

## MACC – MICHIGAN ALPINE COMPETITION COUNCIL – CALL-IN MEETING 9-23-2024

### Minutes of the meeting:

Drew Hilger called the meeting to order at 8:34 PM.

### Attendance – Officers:

Drew Hilger – P	Shawn Hughes – P	Ginnie Uhley – P	Mike Hietbrink – A	Ryan Bloodworth – P
Kurt Adams – P	Jenessa Hilger – A	Mike Sayers – P	Kermit Anderson – A	Dave Carrico – P
Grace Kerbrat – P	Bill Perlmutter – A	Dennis Parrott – P	Zach Jablonski – A	Alex Carrico – A
Chuck White – A				

### Attendance – Team Racer Representatives:

Alan Osterdale AA – P	Foster Butler JD – A	Gary Konsza SD – P	Chip Dayton SW – P	Gary Bloodworth SN – A
Rick Van Houdt TR – P	Mike Jablonski TB – P	Sue Holmes RN – P	Denise Miller TR – A	Kathy Bauer TR – A

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**MACC Schedule – Drew Hilger** – Typically, we get the schedule out early; we talk about dates in February, get them to Boyne in March, and finalize in April at the spring meeting. While we were on track this year, Boyne did some significant restructuring of their snow sports department. They have a new snow sports manager, Kayla Potter, and they are looking to hire another person. We have learned that Boyne Mountain is looking to get back into the racing business. This will cause some challenges with our proposed schedule. They have a couple of other adult races, and a high school race scheduled. They also have a new snow surface manager. Boyne has a new focus on racing, according to Kayla. This means they are looking closely at us and our value. We are good for 2025, but we will discuss with them the value we bring for 2026.

These are the dates offered to us by Boyne. Jan 4-5<sup>th</sup>, Jan 11-12<sup>th</sup>, either Jan 25-26<sup>th</sup> or Feb 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, Feb 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, and Mar 7-9<sup>th</sup>. They didn't give us a lot of options.

Boyne has been promising more snow making capacity on North Boyne. All our weekends are planned on FIS and Superbowl, but if there isn't snow then North Boyne is a possibility. I want to open this up to discussion. Also want to throw out that the masters regional championships is Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will probably take half a dozen racers from MACC, based on past experience.

Kurt - Are any of the proposed weekends blackouts for silver pass holders? Grace - They are not. Are the six weekends listed all available, or is the only real choice the middle weekend? Drew, that is a one-or-the-other choice, we can't do both. Grace - Is Boyne offering anything if we can't race the first two weekends? Drew - Boyne is offering some kind of on-snow clinic if we can't set gates. Grace - Quite a few racers weren't happy with the outcome of last season, not sure if people will be happy if it happens again. Drew - I am not happy with the schedule either, and looking at the survey, people would prefer to have 5 weekends instead of dropping to 4. Most people said the number was good, only a couple said we had too many.

Kurt – When you have 5 races, some people go into it only planning on making 4. Konsza – In the past it's been hard to make snow on Superbowl, but if they give us North Boyne on the first weekend, we should be able to race. Drew – I would think so, and we talked with Boyne about always having a backup option. Not sure if Boyne is all in, but it's still a discussion. Shawn – I like the idea of having a practice weekend first weekend. If the snow is great, we have a practice race, if not we do some training. This will also let people schedule something that first weekend if they want to miss a weekend. Drew – It's also nice to setup timers for the training. People were able to get a few times.

Grace – What if we don't have a race the first weekend, then we add a race at Highlands or Nubs on Feb 7-9<sup>th</sup>? If we can't race at Highlands or Nubs, we would still have a long gap where people could plan out west trips. Drew - Did ask about Highlands, and it sounds like Boyne is looking to combine snow sports some between Boyne Mountain and Highlands. It didn't sound like that was viable to put on the schedule for this year though. In the survey it does look like the highlands would be a popular choice, Nubs is slightly less popular. People are willing to go to other places, but the desire drops off if Boyne passes don't work there or if it's more expensive.

Sayers – We know from looking at past years, we will probably have to cancel at least one weekend. But it's hard to know ahead of time which weekend that will be. If we can schedule 5 weekends, we should schedule all 5.

Dennis – For the Highlands, what terrain would they give us? Drew – Not sure, they race on a lot of different hills. They have moved things around and upgraded a few chairs, so it's hard to say. Alan – What is included in a lane fee? Drew – Most places charge a lane fee if you host a race. For the extra time and fuel they use prepping the hill. We push all the snow to the bottom of the hill and create ruts, which they have to fix. This has been part of an ongoing discussion with Boyne to show them that we have value. MACC racers buy tickets and stay at the mountain. MACC has equipment that we share with them, etc. Discussion about lane fees will be ongoing, not sure what we are looking at yet. Comp tickets will probably continue to be included.

Dennis – As one of the people who has a comp ticket, we should do whatever we can do figure it out before the good pass prices expire. If we don't know until right before the season, prices will be too high. Drew – Agreed, we will try to get everything sorted out as soon as possible. Boyne is also throwing out the idea of discount codes for racers, which would let them track our value better.

Sayers – Would like to race the Feb 1-2nd weekend, but losing 6 racers due to Granite Peak conflict would be a big deal for us. Dennis – That's almost 10% of our racers for a weekend. Drew – We get about 60-70 on any given weekend. Drew – How do we feel about counting the Jan 4-5<sup>th</sup>? Sayers – If we are going to schedule it, it should count. Motion to have 5 weekends that all count. Konsza seconds, nobody opposed. We will have 5 counting weekends.

Drew – The next decision is whether we want Jan 25-26th or Feb 1-2nd. Kurt motions for Jan 25-26th, Alan seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passes.

Sayers motions to add Jan 24th for a three-day weekend, Alan seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passes.

Grace – The first motion was for 5 weekends, are they all going to be at Boyne? Drew – I asked about highlands, and that's not an option this year. Haven't talked to Nubs, since they are Boyne's competition. Grace – With the current state of MACC, we should reach out to other venues. Dennis – First of all, not mad at anyone here, certainly not Grace. Have heard in the past that we don't get younger racers because racing is expensive. It also takes a lot of work for us to have races at other hills, which we don't always have the manpower for.

Drew – Doing more surveys, listening to our racers in a data forward fashion is very valuable. And can help us move forward. Ryan – I've typically been against going to other hills, but if Boyne doesn't want to, or isn't able to work with us, then I am more open to having a race at another venue. Shawn – Going somewhere else isn't going to be less expensive. It will cost more in lane fees, lodging, passes, etc. Our primary focus needs to be growing the organization. See if we can add more racers.

Mike Jablonski – Agree with staying with Boyne this year, and this year we will find out where we stand with Boyne. We can't miss weekends due to their snow handling. And racing at other venues isn't cheaper, Searchmont was potentially more expensive than the rest of the season combined. Think our best bet is to stick with Boyne this year and decide our plan early. Alan – We can't really go anywhere else this year, but we should start now for seeing what our options are for next year. The worst thing they can say is no.

Sayers – Should we put the schedule on website? Drew – Sure, but note that it is tentative and that Boyne still needs to approve it.

Alan motions to adjourn, Sayers seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bloodworth, Secretary.