

Minutes for NMBRA Board Meeting (2/23/21)

Location: Tele-conference @ 7:00 P.M.

Attendees:

Silvio Menezes (President)
Deborah Kearney (Treasurer)
Mike Abdalla (Secretary)
Jan Bear (member-at-large)
Kim Bear (member-at-large)
Dennis Chavez (member-at-large)
Aileen El-Kadi (member-at-large)
Anita Roe (member-at-large)

Anders Lundahl (Guest, Albuquerque, NM)
Mary Grow (Guest, Los Alamos, NM)
Scott Nydam (Guest, Gallup, NM)

Agenda: (determined at meeting)

- 1) MTB Leagues
- 2) Financial
- 3) Race Update
- 4) Next Meeting

Agenda Item #1

Anders, Mary, and Scott attended the first part of the NMBRA meeting to update the board on the progress toward forming a New Mexico NICA mountain bike league. Currently the NM leagues are operating under the Arizona Interscholastic Cycling League (AICL). Anders is the head coach of the Albuquerque composite, Mary is the team director and head coach for Los Alamos High School, and Scott is the team director and head coach for the Gallup composite. Each gave a status update along with important comments concerning the future of interscholastic mountain biking in NM. Comments are as follows:

Mary Grow

- Los Alamos High School
- 8 Coaches, 22 kids
- Lots of riding this year
- Safety is #1 item

Scott Nydam

- Gallup, NM Composite
 - o 40 kids
- Navajo Composite
 - o 15 kids
- The interscholastic model allows for a large spectrum from competitive to social

Anders Lundahl

- Albuquerque Composite

- No races in 2020
- 44 Student athletes
- 25 Coaches
- Lots of riding this year
- There is a “bid process” to become a NICA league
- Is it necessary to become a NICA affiliate?
 - Good for structure
- Would like to see an NMORS Junior Only race in 2021(Fall of 2021)
- Requests NMBRA support
- Other teams
 - Silver City
 - Santa Fe (Bill Roth, The Fat Tire Society)
 - Albuquerque (Scott Crago at Sandia Prep)
 - Taos (Suzie Fiore, Taos Composite High School)
- Mike Perry is currently the board President and league Executive Director for the Arizona League. NM leagues now fall under the Arizona League.
- Suggests that NMBRA reach out to USAC to determine USAC/NICA relationship
 - Believes that NICA races will count toward USAC points for National Championship
- Need to promote the leagues
 - A big effort to promote leagues has not happen yet
 - Distribution of information
 - Maybe NMBRA can help
 - Does not believe that the leagues are self-supporting yet
 - Jan suggested the use of the NMBRA email list to promote
- Colorado and Georgia is no longer part of NICA.
 - Coaches don’t want to certify for both NICA and USAC
 - Money/Control
- NM should become form its own NICA League
 - Becoming a NICA league will offer the greatest chance for sustainable success
 - The bid package is being put together (began in November, 2020)

After the meeting, Jan bear contacted Chuck Hodges of USAC. Chuck was very helpful in trying to explain the relationship between USAC and NICA. At present USAC is only a sponsor of NICA but all the details have not been worked out. For example the coaching education is still separate as are several other things that will hopefully be shared in the future. Chuck said the loss of the Colorado and Georgia leagues are making NICA re-evaluate. So at present things are in flux, Chuck promised to keep NMBRA in the loop as things change. Chuck Hodge can be contacted directly at 719-229-0732 if there are any specific questions.

The NMBRA board offered support in helping with the bid process and future efforts. NMBRA will support a juniors only race and will provide assistance where possible to promote the mountain bike leagues in NM. Silvio asked that a NICA “checklist” be shared with NMBRA if available to help NMBRA in supporting the effort to form a NICA league. Silvio offered to provide letters of support.

Agenda Item #2

No activity for the last 3 quarters.

Agenda Item #3

USAC races in NM is has not been fully defined at this point due to the pandemic. The following is known:

- The Tour of the Gila will happen in late September
- The 505 team will meet on Feb. 25 to discuss options
- The Spokettes TT event will occur if possible in October
- Santa Fe Gran Fondo is undecided at this time due to funding
- The Echelon TT series should happen later this year. The Double Eagle course will not be available due to construction. Echelon is evaluating other options.
- The race calendar is up to date.

Agenda Item #4

The next NMBRA meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021. Hopefully more will be known concerning the status of racing in NM.