

Date: May 6, 2015

**2015 MINUTES
5TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MICHIGAN ROWING ASSOCIATION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015, 9:00 P.M.- 9:35 P.M.
PHONE: 712.432.0190
PARTICIPANT CODE: 608705**

Attendance: **Josh Damm**
Tony Sifuentes
Ian Gilbertson
Jon Miller
Frank Sedlar

M5.1 Call to Order, Opening Remarks Ian

M5.2 Adoption of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, the agenda is set as follows:

- A. President's Update
- B. Fundraising Update
- C. Josh Getz Request
- D. Wild Apricot pricing changes
- E. UMRT Banquet recap
- F. Dad Vail Happy Hour prep
- G. Fall Tailgate feedback
- H. Other

M5.3 Next Meeting

M5.2 A President's Update None

Update: None

M5.2 B Fundraising Updates Josh

Updates:

MRA Account (Operations): N/A

FOMC Account (Fundraising): N/A

Gift Account: N/A

Final standings of the 2014 class challenge were sent out. Now just need to order the incentive gifts and send those out. \$2,000 and above donor base increased the most, other buckets stayed relatively stable. Overall, 2014 was a successful fundraising year.

M5.2 C Josh Getz Request Ian / All

MRA received the following request from UMRT alumni Josh Getz, Class of 2012:

To the Distinguished Michigan Rowing Association Board of Directors,

My name is Josh Getz, class of 2012, and I'm in pursuit of a dream that was born on the sunny docks of Argo Pond when a coach by the name of Gregg Hartsuff told me I could do something I never, not in a million years, thought I could do, and that is to compete in the Olympics. But I've reached a point in my pursuit where I either need to do something drastic, or witness the possibility of 2016 fade into the past. I'm ready and willing to make the commitment, but I need your help.

My rowing journey began with a slice of pizza as I was lured to the boathouse welcome week freshmen year. Four years later, with a couple national championships under my belt, I found myself in the stands in London, watching Tom Peszek row his first Olympic race, wondering if I'd ever be able to reach that level. I decided then and there that I would make it my mission to find out.

Post-college, rowing has taken me to two world championships ('13 and '14 in the lightweight 8+), but has come to a point where I must do something drastically different if I'm to have a shot at the 2016 Olympics (only the top 4 guys make the team), and I'm willing to do whatever it takes for that chance. Although I made the 8 the past two years, most of it was luck as I found myself struggling near the bottom of the training group on both occasions. Consequently I was cut from the Olympic training group this year. But then the opportunity popped up to do something that may very well give me the speed I need, but it would take complete commitment, no strings attached. Thus I quit my job (working as a measurement engineer at Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City), got rid of all my possessions, save a car load, and drove west where I'll now be training with Carlos Dinares. He's a man with a reputation for being extremely demanding, but those that survive his program come out fast. Many won't go to him because his training is some of the hardest, most intense in the world, and requires complete and full commitment, but I'm at the end of my rope, and am ready to give it everything I have. In order to survive and excel with this level of training, I won't be able to hold a job, so income will be very (very, very) limited. I've saved some

from working full-time while training the previous two years, but it won't last me long, and any travel to races, etc. would be difficult to figure out.

I'll be training with him alone, but in order to do so, I need a place to live, my own equipment (including a boat), and to pay him...a pretty penny I might add. This is why I'm writing you today. I'm in need of financial assistance. Any amount will do, but below are my expenses broken down. His original price was \$1600/month, but I convinced him to let me work for him, so his fees have been reduced to \$800/month. I'm currently at his place as part of a week long trial that cost me \$1000, but was well worth the investment, because he's decided to commit to me as long as I'm committed to the training.

Monthly cost breakdown:

\$800: Coaching

\$300: Boat

\$500: Quality food

\$200: Gas

\$100: Misc

\$XX: Rent - working on finding a host family

For total monthly training expenses of \$1900/mo. I'll be there for 9 months, so the grand total is \$17,100. It's a lot to ask for, I know, but anything will help.

If there's anything I can do to help the team, especially if I succeed, I'd be more than happy.

Thank you for considering my request. Michigan Rowing has given me so much, as you all have experienced, but if there is room for a little more help, I'd be more than grateful.

Best wishes,
Josh

MRA board members discussed the ask and possible repercussions. One issue the Board was cognoscente of is MRA's nonprofit status. 501(c)(3) status specifies that activities should not "serve the private interests, or private benefit, of any individual or organization". Because of that, the MRA Board did not hold a vote to allocate funding to the request. Instead, the Board discussed possibly pointing friends and alumni toward a website that explains Josh's mission statement.

M5.2 D Wild Apricot pricing changes

Ian

We received notice that the price of the Wild Apricot website would increase to \$130 per month. Other changes include More storage (from 800MB to 2GB) and new limits on account administrators (maximum of 25 admins).

- The Board needs to keep track of old Admins and remove them promptly
- Josh Damm was going to reach out to Zach Wilson to ask if there are any “applicable discounts” that may apply to MRA

M5.2 E UMRT Banquet recap

Tony

Tony spoke for about 5 minutes at the UMRT Banquet introducing MRA to new alumni and their parents. The health of the program seems strong. Coaches were pleased with our presence.

MRA needs to reach out to Ted Matherly to see if he can set up a “new member” button on the website to join

M5.2 F Dad Vail Happy Hour

Ian

MRA will be hosting a two hour happy hour at the conclusion of racing on Friday, May 8th at The Bishop's Collar, located just minutes' walk from Boathouse Row and the finish line of the racecourse.

M5.2 G Fall Tailgate feedback

Tony

We received 23 replies and they were almost all probably / definitely attending. The majority of people were interested in an event on Friday and there was very high interest in a happy hour. MRA will look to incorporate that feedback into planned events in the Fall.

M5.2 H Other

None

None

M5.3 Next Meeting

June 3, 2014