



## Western Region Alpine Competition Committee Meeting

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**Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

**Time: 10am Mountain Time Via Zoom**

### MINUTES

1. Welcome and call to order – Devin Gill, Chair  
10:01 Mountain Time. Welcome to the April 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the WR ACC.
2. Roll call– Lucy Conklin, Secretary  
Voting Members: Devin Gill, Bridger Call, Troy Price, Lucy Conklin, Roger Root, Jheren Svoboda, Connor McDonald, Beat Hupfer, Mike Ginsberg, Jessie Lepel, Tim Hinderman, Karl Wardrop, Sparky Anderson, Roger Root, Hilary Lindh, Brennan Rubie, Kent Towler, Tommy Eckfeldt  
Staff: Erin Renna, Claudia Yamamoto, Randy Pelkey, Jeff Pickering, Tasha Foster, Chip Knight, Carma Burnett, Kayla Wiczorek, Ali Hollum  
Guests: Mats Boehnke, Lindsay Dowd, Chris Lindsay, Lizzy Sherry, Anton Standteiner, Bill Brooks, Andrew Becker, Jim Hudson, Seth Tinker, Christopher Brigham, Aaron Haffey, Keeler Johnston, Gladys Weidt, Rob Cravens, Jo Abbott, Ben Roberts, John Rust, Marty Harris, Jackson Schmidt, Bill Gunesch, Branko Zagar, Jess Kelley, Perry Schaffner, Magnus Andersson, Jamie Landwehr, Molly Attolico, Kristin Cooksey, Angelica Simari Birkner, Jeremy Ueland, Cat Harnden
3. Review and approval of agenda and/or additions  
**M/S/A:** Bridger Call/Mike Ginsberg/Unanimous
4. Review and approval of minutes from October 15, 2025  
**M/S/A:** Troy Price/Mike Ginsberg/Unanimous
5. U.S. Ski and Snowboard Staff Updates
  - a. Chip Knight  
RD Program currently in Mammoth training. Men are headed to Mt. Hood.  
Searching for snow this spring.  
In a transition period with Western Region leadership. Thank you to Bill Gunesch for a long career within the WR as a coach and Director.  
Happy to have any conversations about what's best for the Region as we move forward, please reach out. Cannot speak too much on the call based on HR items.  
National Development Program – successful once it got off the ground. Proud of the Team effort at the Nor Am level, supporting the athletes and cooperation of coaching staff. Thank you to Seth and Pat for all of their efforts. Big move of number of top 300 World Rank athletes, big effort too in speed.  
World Jrs performance, took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Holdner Cup.



RDP Calendar is posted on the project and announcements page.

Questions to Chip:

Devin asked what the timeline is on hiring of leadership, we see job is posted.

Chip says as soon as possible, should be prior to Congress.

Devin asked any leadership restructuring Regionally? Chip likes the set up and structure, does not see any changes. Couple of coaching positions open. Feels like high level regional programming can still do better, training blocks at U18 level within the Region.

Devin pointed out that the communications factor from the National Office on this process was frustrating and lacking. Chip stated that based on staffing and HR they could not communicate.

Bridger asked why communication was not possible as the WR ACC Executive should be in the loop of such changes.

Bill Brooks asked about what Chip feels is the WR failures and what do you expect? Chip stated that within the west there are not many athletes in the named group and we need to improve in advancing athletes and be aligned in movement to the National level.

Bill Brooks asked out of U.S Team and Olympians, how does West stack up against the other regions? Chip pointed out this is about the depth of the development level. We have notable Western athletes at high levels. Feel like there is widespread agreement we can do a better job.

Bill Brooks – bit of a problem with lack of communication to the Regional ACC about the decision to let Bill go.

Bill Brooks: Thank you to Bill Gunesch, a guy who gave his life to the sport and to the region. Thank you for the fabulous job, sorry it went this way. Thank you for leading and encouraging all of us. Pick, Devin and many others chimed in for thanks. Devin thanked Bill Gunesch for his dedication to one Region longer than Devin has been alive, that's amazing devotion!

6. Western Region Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee Report – Devin Gill

only item was meeting after the release of Bill Gunesch. Few meetings are coming up as preparation for calendaring and hiring of the WR Director.

b. Treasurer Report – Troy Price

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Fiscal year closes April 30<sup>th</sup>, it's crunch time. Bills and payments to the NGB will take place soon. Expecting accounts payable to U.S. Ski and Snowboard of \$55,000, awaiting the invoice.



Ali doing a great job tracking head tax and it has worked smoothly with ASR. She is working with the Divisional Managers to track down last HT. By June 30<sup>th</sup> we need to close one year of books and prep for 2027 season.

Current account numbers:

Checking \$254,247 Savings \$155,823 Moved \$100k mid-season to a high return CD, this is included in the savings balance. Investment account \$148,157

Proposed budget at Congress.

- c. Site Selection Committee – Bridger Call
    - i. [2027 calendar discussion – Three options.](#)

Draft A: put on top of 2026 season calendar. Issue is that U18's are earlier creating a conflict of using Elite Series to qualify.

Draft B: condensed schedule to get Elite Series in prior to U18 nationals.

Draft C: Eliminates an elite series to free up time for Divisional/Zonal races. Development committee leaned towards this draft. Does eliminate Elite series for advancement to U18 Nationals.
  - d. Development Committee – Bridger Call

committee met 4.22 and discussed the proposals on this agenda, provided feedback. Discussion mostly regarding Divisional FIS: ENL, Zonal, etc. provides options.

Bill Gunesch thanked for staying engaged even after being released. He is committed to wrapping up the season working on calendaring, budgeting, and closing out the unfinished business of the season.
7. Western Region Program and Staff Updates will be presented at Congress
  8. Divisional Manager Reports
    - a. Pacific North West Claudia- Shared initial PNW calendar and what happened or should say what didn't happen. No large storms and created a very challenging season.

PNW ACC Executive worked hard to move things around and create events for the athletes. Program Directors were very flexible in assisting to make things happen. Early finish to the season.

Happy notes – Seahawks won the Super Bowl and Claudia attended the parade and had a great winter of desert hiking with her grandson.

Trivia note: Bill Gunesch had an athlete Luke Musgrave who is now a tight end for the Packers. Bill developed all around athletes, not just ski racers.

Thankful to work with folks that work to solve problems instead complain.

Thank you to Bill, he has been a mentor for years – helped develop Claudia as a coach and pushed her on the governance side. Glad he is in the Northwest so that Claudia can still visit Bill.



- b. Intermountain Carma- strong season despite challenging snow season. Clubs and coaches demonstrated ability to collaborate and support one another. Only lost 3 of 12 SG races in the U14 and U16 series.

Several clubs stepped on short notice to take on large events: Tri D's from Snowbasin to Grand Targhee, and U16 Nationals from Snow King to Grand Targhee. Highlight commitment to the racing community.

Financially IMD head tax revenue met budget. Finalizing end-of-year finances. Membership saw a slight decrease; overall numbers remain relatively stable. Total IMD licenses were 1,577 in 2025, compared to 1,560 the previous season. IMD athletes successes reviewed at all levels, U14, U16 and FIS.

Finally, I would like to thank Bill for his many years of dedicated service. He has been a pleasure to work with, and I believe he played a key role in fostering a collaborative and cohesive environment among the divisions. Greatly enjoyed working alongside Kayla, Claudia, Erin, Tasha, and Ali.

Looking ahead, remain uncertain about what "moving in a different direction" means in relation to Bill's position. From Carma's perspective, the change did not feel necessary, particularly given the manner in which it was handled.

IMD Spring ACC meeting, awards dinner and golf scramble are scheduled for one week after congress in Wendover, NV.

- c. Northern Erin – Successful season, faired better than others with snow conditions and grateful to all the officials, coaches, programs and families. Did not lose any races.

Numbers up from last season, doubled U16 women's membership. Rest of the age groups fairly steady from last year.

Thank you to Big Sky for picking up Spring Elite series. Lost NCAA champs, based on Nordic venue issues.

Athlete successes reviewed. For a small division, qualified athletes to RTG and National level projects, including three U16 men attended Nationals.

Challenges of number of officials. Lucy thanked for fall clinics assistance.

Working towards increased number of TD's.

Small clubs struggling with coaches' education system. Calendaring challenges, resorts offering smaller windows to host events.

FIS Devo quotas are challenging as athletes qualify very last minute due to small quota and larger number of first year FIS athletes.

Bridger Ski Foundation looking for a new alpine director, job is posted.

Thank you to Bill, appreciate all the mentorship. Grateful for the managers.

Thank you to the board of directors, acc, coaches, clubs and officials in the division.



- d. Far West Kayla – interesting winter. Wrapped up the season this past Monday with the SG’s. ROC’s did a great job of moving things around to make it work for athletes. Picked up U14 Regionals late, made it work through. Looking forward to the return to the Spring Select project in 2027.  
Membership came out stronger than previous season. U14 ladies and U10.U12 numbers are up.  
Brought in the leader bib this season, positive feedback. Athlete successes reviewed.  
Thank you to Bill Gunesch for his years, guidance and mentorship.
  - e. Alaska Tasha - was the opposite winter season in AK with plenty of snow. Some of the best overall surface with great athlete development due to consistent surface.  
10 USSS races scheduled, and only one SG cancelled (due to avalanche closing the venue). Moved race series in Juneau to Alyeska due to their wet weather. Juneau hosted the race at Alyeska, great cooperation amongst the division. Athlete successes reviewed. Qualifications for U14 and U16 regionals became the same to allow for easier understanding for athletes, parents and coaches. Seeding challenges with the loss of the SGs = seeding based on National points for U16 regionals, and use of GS qualifiers for the U14’s. Provides guidance as an option for future.  
Membership – fairly consistent from last year, little higher in the U16 level. 8 coaches passed early season level 100, helpful in having Jen Danza in running these level 100 and 200’s. Officials training 4 new refs, 1 new TnC, small numbers but working on developing. Thank you to Lucy for the update and review and workshop master calendar which allowed AK folks to attend outside of the division to complete their annual requirement.  
Thank you to all of the managers and thank you to Bill Gunesch for all of his work and guidance.
9. National Committee Reports – focusing on any items coming from committees to Congress
- a. Collegiate Report – Sparky Anderson  
Thank you to Bill for being a mentor for almost 30 years.  
RMISA got all races off this season as scheduled. Next year working on citing 5 races in Rocky, 9 in the WEST, 4 will be in AK (Feb 24-27)
  - b. U16 and Older Working Group – Jess Kelley  
no meeting since last August, no report  
Devin Gill addressed that Aaron Atkins congress meeting will be his last meeting as his 4 years is up. Looking for nomination from WR to fill that spot. Any nominations please send to Devin, Jess, and Lucy



- c. U14 and Younger Working Group – Lindsay Dowd  
No meetings this season and will share any updates at next meeting. West is in full support on language regarding live timing for U14's  
Thank you to Bill for all you have done for our Region over the years.
- d. Coaches Education Working Group – Ben Roberts or Forrest King Shaw  
Ben – no meeting. Continuing to look for info on what the goals are for this WG  
Lucy asked about any updates on the Level 50 regarding time frame, cost, process. Ben will
- e. Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks  
no report
- f. Officials Update – Roger Root  
Thank you to Bill Gunesch for his mentorship and friendship.  
Educationally we had a good season, good material, universal update – master update calendar allowed lots of flexibility and opportunity for officials to complete their updates and provided more Nationwide opportunities for collaboration.  
ASR task force – worked much better in 2026, always some bugs.  
Shout out to Margo and Jeff for their assistance in continuing movement of races in the WR. They are the glue!  
WR working on development of TD's and cross collaboration of TD's in the West.
- g. TDAG – Rob Cravens or Troy Price  
Meeting held on 4.20. Held discussion regarding U14's older vs U14 and younger LT and waxing language.  
Proposals that were provided and both turned down due to no support or identified need. Working on forms in the Master Packet. Dave Waller provided classifications update and how TD's can provide guidance as seeing situation developing about expectations of low point athletes.  
Reminder on Homologation updates -be active with the inspectors, especially bnet vs cnet locations.  
Discussion on Gate Judges and how to make it a more desirable position vs jury being gate judges.  
Unsportsmanlike conduct discussion, especially repeat offenders at the National events. Too many are receiving weekly verbal warnings and no follow up at next event.  
True North nominations are due, please send to Troy and Rob.  
Thank you to Lucy for ASR task force in helping make exceptional progress  
Thank you to Bill Gunesch – mentor, friend, leader, exceptional performance.
- h. Health of Sport – Kristen Cooksey  
Active year, 3 meetings pre-season, and one informal in January. No proposals out currently. Discussions – focus on youthful age groups: allow hiking in GS U12 and under. Reformatting inspection window. Open door for entry level athletes



for reduced cost, do realize this has a fiscal impact and may be a big challenge.  
Thank to Bill for energy, time and leadership.

10. Old business –

- a. Athlete rep nomination -please send to Devin
- b. U16 and older Working Group rep as mentioned above

11. New business –

- a. Internet based timing U14 and Older (please see attached)

**M/S/A:** Mike Ginsberg/Beat Hupfer/Unanimous

no discussion. Proposal will be moved forward to ASC from the WR by May 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

Action Item: Lucy to prep this and send to ASC Chair, Karen Ghent

- b. WR JR Championships Awards structure (please see attached)

**M/S/A:** Beat Hupfer/Karl Wardrop/Unanimous

no discussion.

- c. WRangler Cup Annual Awards (please see attached)

**M/S/A:** Karl Wardro/Mike Ginsberg/Unanimous

Karl asked are there enough SG's that it will make a difference? Bill pointed out that WR JR's could be included to help provide. This language will be updated after the calendar is finalized and the 2027 Handbook is prepped. WR ACC will be involved in the finalized language.

- d. Divisional FIS (please see attached)

**M/S/A:** Karl Wardrop/Beat Hupfer

Amendment of Goals #2 'races could be scheduled'

Amendment Karl Wardrop/Beat Hupfer/ Unanimous (attached)

up to the Divisions to calendar, allows less travel and health of sport.

Encourages cross over U16 and U18's. not the same codex or penalty. Thoughts to be ENL races allowing the 990's initial starts that are more local. Certain quotas that are fixed – National and Regional

Discussion – Bridger would like to see a version where we don't have to run

National points race, allowing each division the opportunity run with or without National events. Looking for flexibility.

Small fields concern.

12. Motion to adjourn

Devin thank you to Bill Gunesch for his many years of service to the Western Region. We could not have made it here without you. Looking back it has been a good ride. Thank you for the amount of time you have dedicated to the region as a regional coach, parent, regional director. Thank you on behalf of the WR ACC for everything you have done!



Bill Gunesch – thank you to everyone in the Region for their support. This year was difficult due to the many calendar changes. Without the support and cooperation of the ROC's, the coaches and the programs we would not have had much of a year at all. Thank you and keep up the great work, should be proud of what the kids are accomplishing. Reach out if you have any questions! Don't feel sorry, was going to retire in a year. Disappointed in not being able to finish a couple of goals or make sure items transition smoothly. Inclined to do all he can to help the region move forward.

**M/S:** Bridger Call/Mike Ginsberg

13. Next meeting: May 11, 2026 6:00pm Mountain Time, Bison Room 1-2

[Congress Schedule](#)