

Meeting Minutes of the St. Croix Valley Baseball League

Annual Winter Meeting

Riverview Hotel, River Falls, January 29, 2012

Call to order

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by league secretary Chris LaBreche.
2. All SCVBL teams present: Bay City (*Tony Schultz*), Elmwood (*Kirk Holt*), Ellsworth (*Darren Maxwell*), Hager City (*Cory Brathall*), Hudson (*Chris LaBreche*), Menomonie (*Luke Welch*), Prescott (*Brady Randolph*), Osceola (*Mark Ellingson*), New Richmond (*Ryan Stephens*), Plum City (*Tony Garner*), River Falls (*Josh Eidem*), St. Croix Falls (*Scott Lindholm*).
3. Guests: Spring Valley (*Erik Thompson*)

Election of Officers

4. Steve Truttman and Steve Milliren were thanked in absentia for their service on the board as retiring members of the SCVBL board of directors.
5. The following officers were elected unanimously for the 2012 term:
 - i. Chris LaBreche, President
 - ii. Brady Randolph, Vice President
6. The league decided by consensus to split the secretary and treasurer positions, electing the following members unanimously:
 - i. Josh Eidem, Secretary
 - ii. Ryan Stephens, Treasurer

Old Business

7. River Falls was congratulated for its 2011 WBA state championship.

New Business

8. Josh Eidem from River Falls briefed the league on their team's Community Ballpark project to build a new ballpark in River Falls.
 - i. Expressed interest in hosting the 2013 WBA Finals if the new park is completed in time
 - ii. Menomonie also expressed interest in hosting, indicating they are working on hosting a regional this summer in Menomonie as a way to explore with the city whether to host the finals in 2013
 - iii. River Falls agreed to continue discussions with Osceola, Menomonie, and any other interested parties on progress with the ballpark, but will continue promoting a timeline with the park based on hosting state finals in 2013.
9. Realignment
 - i. Chris Labreche presented and led a discussion about divisional realignment.

- ii. A voting majority agreed to realign the league based on three tiers of records from the previous three seasons, with the goal of creating balance throughout the league.
- iii. After much discussion and a 10-minute caucus session, it was decided to build the three divisions based on both winning percentage and geographical proximity.
- iv. Tony Schultz presented the following alignment, which was approved by majority vote:
 - 1. Eau Galle Division – River Falls, Hudson, Elmwood, Hager City
 - 2. St. Croix Division – Prescott, Ellsworth, Plum City, Bay City
 - 3. Red Cedar Division – Menomonie, Osceola, New Richmond, St. Croix Falls

10. Spring Valley Hawks

- i. Erik Thompson from the Spring Valley Hawks presented to the league about their desire to reinstate the Spring Valley Hawks as a member of the SCVBL.
- ii. Thompson presented data on the team's 2011 independent season, as well as fundraising efforts, efforts to improve the baseball field in Spring Valley, and a current financial report.
- iii. As a result of closed session discussion, the current league members agreed by consensus to rescind the 12-team league cap and add Spring Valley to the SCVBL.

11. Realignment revisited

- i. A motion was made by Tony Schultz and seconded to move Hager City to the St. Croix Division and put Spring Valley in the Eau Galle Division. The proposal was adopted by the league in a majority vote, with Menomonie abstaining.
- ii. The divisional alignment for 2012, 2013, and 2014 were set as:
 - 1. Eau Galle Division – River Falls, Hudson, Elmwood, Spring Valley
 - 2. St. Croix Division – Prescott, Ellsworth, Plum City, Bay City, Hager City
 - 3. Red Cedar Division – Menomonie, Osceola, New Richmond, St. Croix Falls

12. Scheduling

- i. A motion was made by Roland Grant (Osceola) and seconded to play an unbalanced league schedule in 2012, to be potentially revisited for 2013. The motion was approved by the league in a majority vote of members.

13. Lineup cards

- i. Design was approved, and teams wrote a check to the SCVBL for \$40.
- ii. Ryan Stephens and Josh Eidem will work over the next few weeks to get the best pricing and order as many lineup cards as possible.
- iii. The board will work on designing an SCVBL logo.

14. Scheduling/Roster meeting

- i. The spring scheduling and roster meeting will be Sunday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m. at Clive's in Beldenville.
- ii. Rosters may include 25 total players, with 20 eligible for playoffs. Chris LaBreche and Josh Eidem will be clarifying at the state meeting when playoff rosters are due (i.e. when the 20 playoff eligible players must be chosen).

15. Umpires

- i. Discussion was held about the possibility of hiring two umpires for league games. It was determined by consensus to be cost ineffective and questions were raised about whether Western Wisconsin would have the umpiring manpower and desire to cover all games.

16. Player Eligibility

- i. Discussion was held about what the league's policy was for determining player eligibility. Any action steps were tabled for the spring meeting, at which the hope is that a policy will be proposed or developed.
- ii. The board will work on drafting a policy between now and the spring meeting.

17. Home/Away

- i. In 2012, the Eau Galle Division will play at the St. Croix Division; the St. Croix Division at the Red Cedar Division; the Red Cedar Division at the Eau Galle Division. Those home/away will flip flop for 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.