



Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

Region Business Meeting 24 May 2024

Attendees:

Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council –
Alpine Rescue Team –

Atalaya Search and Rescue -
Chaffee County SAR North
Douglas County Search and Rescue –

El Paso County Search and Rescue -
Fremont Search and Rescue -
Grand County Search and Rescue -

Larimer County Search and Rescue –

Mesa County Search and Rescue –

Mountain Rescue Aspen -
Park County Search and Rescue
Rocky Mountain Rescue Group -
Summit County Rescue Group –
Vail Mountain Rescue Group -
Western Mountain Rescue Team -

Zachary Kleine (V)
Paul Woodward
Brian Stuebe
Jack Mitchell (V)

Roman Bukary (V)
David Miska
Chris Deptula (V)
Dustin Elliott (V)
Deb Davidson (V)
Leonard Davidson
George Janson
Russell Giesey (V)
Kenny Sowell
Michael Verbit (V)
Scott Messina (V)

Alison Sheets (V)
Tim Davidson (V)
Zachary Smith (V)
Ryan White (V)

Meeting Called to Order: 18:32

Motion: Jack Mitchell
Second: George Janson
No votes against

Roll call:

See attendee list above.

Approval of Winter Meeting Minutes:

Comments: George Janson's name was incorrect.
Motion to approve with edits to George Janson's name: Chris Deptula
Second: Scott Messina
Not votes against, minutes approved with edits above.

Treasurer Report:

Five people applied for conference scholarships and will receive ~\$1000 each to attend the conference.



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Expect around \$5001 for region.

Unconscious Bias Training:

Deb Davidson reported on progress. Expects to be able to present in a month or two.

Reaccreditation Status:

Roman is terming out for vice-chair. Need volunteers for next term.

Atalaya and Chaffee North both completed the reaccreditation tests and passed. Ryan White was the lead evaluator for Chaffee North and Tom Chapel was the lead evaluator for Atalaya

Aspen is up next weekend

Two weeks later is partial accreditation for Mesa

Possibility for evaluator shirts in the future in place of vests and as a thank you to evaluators.

National MRA Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Q&A on Proposed bylaw changes. Three proposed options: April 10th document describes the two main options. Alison went through options.

Washington State revamped non-profit rules ~2 years ago. Audit was performed to see if MRA was compliant. MRA was probably not in compliance before but it is definitely not in compliance now. The MRA is a membership organization. The teams are the members. The MRA needs to have both BOD meetings and membership meetings once or twice a year. MRA was made up as a BOD without a membership group. The business meetings have been a Board meeting made up with one member from each team. BOD meetings can't have proxy voting but membership meetings can have proxy voting. Do we want a BOD of entire teams or do we want to reform the BOD to be smaller (i.e. one from each region). Keep voting teams as board members. Change other bylaws to become compliant with Washington State law

Option 1: Smaller BOD with larger membership meeting. BOD would deal with a subset of other decisions such as financial. Alison prefers this one.

Option 2: BOD is same size as the membership (more or less).

Option 3: Three past presidents option. Not compliant so probably won't be voted on.

Was sent to a lawyer (David Larson). It does not satisfy as sent out. Proposes a large membership and large BOD. Sort of a draft of option 2.

Both option 1 and 2 are legally viable and have been reviewed.

Question from Messina : surprised at contention in February. What is the concern? From Alison: mainly one person, likely fear of change and fear that it is a power grab by the officers.

Question from Woody: Woody supports option 1. CSAR went through similar process. Thinks that a large BOD is not as viable. Takes Canada region with one team and gives them same vote as California and Colorado. Thinks it is OK but is a concern.

Alison response: Vast majority of things will be voted on by membership such as elections and policy changes. Each team will still have a vote in membership.

Woody: membership : by law changes and elections. Does policy get voted on by BOD?



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Alison: Membership votes on policy. Even if BOD votes on policy it will be under the recommendation of the membership. BOD would vote on budget and fiscal decisions. Some details will need to be worked out. The policies will have to be reviewed after the bylaw changes.

Chris Deputla: 2/3 vote of BOD for policy according to the documents

Tim Davidson: in favor of option 1. He thinks that the third option exists because of a fear of quick change. We have spent a couple of years talking about this. Feels the organization needs to be faster. .

Chris Deputla: Does current bylaws require 2/3

Alison: will be online meeting. Need to be registered for meeting and for electronic voting. 2/3 majority is required. No Proxy voting. Feb. of 2023 is first time officers could review info from David Larson (lawyer). ~1.5 year to get it to vote.

Region Record Retention:

Woody brought up record retention. There are ~30 years of records. The region needs to decide what to do with them. The safe is running out of room for storage. There are documents from the mid 90s such as evaluator signed documents.

Tim Davidson: Does it have any detail. Preparing for evaluation next year. Do the records contain the check sheets or just the evaluator signed sheet?

Woody: The records are just has the signed last page.

Tim Davidson: looking for areas that other teams have struggled with but sounds like that data just went to the teams.

Roman: Final signature sheet is the only thing that gets preserved. We can look at a digital option.

Around the Room:

Russell Giesey (LCSAR): overnight search and a horse issue today. New recruits ready to go.

Paul Woodward (ART): Recent Bierdstadt call where the couple got engaged near the summit and then got stranded on the way down.

Roman Bukary (DCSAR): Mission going on now involving a motorcyclist and a tree.

Chris Deputla (El Paso): Abnormally quiet recently. Wednesday, off trail with mountain lion, second call on trail with bear.

Kenny Sowell (Mesa): Busy, homeless guy walking yesterday found today with high angle to get him out.

Deb Davidson (GCSAR): quiet with mud season. 9 new members.

Zachary Kleine (AMRC): 13 new members

George Janson (Larimer): Quiet winter but starting to increase.

Zachary Smith (VMRG): Slow, some stuck vehicles and river searches. New members have been qualified.

Michael Verbit (Mesa): Thank you for the support from the region for their partial accreditation. Steady season.

Dustin Elliott (Fremont): Steady start. Three calls in the last week.

Scott Messina (Aspen): Ready for accreditation. Slow start but feel like the flood gates will open.

Ryan White (Western): The bridge issue is affecting them. Reminder that one thing can cause more isolation. Hope for some traffic around 4th of July. First mission post bridge incident worked with local authorities to get members over bypass.



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Motion to Adjourn (19:32):

Motion: Deb Davidson

Second: Alison Sheets

No votes against.