

REVISITING THE NW ROWING COUNCIL PURPOSE/VISION

Draft document to stimulate discussion

Need/plan

- Its been a while... time to re-visit mission/roles to provide focus of time and resources (and guide the needed update of bylaws, etc.)
- Belief that the mission (and subsequent focus) should be on adding value to members that is not found elsewhere (see list below of other bodies that provide regional support for our clubs)
- Proposed process is to:
 - Gather input from discussions with, and then a survey of, members
 - Based on that input, the NWRC will generate a proposal which will be further discussed and voted on by members

Historical role of NWRC

- Founded in 2003. Members are the Clubs in the NW region.
- Mission/purpose (per current by-laws): To develop participation in and create opportunities for rowing
- In the early years the council focused on the crystallization of the goals of, and events in, the NW Regional Championships (both masters and juniors).
- Current roles includes:
 - maintains website at <https://rownw.com/> that has includes lists of members, news/events, email list-serve sign up forms, and historical documents
 - maintains a regatta box and facilitates its use
 - acts as a bi-annual forum for discussion of topics by (predominantly) coaches
 - receives and disburses \$5,000 per year from USRowing (from the proceeds of the Regional Championships); disbursement has historically included:
 - supporting clubs sending athletes to Youth Nationals
 - for a few years PVRA costs for a new course on Vancouver Lake
 - support of new clubs to get rowing up and running, e.g. ergs for Renton Rowing to Pocock Foundation, a motor for donated launch for Clam Island, start-up funds for Whatcom rowing

Starting list of ideas (blend of mission / role) that have come up in recent conversations - (to spark ideas, not constrain thinking):

- A more assertive voice in defining the role of the NW Regional Championships (especially Youth)
- Facilitating coach education, training, and networking in the region.... perhaps around a conference
- Regional communications facilitation - discussion groups, etc. on a variety of topics
- Keeping the NW knit together, fostering community, and keeping folks in the loop
- Consensus building body re a voice back to USRowing on policy decisions
- Forum for regional leadership, identifying and solving issues that would benefit all (schedule, kids changing clubs, etc.)
- SafeSports audits and assistance
- Getting ahead of new initiatives coming out of USRowing such as, for example, Coastal Rowing
- Focus on helping new clubs to get rowing up and running
- Support the development of more racing (provide a platform to help clubs set up scrimmages, for example)

Other “regional” bodies/efforts that support our clubs:

Note: This is a starting point and likely not a complete list

US Rowing:

- *Mission:* Provide ongoing opportunities to achieve excellence in rowing in the United States
- Initiatives/resources that intersect with the NW
 - Masters and Youth Regionals
 - USJNT ID Camps
 - Olympic Development Program Camps / Youth Regional Challenge
 - SafeSports
 - Insurance

Portland Vancouver Rowing Association (PVRA)

- *Mission:* To establishing a venue to host regional and local competitions and to help develop the programs, athletes and the sport of rowing in the Northwest Region
- Primary means of accomplishing its mission:
 - Maintaining a fully buoyed, 7-lane, 2000-meter racecourse and race venue at Vancouver Lake in Vancouver, Washington
 - Coordinating and hosting competitive regattas in partnership with US Rowing and
 - Offering use of the racecourse and PVRA’s resources to other organizations for training and competition

Friends of Vancouver Lake

- *Mission:* To save Vancouver Lake for its recreational purposes and economic potential. Milfoil is a notorious noxious weed that has devastated many boating communities. Control needs to be aggressive and happen early to have a chance to save economic and recreational opportunities. We have labor, we need money.

George Pocock Rowing Foundation (GPRF):

- *Mission:* To build and support high quality programs and facilities that promote access to rowing, excellence in rowing, and use rowing as a means to foster physical activity, health, leadership, and community engagement
- *Vision:* With a primary focus on youth participation, the GPRF programs and scholarship support creates a more inclusive and accessible rowing community for any and all youth. We hold excellence and access to be two sides of the same coin and use this belief to guide our decision making
- *Initiatives:*
 - Indoor Rowing Education via Erg Ed
 - Boathouse support
 - Student support via Row to the Future Fund and needs-based scholarship process

NW High Performance Camp

- Nick Haley annual January camp where two athletes (selected by their own clubs) participate in a weekend camp coached by top coaches from in/out of region