

Submitted By: Jason Carter

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Comments & Updates:

Since the last Board meeting, I have had daily contact with the ED and Provincial Coach. Communications with other entities such as BttF and WRHA.

Ms. Kim Mitchell has accepted the position as “Assistant Road Director” and is an invited guest at Board meetings in order to see if the splitting of the Road/Cross portfolio is feasible for the Board. As well, Mr. Rick Yaschyshyn, has accepted the position as “Assistant VP” due to his experience with coaching and club development. These changes were approved by the Board via an email process, and the membership has been informed of the changes.

Since the announcement of the possibility of Mandatory Helmet Legislation (MHL), and the tragic fatality of a WCC member, I have taken on more involvement with advocacy matters. I attended a meeting with BttF members and Dr. Lynne Warda who is instrumental in the IMPACT initiative of WRHA for helmets and reduced speeds in school zones. After the Grand Beach MTB and KOM race, I contacted Dr. Warda for information about handlebar injuries. This information was posted on the website for all members, and given to coaches and commissaires as a reminder to be stringent with safety precautions with KOM racers.

A second draft of a MCA Position Statement on MHL was given to the Board at the last meeting, but not passed yet. As leaders in the cycling community, MCA has a social obligation, in my view, to come to a decision on this subject.

Because the campground opening date was moved up, the WOW stage race had to be moved as well. The WOW race was held on April 21 and 22. Unfortunately, a minor dispute started in the Cat 3 circuit race and the protest was not finalized. This blew over to the first Training Crit where a major dispute occurred involving dangerous racing practices, a crash, violent reactions, and complaints of not being heard due to racism. Although the Chief Event Commissaire immediately ejected the racers, a decision was needed on discipline of the members. The Commissaire expectation and training was for the Provincial Chief to investigate and follow up in such disputes. This was refused due to a perceived jurisdiction difference between “event” and “race” despite the fact that the Board sanctioned the Training Crit and obtained the CCA’s full support for the minor format changes. As a result, I was forced to step in to temporarily suspend the racers pending a hearing.

Arranging the hearing date was very difficult due to the number of people involved; however, it will be held on May 28th. BttF co-chair, Mr. Tom McMahon, will chair the hearing due to his expertise as a General Counsel for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The MTB Director and KOM/Commissaire Director will be the other panel members. As the MCA

representative who imposed the temporary suspension, my role is that of complainant.

Under the MCA Constitution, the parties have the right to further appeal to the full Board, and thereafter, appeal to the general membership at the AGM. It would be up to the Board, if this application is made, to decide on the format for these appeals – a hearing, paper review, or other format.

The above dispute has taken an extraordinary amount of time and energy to address. A dispute resolution policy should have been developed years ago, as is the case in other provinces. Mr. McMahon will be asked to provide recommendations about the process after the hearing, and a policy will be created for the Board's consideration.

Regarding the contract for a Can-Bike instruction video, Tetro Designs Inc. and Handcraft Creative have finished the video. The final product is excellent, with added sound effects and minor corrections to the voice-over. However, the final distribution date is up to Manitoba Healthy Living as the owner of video. Although the release date was originally planned for when the subsidized helmets were to be sent to the schools, this plan was changed. Phase 2 - the finish editing of the remaining Can-Bike chapters - will begin with a meeting with Manitoba Healthy Living this coming Friday.

Many meetings with MCA staff have concerned the final budget. As discussed in the Jan 27th Board meeting, the preliminary budget was submitted and can be considered an "ask" budget. Sport Manitoba notified the MCA that an overall 3.6% reduction in grant funding occurred. The ED will be presenting the final budget at this meeting. Formal Board approval is required by Sport MB in order to keep the funds flowing.

Despite the reduction the message from Sport MB remains clear: to sustain financial health, the MCA must align its programs with the LTAD as much as possible, and design new ones with the same emphasis. That message also was emphasized a Sport MB's "Night of Champions" at which myself and the ED attended on April 30. Chris Prendergast was nominated for Junior Athlete of the Year.

Grant funds have been obtained in order to hire Lindsay Argue as an Assistant Coach for the 2012 season. Although Lindsay has started work, an employment contract has yet to be finalized due to details regarding the application of the Employment Standards Act to all MCA staff regarding overtime and statutory holiday pay.

I was asked to attend the executive meeting for Winnipeg Cycle Club (WCC). They were concerned about membership and the overall insurance environment for their members. A similar concern was expressed by JYD. So a cover memo was drafted, and other documents for D&O insurance provided. Although both clubs expressed concern about the old "FAQ" document, CCA and Marsh Canada have not provided an update of that document yet. The general memo of all insurance products available through CCA's National Insurance Program

has not yet been distributed to clubs. At the moment, CCA and Marsh are providing coverage by means of an interim contract that will continue until a final insurance contract is signed.

I participated in the inaugural “Ride of Silence” to commemorate the passing of cyclists killed on our roads. About 24 riders attended, riding in single file in a downtown city street route. It was a difficult, stop and start ride, made even more unpleasant by thoughts of those who have lost their lives while doing an activity they loved.

The “Ride of Silence” happened two days after the Minister responsible for Active Transportation surprised the cycling community with the introduction of Bill 32 to amend the Highway Traffic Act. We were expecting an announcement of legislation or regulation about school zone speeds and mandatory helmet legislation. Although the press release on this Bill states “[p]roposed amendments would expand the Highway Traffic Act to boost forms of active transportation and help create designated bicycle pathways on existing roads...”, the Bill goes far beyond the creation of bike lanes.

A main aspect of the Bill is to remove “as close as practicable” from the legislation. Instead cyclists must comply with the regulations about any aspect of operating a bike. No cycling entity that I know of has knowledge of the content of these regulations, nor the plans for what they might contain. As well, each of the 197 municipalities can make resolutions and bylaws about how bikes are operated on their roads, include banning their use on certain roads and restricting them to the confines of a bike lane (which may include a shoulder, regardless of its condition).

Since it is incredulous to believe that national and international level competitors can be developed based on training and racing in bike lanes, and since it is clear that a volunteer workforce of the MCA does not have the capacity to attend 197 Municipal Board meetings to plead its case for fair treatment and access to roads and highways, the MCA Board will be asked to make a resolution not to support Bill 32.

Issues/Concerns/Recommendations:

Committee Member Name	Club	Date of Last Contact	Contact Type: E = email P = phone M = meeting	Other Notes
Twila/Jay	MCA	Daily	E/M/P	Re: everything.
BttF members	BttF	Daily	E	Advocacy
Brett Stewart	CCA	May 2	E	Insurance/Dispute
Kevin MacCuish	BC	May 2	E	Insurance/Dispute
Tom McMahon	BttF	May 11	E	Dispute