

MACC – MICHIGAN ALPINE COMPETITION COUNCIL – CALL-IN MEETING 12-30-2020

Minutes of the meeting:

Alex Carrico called the meeting to order at 8:31 PM.

Attendance – Officers:

Alex Carrico – P	Drew Hilger – P	Ginnie Uhley – P	Mike Hietbrink – P	Ryan Bloodworth – P
Shawn Hughes – P	Steve Coatney – P	Mike Sayers – P	Kermit Anderson - A	Dave Carrico – P
Rob Reader – A	Bill Perlmutter – A	Dennis Parrott – P	Zach Jablonski – A	Debi Koltoniak – P
Chuck White – P	Grace Patti – P			

Attendance – Team Racer Representatives:

Alan Osterdale AA – P	Alfred Cureau JD – P	Gary Bloodworth – A	Chip Dayton SW – P	Gary Konsza SD – A
Mick Serafinski TR – P	Mike Jablonski TB – A	Pat Groves TO – A	Sue Holmes RN – P	Denise Miller TR – A

General Updates – Alex Carrico – No questions about last meetings minutes. Motion to approve from Debi. Second from Ginnie. Motion approved.

Updates from Boyne – Alex Carrico – Update from Boyne will be brief, as we will have a more in-depth update in the meeting on the 6th. They have started blowing snow on FIS. It typically takes about 2 weeks of blowing snow for us to set gates. It also has to stay below freezing, so if there are days where it gets warmer then there may be some days where they aren't able to make snow. Working with Mark on alternative options if Superbowl/FIS are not ready. Boyne has agreed to our number of comp lift tickets, so we are all set there. No other Boyne updates. Grace has done a great job of posting about Boyne selling out lift tickets and asking people to buy ahead of time.

MDHHS Updates – Alex Carrico – MDHHS has revised their order, and outdoor non-contact sports are now permitted.

Registration Updates – Ginnie Uhley – This will be a positive update. We currently have 84 registered racers, 6 of those are new racers. We have 41 racers from E to E2 classes and 37 racers from A to D classes. Ginnie shared a document with breakdowns of various class numbers by ability/vet status/gender.

Courses and Classes – Alex Carrico – For this season, we will need to look past just the number of racers on each course, and pay attention to the spread of workers across each course. Drew – Based on how we usually split our courses, with all the elite classes on course 1 and A-D classes on course 2, we typically have fewer racers on course 2. Course ops has a fairly equal number on both courses. There are 11 gate judges on course 1 and 7 on course 2. Timers are fairly even, but we will need less timers this year, so they may be able to move into other jobs, like gate judging. We also deal with attrition and people being sick, upgrading, etc. each year. We also don't want to split classes along vet lines. We also want to keep classes with similar handicaps together, like E2W and AM. We also need to keep timing supervisors on opposite courses (E1M and AM). The newly proposed course setup will shuffle up the classes quite a bit. Proposed courses will be EW, E1W, BW, CW, DW, SVE1M, VE1M, E1M, SVE2M, VE2M, E2M, SVCM, CM, and DM on course 1. VE2W, E2W, VAW, AW, EM, SVAM, VAM, AM, SVBM, VBM, and BM on course 2. There is nothing in the rules that requires a vote to shuffle the courses, but we wanted to run it by everyone. Alex – One of the benefits of this is that when someone upgrades, there is a chance they will upgrade from course 1 to 2. In the past, upgrades always moved racers from course 2 to 1. This can help to neutralize attrition caused by upgrades. Shawn would like to feed this into his scheduling software to see how it affects specific timers. This could also be good to mix up the racers that are always on the same course together, allowing E and D racers to inspect and discuss the course together. Dennis – Typically, we have always struggled to get good course ops workers from course 2. This change will improve course ops quite a bit, as there will be stronger skiers on course 2 to work course 1. Just hope that other racers don't dislike it enough to walk away. Mick – When the courses are set over the years, course 1 is usually more technical, but now that the courses are balanced, will course 2 be more difficult or will course 1 be less difficult to account for the varied skill levels? Alex – Kermit isn't on the call right now, but traditionally course 2 is a little easier. If we change the courses like we proposed, the course setters will have to take a more neutral approach to setting both courses. Mick – We should make sure that we let racers know that when we make the announcement, as it could be a problem to some people. Alfred – My biggest concern would be ruts on course 1. Bringing C and D racers into a course with elites might be a problem. Drew – To Mick's point, I don't think there is a huge skill gap between the two course settings. Every course has challenges, and there isn't usually a big intentional difference between 1 and 2. For the ruts, in a normal year we might get bad ruts, but with the number of racers this year it shouldn't be as bad. Overall numbers are down, and with the proposed changes, the varied lines should actually reduce the ruts. Alex – We will also make sure the course setters don't make the courses overly difficult. We can control course difficulty by letting Kermit know. Mike Sayers – This is a special year, and it shouldn't take much selling, we need to do everything we can to run the race weekend successfully. Steve – Has run other races with 60-70 racers across varied skill levels

and it works out fine. Chuck – We should be aware that this may affect impact our pacesetters and the data we collect from them. We should keep pacesetters to track drift. Dennis – Agrees that other race programs have way more racers of varying skill levels going down the same course. We can make it work. Also recommends that we take a “half time break” on both courses this year to reduce ruts. Ryan – We can also adjust class order if we need to and have the C and D classes go before the elite classes. We don’t need to talk about it now, but if there are complaints, we can always take other steps to mitigate ruts. Alex – Thanks for everyone’s opinions and concerns. We will make sure this works for Shawn before we finalize the decision. Shawn – The timers that have checked in so far are experienced, so I’m not as concerned about it. The supervisors are the most important, and those have been accounted for.

Class Offerings – Alex Carrico – Would like to preface the next item with a couple comments. We have had lively discussions about this in the past. People have complained about the very small class sizes in the non-vet classes. And there have also been people in the opposite camp that want to offer every vet class if there is interest. Our biggest concern is that MACC stays strong this season. After discussion, this topic will get voted on by team reps. We are looking into removing vet classes in order to eliminate the smaller open classes, but only when there are 3 available classes (open, vet, supervet) and there are 2 or less racers, in one of the three classes. This would combine the open and vet, leaving open and supervet. This wouldn’t affect any of the women’s classes. This would eliminate VE1M, VAM, VBM, VCM. Opening the floor for discussion, if you think this will affect us either way please speak up. Dennis – The solution to small classes is growth. We can shuffle people around but taking people out of a vet class that they registered for will be more negative than positive for those people typically. Alan – Agree with Dennis, but also we only have 1-2 person in BM. Shawn – We are only implementing this in classes that only have 2 people which isn’t really a competition. We have been saying for years that we need to recruit but it doesn’t happen. Alex – First, we are improving our recruiting, social media effort is helping. We have 6 new racers this year. Second, yes, we are proposing that we get rid of the vet class only if either vet or open has 2 or less racers. Debi – I think the bottom line is that we have to look at the big picture. This is an unusual year and consolidating for one year makes sense. Mike Sayers – We should be catering to people under 40 more. People in open classes by themselves are basically running a time trial, and it’s not fun for most people. Sue – I have wondered for a couple years, shouldn’t we move vet up to 50 and eliminate super vet? Alex – Moving the age up would put it in line with the women, Drew and I did discuss this. Don’t know if getting rid of supervet is the answer but raising the vet age might help. Drew – We can look into this as well, but we want to remember that our theme is to minimize changes. Alan – We can always tell people that these changes are just for this year, and we can revert back if we need to. Alex – We can advertise that we are doing it due to smaller class sizes, but this is something that we may want to keep. It could be a solution to our smaller class sizes. We should advertise that we are doing it for Covid, without making any promises for next year. Drew – This goes for almost all our changes, we aren’t promising that everything will go back to how things were, some changes will be for the better. Ginnie – What about vet racers that are old enough to be supervet? Alex – They can choose to race supervet if they prefer, as long as they are old enough. One person signed up for VE1W, and we don’t have any intention to have that class this year. Ginnie – She is the only E1W racer too, so she will be racing by herself either way. Drew – Proposing to eliminate vet classes, in the event that we have an open/vet/sv and one of those classes has 2 or fewer races based on registration numbers at the start of the season. Dennis – How will we handle this with 6 new people coming in? We won’t know what classes they will be in until the qualifier. Alex – We can make the class changes all the way up to the first meeting following the first race weekend. They are all on the same course, so times won’t change. The board can vote up until the meeting after the first race weekend. Steve – Two things. In the past when Gary has done the qualifier, his biggest trouble is discerning between E/E1/E2. This hasn’t been a problem when they are all on the same course. Other thing is that we could wait longer to make this decision, but the longer we wait, the tougher it is for registration/etc. Alex – Two things about waiting. Ginnie has made it clear that she has a lot of racers asking about class/course info. Other thing is that we do not want to wait until next Wednesday to be changing start sheets, etc. With people asking, we have already waited as long as I think we should. We want to be able to answer questions when people ask about classes. Mike – Given that you can change the classes after the first day, and we aren’t giving out individual awards, any ones in doubt, we can always split later. Debi – Basically, what we need to do is communicate that we made adjustments based on the number of people signed up. Alan motions to accept the changes. Mike Sayers seconds. Dennis offers amendment that this is for this year only, and we will flip it back to where it was for 2020. Mick – For the wording on it, we shouldn’t use the word eliminate, we should use merge. Drew – Proposes again: For the 2021 season, in the case where we have an open, vet, and supervet option we will merge the open class with the vet class if either class has 2 or less racers. Motion to approve from Alan. Mike Sayers seconds. None opposed, motion passes.

Alex – We will most likely use the proposed shuffled course arrangement, but we will send out a final notice after talking to Shawn.

Our next meeting will be the Wednesday before the first race weekend, Jan 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bloodworth, Secretary.