

# 2022 SWS AGM Minutes

The AGM is being held online on October 25 from 7-9 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Nikki
  - Meeting called to order at 7:03
  - Land acknowledgment to Squamish Nation
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Sean
  - No amendments or corrections
  - Approved at 7:05
3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - Sean
  - No amendments or corrections
  - Approved at 7:05
4. PRESIDENTS REPORT - Sean
  - Overview of the SWS and purpose: to advocate and enable windsports in Howe Sound.
  - SWS sub-license our portion of the Squamish Spit and ability to operate is a complicated multi-jurisdictional situation. We must continue to work with our community partners to maintain access to this amazing location.
  - This year the SWS navigated the significant challenges presented to us by the removal of the road. Boat worked fairly well. Everyone was able to get back and forth to and from spit island without any significant waits.
  - A big thanks to the Staff that made it possible for us to have a successful and enjoyable year.
  - Big thanks to all of the members who banded together to support each other in what could have been a much more challenging year.
  - Season got off to a late start which had a significant impact on both membership and attendance numbers. Both of which are down this year.
  - Top priority for the board moving into 2023 is to implement a new website and scanning system.
  - Board has submitted for several grants
  - Thank you to staff: Jack Reider, Chris Rollett, Sam Medysky, Ben Saad, Anthony Degelman, Claire Johnstone, and Thomas
  - Thank you to NS Ski and Board for painting our seacans
  - Thank you to Dan and his team at Squamish watersports
  - Future spit removal uncertain, there has been little in the way of updates from the CERP team. The SWS understands that they intend to remove the remaining road up to the gate but we don't know yet how this will impact our season.
  - Fiscally the SWS has some big challenges to resolve in 2023. The boat is in good shape but the engine needs replacing along with the jetskis. The

batteries in the seacan and a number of smaller projects also need funds. Hoping for grants if not then some difficult choices to make.

- Sean stepping down as President and Mike Palethorpe nominated as new President . The SWS encourages anyone who is interested in joining the board to put their name forward during the election later.
- Thank you to all of the 2022 board, especially Nikki Layton, Josh Viner, Ned Atkinson, Izabella Shalygina, Troy McNamara, & Steve Tulk who have stepped off the board.

#### 5. REPORT ON FINANCES - Josh

- Starts thanking Sean for 2022
- Comparative income
  - Generated \$137,500 in revenue this year.
  - Typically the SWS spends \$100,000 per year so will end with a little surplus
  - Had higher costs this year from shuttle expenses
  - Decrease in revenue compared to 2021
- Comparative payroll
  - Higher staffing costs compared to last year
  - Chris and Jack did a great job trying to balance this with providing access for members. This will most likely be the new norm going forward running a shuttle.
- Comparative Expenses
  - Increased expenses all in operations
- Balance sheet
  - Have to pay Covid relief loan by end of year
  - \$20,000 cash on hand - lower than previous years
- Thanks members, is sad to be stepping down after 8 years, introduces new Treasurer Sandy Heidebrecht

#### 6. MEMBERSHIP AND USAGE ANALYSIS - Will

- Total of 731 passes sold to 622 users
- 469 people purchased Memberships (Family, Youth, & Single)
- 262 Day passes were sold to 153 people for an average of 1.7 visits per person
- **33% of Members & 25% of day pass purchasers did not enter in any information that allowed us the know their location (BIG PRIORITY TO FIX FOR NEXT YEAR)**
- 55% of Members & 31% of day pass purchasers are from the 604 area code
- 19% of day pass purchasers were from other parts of Canada
- 20% of day pass purchasers were from the USA
- The Spit was visited by kites from 11 different countries (Italy, France, Germany, UK, Saint Lucia, Puerto Rico, Norway, Australia, Uruguay, México & USA)

## 7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT - Jack

- Island has been packed up and put away for the season
- Change rooms remain assembled
- Gear storage was positive and lots of people liked
- Winter meter and wifi now solved
- Webcam work in progress, require new units and programming
- Compressor works but we need new batteries
- Shuttle system was a success
  - Please lower flag after to reset for next user
  - Working as hard as we can - staff need brakes, asks members to be patient
- Boat motor has 400 hrs and will need to be rebuilt, hull is in great shape
- Lots of unknowns for next year, access/shuttle pickup location may require a new vessel
- Jet Skis at end of life - needs to be replaced with 2 GTX 170s. Similar to last years models. Stable & Powerful

## 8. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2022 -

- CERP - Update on 22/23 next phase of project - NIKKI
  - This first stage complete; removed 300m to create an opening. 40,000 cubic metres of overburden sand/rock/gravel along with the underlying armour rock was removed. Most of the upper sand/rock/gravel layers was transported to the Squamish Oceanfront lands and most of the remaining armour rock was donated to Squamish Nation for refortifying the Cheakamus River where it is eroding above the Cheekye River confluence.
  - The remaining road visible at low tide a weir left in place ensures that sedimentation and gravel bars within the Squamish River will not migrate over into the central estuary basin. Removal of the upper 4m of the original Spit berm allows over 80% tidal exchange daily and provides ample opportunity for out migrating juvenile salmonids to enter into the nutrient rich waters of the central estuary.
  - SRWS has a couple applications under way (Transport Canada and the Water Sustainability Act), both of which have not received approval yet as there are a couple items to still be completed (consultation and conditions).
  - Once all permits and approvals have been secured the plans are to resume work this coming January 2023 to modify the remaining 550m to allow a full 850m opening from the yellow gate south.
  - SWS needs CERP to commit to a plan to remove piles rocks on the road
    - In main parking area
  - SWS is working with CERP on design for end of the road
    - Turn around
    - Walkable surface
- Squamish Nation - Update on MOU - Nikki

- The nations is our partner on the CERP project and the salmon are a critical part of their identity
- Signed a MOU with Nation of our commitment to a collaborative approach
  - Nation has written letters of support for grants we are writing
- Plan for a season opener ceremony with the nation in 2023
- DOS Update - Nikki
  - DoS has provided Letters of Support for grants
  - Chairing the Vision Committee to help facilitate meetings about the long term solution for windsports
  - Engaged with DoS during elections, most of the people who ran in the 2022 election agreed to find a win - win - win solution, benefiting windsports, general public and salmons, but now we have to find how we can get there.
  - There are a couple areas that we need their assistance or clarification on regarding next year's works on the Spit.
  - The SRWS needs a referral for the water sustainability act permit. This will go before council in November. We are asking that they require the SRWS to have:
    - Adequate parking
    - Signage regarding the danger of Tides
    - Turnaround
    - Safe access to water
- Squamish Terminal Update - Nikki
  - Write letters of Support for Grants
  - Open line of communication to ensure the safety of windsport users
  - They expect to receive data from the SRWS regarding the post construction survey, done in May and the pre-freshet in October, in the next couple weeks.
  - Are still analyzing data to quantify what has taken place since the removal of phase 1 and compare that against historical data (as it relates to sedimentation transport, movement and infill in the approach and berth pocket).
  - The terminal conducted a survey prior to phase 2 of the dredge to ensure there are not immediate risks to the safety of navigation at sea, which there are not.
- Squamish Tourism Update - Nikki
  - Write Letters of Support for Grants
  - Need to stay connected to them as we work on long term goals. May have suggestions about fundraising etc
- Oceanfront Squamish Update - Nikki
  - Targeted opening at the end of August 2023 IF they are on schedule (unlikely)
  - Had a booth for the Squamish Art Festival aka Half Way Party they hosted as part of this years art (formerly wind) festival

- They have been very receptive to work with the SWS to make the windsports beach suitable for windsports, which we are grateful for, but it is to be highlighted that when it will open up, it will be very tight for kiteboards specifically because of the small size of the launch area (we tested it during the Squamish Art Festival (Half Way Party)).
- General Update - Nikki
  - Continue to be part of the Vision Committee - DOS, Squamish Nation, Tourism Squamish, Squamish Terminals and SWS
  - Re-engage long term access discussions - we didn't have bandwidth this year trying to create new systems
- Vision - longerm plan for access at the Spit -Mike
  - Priorities for 2023
    - Memberships – we would like to continue our work to make access as convenient and cost effective as possible for all members, whether they are local or visiting from out of town.
    - It was great to see friends from the US returning
    - We are committed to keeping membership as low as possible to stay financially viable and create a safe environment for all sailors to come and experience Squamish.
    - We are looking for alternative funding sources through grants and community sponsors to improve the Spit and make access affordable, convenient and safe for all.
    - The final outcome of the CERP project this year will influence what we need to have in place by the start of the season in 2023.
    - Community Sponsors & Partners - we're stoked to be supported by community partners such as Squamish Watersports and North Shore Ski & Board as well as Mustang Survival who outfits the Spit staff.
    - One of our goals is to expand our partnerships with more community based organizations. We know we have tourists & spectators coming to check out wind sports & the views of the Sea to Sky. Need to build offering and integration into the community, we're hoping to attract sponsors who can help us realize some of our goals – it takes a village.
    - We need to replace the jet skis this season, that must happen.
    - If CERP proceeds to the fully planned removal, the current boat will not be sufficient to operate in the river. If CERP does not proceed this winter, the engine would need to be replaced or undergo a major overall.
    - Several Spit roadside improvements need to be made: member parking and a turnaround
    - Need a safe gradient to the water and landing zone to load the shuttle.

- We are hoping to work with the District to have toilets & a bike rack stationed on the road side as the porta johns are being used by the general public.
- Composting Toilet – urine diverting composting toilet like at the Smoke Bluffs/Murrin, we've received a partial grant towards this already.
- Sea can orientation & upgrades – sea cans will be reoriented to create more of a usable base with plans for improvement in the future with member & spectator viewing
- Dock/gangway installed for easier loading/unloading & safer entry into the boat.
- Wind/Solar panels & batteries upgrade
- Website – we appreciate the time and effort to deliver the website this year with so much change in a short amount of time, but the platform was not able to meet our needs to retain membership data, important for building economic impact and seeking grants. The pass purchase and check-in process needs to be improved & simplified.
- Working webcam, wind sensor & wind graph – the website platform could not integrate these functions, so that is a priority with the new site. We heard you loud & clear.
- Increase member engagement & community – We'd like to return to community events next season to help build stoke and community, and have fun. We don't have the resources for a major event but we'd like to do more informal meet-ups – fun Big Air comps, Women's meetups, youth programs, etc. to provide more value to the members & build our community.
- Promote The Spit as a wind sports destination & tourism draw - We want to help Squamish continue to grow as a global destination as the sport grows, bringing new residents and tourists to the region to enjoy wind sports and support local businesses and the economy.
- We heard from US & European kites that they believed access at the Spit was permanently lost, so we want the message to be clear that the Squamish Spit is open, and all are welcome to Squamish.
- Priorities for 2025
  - Spit Island improvements & enhancements - We would love to see one of the Sea cans adorned with a mural by a local Squamish Nation artist
  - Add member & spectator viewing areas, deck, stands/picnic tables
  - Landscaping & naturalization of the north end
  - Return of a major event – we're hoping to have resources and funding to put on a major event again.

- Environmental Stewardship & Community Involvement - My feeling is there is some public perception that wind sports are anti-salmon, but we more than anyone want clean waterways & a healthy environment because we spent so much time in the water.
    - Work with community partners to promote estuary health & the work we are doing to reduce our impact on the sensitive environment in the Estuary.
      - Shore line clean ups
      - Improved sanitation in the Estuary
      - Low carbon footprint operations from wind and solar.
    - Summer job for Squamish youth
  - Priorities for 2030 & Beyond
    - Spit Island as a community asset - once the CERP is complete, we would like to see an all-tides access reconnect the Spit Island in the form of a Boardwalk, ideally integrated into the community trail plan.
    - Kiting is used in a lot of advertising and PR for Squamish, so let's make it part of the community.
    - From conversations we've had, the easiest way forward at this time seems to be along the current alignment, although some have speculated connecting from north of the Port would also be an idea.
    - A connection from the port would need to pull land out of the WMA, get a rail access permit for pedestrian traffic, and parking would be a challenge
    - Effective monitoring of all wind sports access points - Oceanfront Squamish will open up either late next summer, or more likely in 2024. Fantastic opportunity for wind sports users to have another main access point with a dedicated beach, but it does look to be an advanced spot to launch and land with potential for user conflict from mixed use. The SWS can effectively monitor the area to prevent accidents and provide a service to District and community at large. These are conversations that need to happen to explore what that could look like.
    - Keep SWS membership & access accessible to all- we are committed to keeping access affordable, and easy for all.
    - Member engagement - we need help from our members to accomplish our goals in the coming season and years. If you have specific skills or energy and want to contribute, we are looking to form sub-committees to work on various aspects of the vision, so please get in touch or stay tuned to our social media channels for announcements.
- Grants - what we've applied for, the work it will support, and timelines - Will
  - Tourism Relief Fund

- Covers capital and operations costs - items such as jetski's, new boat, new website & scanner, composting toilet etc but also things such as insurance, boat maintenance, & hiring two additional youth staff members
- The grant will fund 50% of the project & the SWS would be responsible for the remaining 50%. Can be combined with other grants and revenue streams.
- Total project cost for everything the SWS has asked for is \$272,000, so the SWS will need to come up with \$135,000
- The good news is this includes costs incurred already for 2022 season. Approximately \$72,000 of what we asked for were costs incurred in fiscal 2021/22
- Pending announcement before end of 2022 (hopefully sooner - fingers crossed)
- The biggest hurdle to overcome is that if awarded all works must be completed by March 31, 2023.
- Going to need everyone's help to get this done. Not just for work parties but also for logistics and organization.
- BC Community Gaming Grant
  - Focused on Public Safety so we applied as a rescue service for all the retrievals we do which takes the burden off local SAR etc.
  - Requested \$122,865. Cannot be spent on capital purchases but covers training (such as SVOP boat license, first aid, VHF license for staff) and other operations costs such as gas & insurance
  - Decision to be made by November 30, 2022
- WFLNG Community Grant
  - Awarded \$2000 to go towards composting toilet on The Spit
- The Whistler Blackcomb Foundation
  - working hard to build long term relationship with them
  - We requested just under \$120,000 to help cover the SWS portion of the Tourism Relief Fund, review is ongoing and we expect to hear back in early 2023.

## 9. ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD - David

- Call for directors, asks for nominations from the floor:
  - Sam Medesky nominated for Events
  - Scott Degelman nominated as Director at Large
  - Patricia Kost nominated as Director at Large
- 2023 SWS Board:
  - Mike Palethorpe - President
  - Olivier Corbeil - Vice President
  - Sean Millington - Past President
  - Will Schwenger - Secretary
  - Sandy Heidebrecht - Treasurer
  - David Bowden - Legal



- Jen Luu - Communications
- Allie Duncan - Events
- Sam Medesky - Events
- Loren Parrfit - Operations
- Jermy Lockwood-Mendard - Director at Large
- James Hoffele - Director at Large
- Michael Dobell - Director at Large
- Scott Degelman - Director at Large
- Patricia Kost - Director at Large
- No contest - new board is elected

10. NEW BUSINESS - Members ideas, concerns and questions

- **Member Questions:**

Q: where and how will I be able to nominate people to the board?

A: We will give a chance at the start of the board nomination area

Q: In future seasons will we consider making those fields mandatory (address etc)?

A: They used to be. With the new system we couldn't create mandatory fields. In whatever solution we choose moving forward we will definitely look for this.

Q: How about just supplying pumps instead of spending roughly \$4000 for new batteries?

A: LOL we use the batteries for a few other things as well.

Q: Also all the tourists that come down the road to turn around

A: Totally! We want the tourists to be able to get out to the island and spectate!

Q: I would like to nominate Scott Degelman for Vice President

A: We discussed with Scott earlier today and he is going to run as a director at large

Q: we showed interest in helping out, but the only email we received back was "you know this isnt a paid position"

A: Hey Robin sorry if we didn't do a follow up- there was a lot going on. We'd love to chat more with you

Q: How many people are attending this meeting?

A: We have had 82 people attend today

Q: Do we have a director to represent wing foiling or wind foiling on the board?

A: No but please get involved! Reach out to talk about how we can help these user groups.