

**Minutes - Sierra Avalanche Center Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2022 - 6:00 pm**  
**Google Meet - [meet.google.com/dtm-ybna-gud](https://meet.google.com/dtm-ybna-gud)**



|   | <b>Board of Directors</b> |   | <b>Forecasters</b>                    |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Chris King - President    | ✓ | Brandon Schwartz                      |
| ✓ | Mark Bunge - Treasurer    |   | Andy Anderson                         |
| ✓ | Zach Tolby - Secretary    |   | Steve Reynaud                         |
|   | Jonathan Laine            |   |                                       |
|   | Todd Offenbacher          |   | <b>SAC Staff</b>                      |
| ✓ | Jason Oelkers             | ✓ | David Reichel - Executive Director    |
| ✓ | David Fiore               | ✓ | Travis Feist - Education Coordinator  |
| ✓ | David Bunker              |   | Jason Bilek - Observer                |
| ✓ | Peter Stanton             |   |                                       |
| ✓ | Tasha Thomas              |   | <b>Advisory Board/Public</b>          |
| ✓ | Sara Davidson             |   | Elizabeth Moore FS                    |
| ✓ | Kerry Stendell            |   | Neil Morse                            |
|   |                           |   | Scott Spero - Lake Tahoe Snowmobilers |
|   |                           |   | Holly Yocum                           |
|   |                           | ✓ | Dan Dixon                             |
|   |                           |   |                                       |

AGENDA – Items may not be heard in the order they are listed

- A. CALL TO ORDER - Establish quorum / Introduction of guests (MB)
- B. AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL (none), Chris K., Tasha T.
- C. APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES (Jason O., Chris K.)
- D. PUBLIC COMMENT - *Any member of the public may address the Board of Directors on any matter that is not listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes. Should discussion be required the item will be placed on a future board agenda.*
- E. COVID UPDATE – Dr. Dave Fiore
  - Discussion: approach to in-person events and classes this season.
    - Get the new booster when it's available.
    - Follow community guidelines for events.
    - No one knows what's going to happen this winter.
    - Travis - classroom space for level 2s. Awareness events, best if we join another host, better attendance than homegrown events.
    - Kerry - CAW question, should we do an online option if possible. David - online CAW with an in-person afternoon event with a social event. For the next year it would be good to have a big CAW event fully in person.
- F. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (10 min) – Chris King
  - Please continue to treat Chris K. and Mark B. as co-presidents
  - I'm new and learning, and going to need a lot of help from the board.
  - Thanks to everyone for serving, I appreciate it.
  - Events - in person events are going to be more costly from an effort perspective, going to have to be adaptable
  - Strategic plan effort - Peter is chairing, everyone involved. Set us on a path for the next 3-5 years
  - JB scholarship renaming
- G. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE (10 min) – Brandon
  - It may be possible for the nonprofit to supplement forecaster salaries. Discussion: interest in and parameters/process for doing so.
  - Back in pay status 24th other 2 forecasters back 2 weeks later
  - Same staffing structure as last year
  - Things are moving forward on making the 3rd forecaster positions permanent , continuing to move forward, stuck in HR, out of the Truckee office. No date for USA Jobs. 1 year status with an option to make permanent after 1 year. Should be seamless to make it permanent. Next would be a Director, then a 4th forecaster. Will have more discussions with the board

- MB - Forecasters have been working above their pay levels for years. Turns out friend groups can pay forecasters, other centers have. CK - looking to get direction from the board on how we can augment salaries for forecasters. Looking for ways to legally supplement pay outside of pay status. Collect thoughts from the board.
- MB - we'll need to look at amounts, and how it's structured. Contractors vs. employees.
- Questions from the board. Peter S, really good thing. Continue to pursue.
- We'll try to figure it out for the next meeting with the budget. Gear allowance is another possibility, but that may be a little murky. Brandon will follow up with other centers to find out not only why but how we can supplement the income.

H. ED REPORT (20 min) – David Reichel - See ED Report in meeting folder

- Epic promise grant is off. Will know in another month of so
- 2nd to last email about the g22 grant, basically wrapped up. As soon as it is, will pivot to collecting on g21 grant
- Strategic planning retreat rescheduled for 10/9 at Parasol 9-5 pm. Email going out in 2-3 days to gather info ahead of the meeting.
- New Moment factory opening 9/30
- No ski days yet
- October - penciled in for first newsletter, scholarship info
- Budget has been updated
- Merch (hats) looking good from Flylow. Rise design beanies, and maybe some sun hoodies.
- Giant rabbit about ½ way through visualization project. Shooting for mid-October.
  - MB - good to think about interesting data runs. Sawtooth example. Jones/Parker/Cody helped come up with the idea.
- CAW process - stage at Palisades, but pretty booked up. Could also do it at a park or something. Trying to avoid Ski patroller refreshers etc.
- Education committee timing invitation October Newsletter, run for 30 days, End Nov 15th or something announced by December. Since we're bumping the budget meeting to November we need to get a rough number together.
- Brandon question - visualization. Data visualization allows people to search our database for avalanche observations by meta data. Chris king it would be an intelligence/analytics tool. What are we going to do about data bias? Only will have data from stuff people have entered. Should not draw conclusions from the data.

I. EC REPORT (20 min) – Travis Feist - See EC Report in meeting folder

- Snomo class dates confirmed. Website updated
- 2 biggest changes: Womens class and Bear Valley Class
- Nevada grant report approved. Funds available. Ongoing project
- Nevada video work continuing - snow shooting.
- Video released this winter
- Updating daily flow should be on ready to go on the web this winter
- State of the snowpack - trying to use online educational things more. Online presentations on zoom and not a big fan. Great response to the state of the snowpack. JB hosted with Duncan and Brandon. Proved difficult to get everyone together during interesting snowpack times.
- Weekly state of the snowpack. Thursday from Travis. Past-present-future. Big project for this winter.
- To do list
  - More in house training
  - Increase outdoor events with school groups
  - Insurance and staffing was an issue in the past
    - We should now have that in place, will need to talk with David about insurance
  - REI stopped live outreach programs altogether.
  - We'll see how invitations go.
  - New forecaster sleds. Need to get rid of 2017. Happy to be involved to make sure we get what we should from them.
  - Peter - can we use them to involve the motorized community?
  - Check out SAC education calendar
  - Board would be great to be at the EDDY. Lake Tahoe Snowmobilers. October 29th. Table and stickers. Travis and Tasha will be there.
  - Nevada Grant program - only applying for special events. They have significant funds to distribute. LT snowmo and Nevada OHV are close. Can consider applying for more money.
  - January and February are quite booked with SAC education events.
  - Education tracking document - has schedule and instructors.
  - There are no backups, if Travis or another instructor gets hurt, we won't be able to have classes.
  - MB to Brandon - State of the snowpack should it be written online by Thursday instead of Friday since weekends start on Friday now. This will be in addition to Travis's update and will need to be well coordinated and advertised.
  - Awareness topic - communicating with potential hosts. Reach out to people who might want to have us, but don't promise dates or attendance.

## J. COMMITTEE UPDATES (20 min)

- Budget/Finance – Mark Bunge
  - Review of finances (see documents in meeting folder)
    - Fiscal year ends at the end of the month.
    - Nevada OHV grant money did show up
    - Another large check from a mystery south lake person.
    - Approved for next year's CA grant.
    - Bottom line: we've exceed all the big line fundraising
    - 30k over budget on INCOME!
    - No big outstanding bills
    - Running 130k under budget!
    - Almost 200k from individual donors!
    - Good shape financially.
    - Propose we pass last year's budget next meeting and wait until November to approve the new budget so we can take into account what happens at the strategic planning meeting.
  - Discussion/action: motion to delay budget process by one month because the October 9 strategic planning retreat could affect the budget. Proposal is to (1) approve an interim budget at the October board meeting that is simply re-authorizing the FY22 budget, and (2) developing the FY23 budget in October for discussion/approval at the November board meeting.
  - **Vote:** Chris King (President) and Mark Bunge (Treasurer) to manage Fidelity investment account (see resolution in meeting folder) Peter moved, Kerry Seconds. **Unanimous approval.**
  - **Vote:** David Reichel (Executive Director) and Mark Bunge (Treasurer) to manage US Bank Checking account. Chris K moved Peter seconds. **Unanimous approval.**
  - **Vote:** Chris King (President) and Mark Bunge (Treasurer) to manage the US Bank Money Market account. **Unanimous approval**
  - **Vote:** Credit cards to be held by David Reichel, Travis Feist, Mark Bunge, Chris King, Brandon Schwartz, Andy Anderson. Cancel cards for Jonathan Laine, James Brown. **Unanimous approval.**
- Development – Peter Stanton
  - First meeting last week. We're moving towards winter.
  - Fundraising - Big questions: how do we further engagement and broaden our donor base. What opportunities are we missing? How should we do events now that we can again.
  - Individual engagement. - 1 week before thanksgiving. Want to add deeper partnerships with pros and industry brands to push our message. Lots of potential reach.
  - Signup sheet is now in email.

- o Talked a lot about events. Pros and cons. Do we want to do big fundraising events? Consensus is it would make a lot of sense to do an engagement event with people who have supported us. We've had a big outpouring of support and want to do something to thank people. No presentation or even a big raffle, just a thank you event. Todd suggested a few venues. Should we do more than 1 for different areas: SLT, NLT, Reno. Do at least 1 appreciation event and maybe do more next year for the 20th anniversary. TBD.
- o David - needs to have a dedicated room and we should try to get it booked for before Thanksgiving. Craft is a good Reno venue.
- o Existing donors. How do we prioritize people who have or might give us large donations? How can we invite them to spend time with us? Invite people to go ski touring with us. Couple hours on a Saturday.
- o Strategic planning updates: We selected a consultant. Had our first meeting with him over the summer to provide SAC context. Next steps; gather input from the board and stakeholders. We'll be going over all that on October 9th Sunday at 9 am. Couple things to remind everyone; candid conversation about committee structure uses the document as a guide to make sure all can meet the new needs. May need one more session after the day long. Mark B. Please make sure to make that date work.
- SM/Marketing – Tasha Thomas
  - o No meeting yet. Will plan to meet up soon.
- Education/Outreach – Jason Oelkers
  - o First meeting is going to be soon.
  - o Need to focus on the amount we want to give away - 15k only used 11.5k or something.
  - o Summary from last year
  - o Chris King: What are courses costing this year? Inflation?
  - o Working on how to reach out to schools and ski teams ect.
  - o Developing a state of the snowpack.
  - o MB - JB's obituary Emily included us as a beneficiary. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the event. Keep an eye out for the meal train to continue to support Emily.
- MB moved to go to closed session.

K. CLOSED SESSION

L. ADJOURNMENT