consistency across players and evaluation tracks. John offered to review the calculations in more detail via Zoom.
- Concerns were raised that players not placed in Pool 1 following skills evaluations had limited opportunities to advance to the highest teams or pools.
- Skills accounted for approximately 18% of the final score but played a significant role in determining initial pool placement. The bottom 25% were moved to Pool 3, limiting opportunities for advancement.
- Questions were raised about whether one day of skills testing should have such a significant impact on a player's overall placement.
- Feedback indicated that the changes at the Squirt level produced less favorable results, with evaluators also expressing concerns. Players in the middle rankings were identified as being particularly impacted.
- The tryout process will be reviewed, with changes anticipated for next season.

- Junior Gold:
  - Update the website with tryout information, dates, and the cost of participation.
  - Mite/8U Practice Plans:
  - John is working on practice plans for the Mite/8U levels, with the goal of having them available by the first week of practice.

XI. **Adjourn-** 8:00 PM