

**MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting/Online**  
**Monday, April 7, 2025**

**Minutes**

Land Acknowledgement

MRA operates throughout Manitoba on the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the National homeland of the Red River Métis. In the past, MRA has sanctioned events throughout Treaty lands 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. We respect the Treaties made on these territories. We dedicate ourselves to moving forward with members of all communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration to make Manitoba an inclusive and safe place for everyone who lives or visits here.

Members Present	Derek Boutang, Reg Brown, Jessica Drakul, Bob Stewart, Mark McLaughlin, Shelley Borschawa, Gordon Flett, Aldo Furlan, Alan Neumann, Lorraine Walton, Joel Remis, Heather Pawluk, Andrew Swan, Tony Hoess, Reyce Mae Angcaya, Grant Mitchell, Paul Peters Derry
Quorum Met	Yes: 17 members present
Chair	Derek Boutang
Recorder	Jessica Drakul
Staff	Kathy Wiens
Called to Order	19:33

**1. Call to Order**

Attendance was confirmed and the meeting called to order at 19:33.

Derek offered the land acknowledgement as above.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Kathy sent out links to documents for the agenda, which Derek reminded participants to explore.

Motion: Andrew Swan; Second: Lorraine Walton. To approve the agenda as distributed. Carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous AGM, April 8, 2024**

Motion: Aldo Furlan; Second: Alan Neumann. To approve the minutes as distributed. Carried.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

See Kathy's written report attached to the agenda. Kathy spoke to her report, made additional comments, and answered questions about the following:

- 2024 was a stellar year, our best on record. 926 members are the most we've ever had on record but we already have over 700 at this time in 2025.

- Kathy went to Toronto for the Road and Technical Training and we are actively sanctioning trail events through MRA (Suffer on Centennial was sanctioned last year as Provincial Championship and will again in 2025).
- Hired a new staff member in 2024 to support Kathy, who became full-time in 2023. Christa Rusk is a 0.6 employee and coordinates events to allow Kathy to do administrative and fundraising.
- Treasurer's report will follow – Kathy referenced grants received in 2024 including the Arts Culture and Sport in the Community Grant (matching grant). All spending for that grant was spent and racing and timing equipment was purchased including Chronotrack equipment with split timing capabilities. This will position us to time trail and larger events.
- Certified 17 courses last year. Course certification is an official measurement that is stamped by Athletics Canada, so can be used for qualification purposes. Events have to be certified and sanctioned with MRA for this purpose.
- Race Calendar in 2024 had 50 events and we already have 52 in 2025 right now.
- Four series: Classic, Youth, Indigenous and Celebration Series were all successful.
- Track program, Online Coaching program and strength program were all successful and continue in 2025. Brian Mayes has recently come on as sponsor of the MRA Track Club and The Rink sponsors our MRA Strength Club.
- Events like Awards Ceremony and Hall of Fame were well attended.
- Run4YourCause grew in 2024 and continues to develop. Causes register with the race and receive \$25.00 with every registration. Already have 11 causes on board for this year and expect over 200 people running.
- FitExpo at Manitoba Marathon in 2024 was an opportunity to showcase the MRA and we sell many memberships.
- TrackTASTIC was a bit disappointing as it was cancelled due to hot weather and rescheduled in 2024. However it will be done again this year at Victor Mager track and we expect a great turnout.
- A very busy year and Kathy is grateful to have an assistant. The job continues to be a labour of love for her.
- Kathy's report was accepted as information.

Aldo Furlan asked Kathy to read out the causes that are involved. The 11 causes were discussed and the fact that they do not have to be charitable organizations. All details can be found on the website.

Joel Remis asked about the rejection of our charitable status application and appeal. Kathy noted that CRA indicated our main purpose does not appear to be charitable giving/a charitable cause. We intend to look at our mission statement and website to more effectively apply. Joel suggested that we should set up a MRA Foundation (separate organization dedicated to charity). Derek confirmed that we intend to pursue some avenues to discover more information and follow up on the denial, and also agreed that Joel's idea could be a fruitful one. Kathy explained the relationship with the Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) and whether we can attach ourselves to any of those umbrellas.

Grant Mitchell asked how many members MRA has compared to other Athletics Manitoba clubs, and Kathy says we have more than all other clubs combined.

Grant also asked about the issue of the Hall of Fame dinner being on the night of the Federal Election – Kathy said there is little we can do about the timing of a snap election.

## 5. 2024 Treasurer's Report

See Alan's written report attached to the agenda. Alan spoke to the Year End Financial Package as displayed onscreen by Kathy and made additional comments about the following:

- Statement of Financial Position from December 31, 2024
- Statement of Operations
- General comments:
  - We have less cash on hand due to purchases required from the provincial grant as noted above.
  - Events, sanctioning fees and merchandise were all successful.
  - Grants were significant, fundraising and donations were less than was hoped.
  - Excess of revenue over expenses improved year over year.
  - Two pages of notes can be seen attached to the Financial Package.

Motion: Alan Neumann; Second: Gordon Flett. To approve the treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

## 6. 2024 President's Report

See Derek's written report attached to the agenda. Derek spoke to his report, made additional comments, and answered questions about the following.

- Derek spoke about cautious and steady growth: budget has grown significantly on revenue and expenses side. We are consolidating our gains now and learning to live as a larger organization.
- Leveraging new events coordinator and our increased visibility is key. It's easy to plan and spend big but now we need to find the capital to fund our initiatives.
- Looking to more grants like the ACSC (\$60K in 2024, which we do not expect in 2025 from the province) and more sponsorship/fundraising.
- In order to maintain the growth of 2024 we need to adjust and plan for sustainable growth in the 2025.
- Hope to offset loss of government grants with new ones as well as sponsorships and donors.
- Derek referenced the themes and frameworks: supporting excellence, good programming and offerings for members, strong administration, and the need to represent every runner.
- Importance of diversity, equity and inclusion (land acknowledgement, Indigenous Run Series) and importance of expanding beyond the typical ethnocultural/societal/socio-economic expectations for runners.
- Ice Cream Runs will continue along with our efforts to expand more in Manitoba (new areas outside of Winnipeg).
- Will continue to be true to our stakeholders and their needs including the certification of trail events. Are interested in continuing to promote and discuss with Manitoba Association of Trail Runners a closer relationship.
- Want to continue focusing more on timing services, have become very invested.
- Derek is honoured to have been president for four years and is happy to continue.

Grant Mitchell asked about reaching out to Special Olympics and the relationship we might build with them. They work closely and have involvement with Athletics Manitoba. Derek agreed this is an excellent relationship to cultivate (our track club has trained at the same time at the Field House). Derek referenced our work with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council

and that partnership's growth. Kathy noted that the relationship with Special Olympics is evolving and the comment is timely.

- The President's report was accepted as information.

Note: The Financial Report was originally accepted as information. Derek returned to that agenda item at 20:27 and a motion was made and carried.

## 7. Bylaws Amendments

- No amendments recommended by the committee.

## 8. Election of Directors

### ***I. Governance Committee recommends the following individuals.***

The Board is currently composed of eight (8) Directors, as follows:

- Terms continuing in 2025, seeking re-election: Derek Boutang, Aldo Furlan
- Terms continuing in 2025 (ending in 2026): Jessica Drakul, Alan Neumann, Andrew Swan, Lorraine Walton
- Appointed by the Board in 2024, seeking election: Heather Pawluk, Bob Stewart

No members were recommended to the Governance Committee under section 4.5.2 of the Bylaws.

The Governance Committee recommends the Board consist of eight (8) Directors, as follows:

Derek Boutang (2027)  
Jessica Drakul (2026)  
Aldo Furlan (2027)  
Alan Neumann (2026)  
Heather Pawluk (2027)  
Bob Stewart (2027)  
Andrew Swan (2026)  
Lorraine Walton (2026)

Motion: Paul Peters Derry; Second: Gordon Flett. To acclaim the slate of nominees for 2025/26 presented to the membership (term expiry in parentheses). Carried.

## 9. Adjournment

Motion: Aldo Furlan. To adjourn. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20:34

Our Mission: *Promote and support the sport of running for health, fun, and fitness for life to runners of all ages and abilities.*