

## CCSAM 2005 THINK TANK NOTES

Present: Ian Siemens, Al Siemens, Audrey Siemens, Laurie Penton, Gina Kirchmann, Rob Kirchmann, Dave Benson, Brent Bottomley, Rich Pettit, Jennifer Rasmussen, Nadene McBride, Ken Goodridge, Megan Carter, Paul Krueger, Marlene Boersch, Karin McSherry, Ian Hughes

### Brent's opening comments:

2000 Think Tank recommendations:

1. Initiate consistent event dates – done
2. Rejuvenate the Jackrabbit program – done
3. Improve communications – done
4. Ski control of Windsor – done
5. Improve School Ski program – not done
6. Host big event(s) – not done

Members take ownership of Association

2002 High Performance meeting outcomes:

1. Accept funding reality (categorization drop from “B” sport to “C” sport = ~\$20,000 drop in funding).
2. Initiate a Club Coaching system.
3. Improve coordination of programs.
4. Support Regional/Club teams.

Think Tank rules:

1. Only identify a problem if you have a solution.
2. No such thing as a “dumb” idea.
3. We are the stewards – there is no “them”.
4. The Chair is the Ref.
5. Don't forget Rule #1.

### Positives

Solid Financial Position  
Excellent Board & Governance  
Strong ED  
24 Clubs  
1400 Paid members  
Good communications  
Full event schedule  
3 lit trails  
6 world class facilities  
Corp Challenge  
Club & Athlete incentive grants  
Growing JR #'s  
Growing volunteer base

### Negatives

Impending budget funding cuts  
Small (declining) race base  
Lack of active coaches/officials  
No big events  
No more Provincial team  
Lower HP funding levels  
No Northern programming  
**NO PROVINCIAL TEAM**  
(emphasis intended)

### Solutions:

- National Mountain Bike model – club based coaching, selected athletes come together for projects as a National Team.
- Projects should be identified now (Spring), early training camps for provincially selected athletes aspiring to HP program e.g. Thunder Bay at Xmas.
  - These projects need to be coordinated at the Provincial level.
  - Projects run at club level.
  - Kids need year-round training plan.
- Clubs need help, coaches need development opportunities:
  - Coaches forums/symposiums
  - Coordination – someone to bring coaches together.
- Association has coordinated training camps (Spring 2004, Fall 2004 NTDC) in past – these are low cost.
- Association to act as Facilitator, coordinate regular coach visitations (Wadsworth 03, Bailey 04, Peterson 05).
- Canada Games ID needs to start ASAP – how many kids even know about this opportunity?
- Initiate a Provincial Coaches Forum.
- High Performance team – how to blend this without weakening the club system?

### Hockey Model

- Club teams – from PeeWee to Senior, club vs. club.
- Hockey Canada – ID players from clubs, invite athletes to BIG talent camp each summer (e.g. 300kids, 20coaches...) – most athletes ID'd at these camps.
- Focus on Canada Games
  - Tryouts/selections.
  - Coordinated at Provincial level.

### CCSAM High Performance Program

- Funding system – gold/silver/bronze – funds athletes for projects.
- Needs early season plan.
- Performance goals – AB model: athletes' Westerns performance can lead to full funding at Nationals.
- Goals for athletes AND coaches, incentive for coaches?, pay someone to coordinate club coaches? Should it be the ED?
- CCC Athlete Development Model – are we following it/who's policing? Club Coach grants were reduced for some applying clubs in 05 for lack of performance in 04.
- Yearly schedule – each club to coordinate a project (training camp for example) for athlete/coach development.
- Criteria for scorecard – should be better advertised.

Comment – in 2002 we “mowed the grass to the roots”, “now things are starting to grow” – Red River Nordic and KNTA are examples of noticeable growth.

\*\*Suggestion – hire outside resource to help with strategic planning (Game Plan).

-Better advertising/understanding of CCSAM HP program, Manitoba Games, Canada Games etc. is needed – ideally a coach/club responsibility. CCSAM produces Booklets, website, mass email memo's, list bot...

-Athlete Development model – athletes need to know the guidelines, who's HP?, how do you get there?, what's available after Jackrabbits?

-should be ID'ing athletes to "teams" – e.g. Canada Games 07, Canada Games 11, MB Games, Junior Development squad, etc. – each "team" has identifier – e.g. t-shirt...

-MB Games/Canada Games should be focus of clubs

-Need to keep eye on Jackrabbit level skiers – ensure they are developing skills appropriately (not getting skill progression badges before they have earned them) – but not to take the "focus on fun" aspect away from Jackrabbits.

-High Performance race suit?, toque only?, vest?, badges? – a MB HP logo (something to identify the HP athletes in the community) – paid for by athletes?

-Banquet 2006 – need bigger venue, not during ON spring break, think about rotating the banquet to clubs (RFP process).

#### Priorities

- Nationals Tbay 06
- Training Camps – broken into streams, coordinated by ED, specifically invite kids to camp (everyone who raced in 2004/05 invited).
- 2006 Race projects – Westerns/Nationals/Canada Cups...? Think about US races (MN, WI).
- ID Coaches & Athletes for Canada Games
  - o Produce poster – looking for Canada Games athletes, at Universities, High Schools, summer-season sports.
- Outside coach expertise
- Coaches Forum
- Promote Canada Games
- Big Event
  - o Westerns – MB not in rotation until after 2007. Race Committee needs to be struck well in advance.
  - o Bring back the Continental Challenge idea – MB, ON, MN (similar geography as North Western Rowing Assoc.)

#### TO DO

Communication to clubs and coaches  
HP development model – outline the guidelines.

Training camps

ID coaches & team for CWG07,  
CWG11

HP projects 05-06

Coaches forum (on snow)

JR Leaders meeting

#### WHO

Karin/website/list bot.

HP Committee

Coaches – Rob Kirchmann to strike committee, Karin to assist coordination  
Karin/HP Committee

HP Committee

Brent w/ Rich's assistance

Laurie Penton