

Long Range Planning Committee's Assessment of Year 1 of the Five Year Plan

The Long Range Planning Committee met last week to evaluate the progress made by the Board and member organizations toward the stated goals of the plan. We give the Board high marks for promptly taking ownership of the Plan at the annual meeting last year and for supporting and, indeed helping the organization and its members in fulfilling, numerous Year One goals.

Overall Assessment: Our overall rating is four out of five stars. Great job! Much has been accomplished. Some key goals, however, remain a work in progress. In particular:

Successes: The incoming board embraced the challenge of implanting year one goals and started early to change existing ways. We believe the early meetings with Interclub Chairs and early publishing of the Interclub calendar, plus the implementation by most of the member clubs of themed regattas, using standardized race documents, was a five-star effort. We also want to recognize host Mainsheet Mamas, as well as FWSA, for successfully fulfilling our year-one goals for the Championship Regatta, and we believe host Dinghy Dames and FWSA were well on their way to fulfilling our goals for the Rainbow Regatta, until its last-minute cancellation.

Works-in-Progress: Meeting formats and the interaction among members of various clubs at the meetings have improved, but there is significant work to be done to shorten and better focus club reports and to further encourage members to meet and talk with those from other clubs. We need more support for updating of the website; we also need members clubs to be more active in posting news of their activities. Good work has been done to expand educational opportunities, both at the Board (through budgeting), FWSA and individual club levels, and the "year two" goal of expanding educational opportunities is off to a good start.

Based on extensive feedback from FWSA members in 2018-2019, seven improvement areas were identified and individual action steps were then identified for each of the five years, beginning in 2019.

Here are our comments for each of the 7 areas:

1. **Meetings:** As suggested, new members were introduced at the meetings, meetings started a half hour later, breakfast and associated costs were eliminated, and the process of "mixed" seating was initiated, with club interclub chairs seated together at one meeting, and club captains seated together at another. Still, club members for the most part reverted to sitting with those they knew. Many, but not all, club reports were submitted in advance, but the presentations, overall, remained too long and lacking in focus. FWSA did not provide a "social chair" to ensure social

activities at various meetings and regattas, although member clubs did a great job at their individual events. Suggestions for improvements/next year: Develop a template for club reports and appoint a timekeeper for presentations. Find ways to encourage a mixing of attendees from the various clubs.

2. **Interclubs:** The goals set out in the long range plan were met. The FWSA VP began early in the summer meeting with all IC chairs to plan and publish the calendar. Interclubs were reduced to one per club, starting a half hour later, each regatta adhering to a theme, with social and education backup components for many of them. One club offered crewed boat options at its regatta. Opportunities for members of visiting clubs to serve on race committee also were offered. Standardized regatta documents (NOR, SIs, and course diagrams) were posted on the website and used by most clubs. Work on the Spirit Award is continuing; in the meantime, some clubs are offering awards at the club level for FWSA participation. Suggestion for next year: Do what Linda did!
3. **Rainbow Regatta:** The goals set out in the plan were met in the planning stage, up to the event's cancellation a week before the regatta. The FWSA worked closely with the Regatta Chair in planning; the date set for the event met expectations; and information about the event was readily available on the website.
4. **Championship Regatta:** The goals set out in the plan were met. It was held in late fall, with several days offered for training and practice, enabling greater participation by clubs with limited crewed boat exposure. Spin and non-spin divisions were offered. FWSA and hosts Mainsheet Mamas were able to procure enough boats so that any club wanting to participate had a boat. Growing the event will remain a challenge because of the limited number of crewed boats available to most of the clubs as well as members' limited experience with crewed boats.
5. **Crewed boat experiences:** No specific action steps were identified for year one. As the Board moves into year two, there will be considerable focus on how best to meet members' interest in opportunities for crewed boat sailing.
6. **Website:** Regatta information was readily available on the website, but there continues to be a need to more fully support the website with current information about FWSA and member clubs. Two joint FWSA/member club on-the-water seminars for mark and race committee boat handling were held, but FWSA did not provide structured communication between education chairs of member clubs and the FWSA education chair (a year-2 suggestion) or post information on the website. Suggestion: FWSA needs to recruit an additional volunteer to manage the website; individual clubs need to be encouraged to identify a member to post information about their events and activities.
7. **Board Accountability:** The Board took ownership of the plan from the outset, at the May 2019 FWSA annual meeting. The Board also increased the budget line item for education, which supported the power boat seminars this past year and will

support the upcoming Dave Perry seminar for the 2021 winter meeting. The Board also has initiated some things on its own to enhance communication with member clubs, including inviting delegates to Board meetings. The Long Range Planning Committee has met to evaluate progress made by the Board towards the stated goals. We believe the Board has made substantial progress. For the reasons stated above, we award the Board four stars out of five.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Randall, Chair
Long Range Planning Committee
May 18, 2020