

SLNC BOD Meeting

August 27, 2026

Present: D. Embleton; C. Flores; D. Dennier; A. Klein; T. Klaschka; B. Miller; T. Fulop; L. Bot; C. O'Conner; I. Lennie W. Shannon

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Land Acknowledgement

Agenda: Approved

Minutes from June 2025 Meeting approved

- **Financial Report and Fiscal Performance Review:** Alex presented the annual financial report, highlighting a significant operating surplus, increased income and expenses, the impact of salaries and wages, cash flow details, grant income, and the successful transition to a new accounting system.
 - **Operating Surplus and Income Trends:** Alex reported a \$59,200 operating surplus, a substantial improvement over the previous year's loss and the budgeted deficit. Total income and gross profit have increased by 70% and 67% respectively since 2021, but expenses, particularly salaries and wages, have risen by 112%, leading to a decline in operating surplus.
 - **Cash Flow and Capital Investments:** The organization's cash position increased to \$1.3 million, with \$958,000 in restricted funds primarily for the lodge renewal. Major cash activities included paying down a groomer loan, receiving \$801,000 in donations for the lodge, and investing \$84,000 in capital assets, all in line with board-approved budgets.
 - **Program and Competition Financials:** Program revenue is up 5% from last year but remains 17% below the 2022–23 season. The Academy programs' results are stable, while other programs and subsidies, such as S2S and competition income, have improved. Alex clarified that improved transparency in reporting competition revenues and costs contributed to the apparent increase in net income from competitions.
 - **Grant Income and Fund Development:** Grant income reached \$21,400, over 400% higher than the previous year, attributed to the efforts of the Fund Development Committee. Alex emphasized the importance of continued grant applications and clarified how grants are reported in financial statements, distinguishing between operational and capital grants.

- **Accounting System Upgrade:** The transition to QuickBooks, a cloud-based accounting system, was completed, improving efficiency and access to financial reports for the GM and finance team. This upgrade replaces the outdated Accounting Edge software and is expected to streamline financial processes.
- **Lodge Renewal Project and Grant Updates:** Wendy provided an update on the lodge construction progress, grant funding for various projects, and the need for additional support on the Lodge Committee.
 - **Construction Progress and Timeline:** Wendy reported that lodge construction, including drain work and roof repairs, is progressing well, with contractors aiming to complete the project by mid-October, weather permitting. The structure has been confirmed as sound, and contingency plans are in place for weather delays.
 - **Grant Funding for Lodge and Programs:** Multiple grants have been secured for the lodge and related programs, including \$14,585 for crawl space work, nearly \$8,000 from the Rotary Club, and additional funds for school ski and coaching programs. These grants, along with donations, cover a significant portion of project costs.
 - **Lodge Committee Capacity and Volunteer Recruitment:** It was highlighted the need for additional volunteers, especially board members, to support ongoing and future lodge renewal activities. Opportunities for involvement are open to both board members and the general membership.
 - **Reporting Obligations for Grants:** Cynthia and Bill discussed the need to clarify responsibilities for grant reporting, with Wendy recommending coordination between the Fund Development Committee and those responsible for financial and operational reporting to ensure compliance with grant requirements.
- **Strategic Plan Update and Board Prioritization:** Dave led a discussion on updating the strategic plan's implementation, focusing on narrowing priorities, integrating feedback from BOD members, and planning to present a revised version for board approval at the next meeting.
 - **Streamlining Strategic Priorities:** Dave proposed reducing the number of active strategic priorities from thirteen to seven, focusing on programs, finances, and other key areas, while moving less urgent items to an appendix

with status explanations. The board agreed to this approach to better allocate resources.

- **Next Steps and Approval Process:** Dave agreed to revise the document based on board feedback, clarify the status of environmental sustainability and other priorities, and table the motion for approval until the next meeting. The board supported the format and intent, pending final wordsmithing.
- **Competitions Committee Planning and Volunteer Coordination:** Leif and Wendy reported on the upcoming competition schedule, the club's role as backup venue for Olympic trials, financial outcomes from recent events, and the ongoing need for a volunteer coordinator.
 - **Event Schedule and Olympic Trials Backup:** Sovereign Lake has been designated as the backup venue for the Olympic trials, with a decision expected by November 30. If activated, the event will be a joint effort with Nordic Canada and Prince George volunteers, and will require careful management due to three consecutive race weekends.
 - **Financial Results and Grants:** The S2S event contributed \$15,400 to each Sovereign and Silverstar, and \$14,500 to KidSport. Additional grants were secured for the Continental Cup and S2S, supporting event operations and athlete participation.
 - **Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination:** The committee is seeking a volunteer coordinator to manage recruitment and succession planning for key event roles. Laura and Wendy described efforts to recruit through local organizations and volunteer fairs, while emphasizing the need for clear job descriptions and internal hiring for specialized roles.
 - **Facility Use and Trail Pass Policies:** Wendy clarified that athletes and coaches are not charged for trail passes on official training days, a policy consistent across events. The board discussed the need for clear agreements with Nordic Canada to ensure financial responsibilities are defined if Sovereign hosts the Olympic trials.
 - **Managing Pre-Event Access and Revenue:** Laura raised concerns about controlling access and ensuring payment from teams training before events. Wendy and Cynthia agreed to revisit this issue and consider bringing a plan to the next meeting to address pre-event access and revenue collection.

- **Environmental Sustainability and Emissions Reporting:** Dave presented the annual emissions report, detailing reductions in electricity and gasoline use, the impact of grooming on emissions, and opportunities for further improvements.
 - **Emissions Reduction Achievements:** Electricity consumption decreased due to programmable thermostats and improved shutdown procedures, while gasoline use dropped by two-thirds over two years, aided by switching to electric chainsaws and providing electric outlets for race teams.
 - **Grooming and Firewood Impact:** Grooming remains the largest source of emissions, with diesel use fluctuating based on snowfall. Firewood use could be reduced by better drying and storage practices, and the new lodge is expected to further decrease firewood needs.
 - **Carpooling and Member Emissions:** Member commuting emissions are seven times higher than operational emissions, highlighting the importance of carpooling initiatives. While a carpool parking spot was established, usage data was not collected, and further promotion is needed.
 - **Future Opportunities and Challenges:** Plans include transitioning all gasoline-powered trail equipment to battery electric, pursuing grants for equipment upgrades, and considering solar installations, though funding remains a constraint. The committee will continue to monitor and report on emissions and sustainability initiatives.
- **Committee Reports and Governance Updates:** Ongoing committee activities were discussed, including governance policy updates, grant reporting responsibilities, the need for an elections committee, and upcoming board meetings.
 - **Grant Reporting Responsibilities:** Bill and Wendy agreed to clarify who is responsible for reporting to granting agencies, with Wendy recommending coordination between the Fund Development Committee and those preparing financial and operational reports.
 - **Elections Committee Recruitment:** Cyndy announced the need for three members in good standing to serve on the elections committee, encouraging board members and others to volunteer or recommend candidates.
- **Staffing and Organizational Structure Updates:** Wendy provided a staffing update, confirming that all key operational and program roles are filled for the upcoming year, with Gareth overseeing the grooming team and Brad bringing additional expertise in grooming operations.

- **Staffing Status and Grooming Team Structure:** All essential positions for operations and programs are filled, with Gareth managing the grooming team instead of the previous head grooming model. Two full-time and several part-time groomers are in place, and Brad's operational knowledge will support the team.
 - **Volunteer Recruitment for Programs:** Volunteer recruitment for program staffing is ongoing, with program leads managing the process. The organizational chart has been updated to reflect the new reporting structure for grooming staff.
- **Spring Grooming and Member Feedback:** A member letter was shared requesting extended grooming into spring, prompting a discussion about operational, safety, and permit considerations, as well as possible models for spring access.
- **Programs Task Force Initiation:** Dave announced the formation of a task force with Wendy and Barb Riley to review program offerings, address financial deficits, and improve communication and reporting, as a follow-up to previous board discussions.
 - **Task Force Objectives:** The task force will conduct a deep dive into program offerings, aiming to reduce deficits and address challenges in communication and reporting. The group consists of Dave, Wendy, and Barb Riley, chair of the programs committee.