12/7/14 Conibear Winter Team Business Meeting Notes

1. Budget:

a. We have a $7,000 surplus from last year and $19,000 in the Special Purpose fund (Scholarships, equipment, outreach ($2,000), reserve ($3,000). 2015 Executive Board will make recommendations as to what to do with any excess, i.e., what new initiatives to allocate funds toward.

b. Dues may be out of balance with expenses for regattas. Do we increase dues? Excess payments in fees can be reassessed.

c. Smaller donation to MBC? They are flush with cash.

2. Coaches' Equipment update:  
a. **Oars**: We now have a new “used” set of Croker Oars that Eleanor was able to get from Princeton Rowing. We were able to buy them for $650 total. The new oars are now in the boat house and will be painted in time for spring racing. Fran was our Oar painter last year. Confirmation needs to be made if Fran is needed and available again for this job this year. Gail S has offered to help. Great to know we will soon have two good sets of oars for racing.

b. **Corazon**: Team voted in favor of having the Corazon repaired: The seat rollers are in ill- repair and the hull of the boat is not only losing its finish in places, and bubbling/delaminating in spots along the hull. After research and discussion with others, Sara and Eleanor have learned that for $4000 - $5000, we can have the Corazon repaired and repainted and we can also have the seat rollers replaced. In the end, for a fraction of the cost of a new 8, we will have two good boats for racing - two different boats with different qualities and benefits to provide for the depth of the team, while best serving the broader skill level represented by all members of the team.

c. **Replacing the Grace**: The Grace needs to be replaced. Sara and Eleanor see value in replacing the Grace with Two Doubles/Pairs that can be used both to train more rowers, but   
also for seat racing prior to races. It was valuable to use the two Hudsons for seat racing last fall. New Boats are expensive: Hudson Dbl = $14,100; Pocock Training Dbl = $10,800/ Racing Dbl = $12,500. As an alternative: Laingjin dbl = $4,900 (We could get two for the price of 1 Pocock Training Dbl. (SRC uses these boats). Discussion about replacing the Grace with Two new Doubles: the team wants to know more about Laingjin boats, e.g., What’s their quality? How do they hold up over time? How do they perform/feel on the water in comparison to Hudsons? Martha suggested forming a research committee to learn   
more about the doubles we purchase. All present agreed. Martha, Ellie, Nancy and Ronda will be on the committee. The committee will take a test row, and let the rest of us know so that anyone interested in testing the boats we might buy can do so. It was agreed that having rowers representative of various skill levels test the boats is important. There was a thoughtful discussion about how we choose from which company we buy? There was significant negative reaction to buying a boat made in China, versus locally made (Pocock) or from the East Coast (Hudson). We collectively feel it’s important to buy locally when we can, and support American-made or North American at least. Is it important to buy the best boat our money can buy? Or do other facts and realities hold weight in our decision making.

d. **After Replacing the Grace**: We’ll need to replace the Chica (racing 4+) and then a new 8

2. Community Outreach:  
Most recently we have given $1000 to the Mt Baker Equipment Fund (pledged 2013, presented in $2014), and also $300 to the Mt Baker Jrs. Members present agree that it is good in many regards to keep Mt Baker and the Mt Baker Jrs at the top of our list for giving - Shows we value, respect and appreciate our relationship.

We also wish to contribute substantively to ‘Row to the Future,’ beyond our presence at the annual Breakfast is worthwhile. The executive team will consider available resources at the next Executive Team Meeting and will present their recommendations for specific donations and donation amounts at our first 2015 Team Meeting. Sharon suggests we “adopt a school” to demonstrate proper erging technique and encourage the students. Beth wants to be involved in this.

Seize the Oar/Adaptive Rowing (Tara’s new Organization): This is not a 501(c)(3) -Non Profit Organization. For now, it makes sense to support the program and its growth and development individually as the needs arise, perhaps as rowing partners. More research needs to be done with regard to a non-profit donating to a for profit organization. Ronda is currently a rowing partner, and other opportunities may exist to support rowing scholarships for Seize the Oar participants, which would be a work-around solution if we cannot donate funds directly to Tara’s company. We can donate volunteer time and equipment. More research and discussion on this topic with consideration of our tax exempt status to follow.

Conibear should help with the periodic Boathouse Cleanup days that MBC currently organizes.

3. Proposed Regatta Schedule attached - No San Diego for this year, since we decided at our last team meeting that we would skip it this year. Provided people are interested next year, we will plan to return to San Diego, spring 2016.

4. Officers for Next Year - Our slate for next year was unanimously approved!. Conibear Officers for 2015 are President: Ronda, Vice President: Katie, Secretary: Rita, Treasurer: Jeannie