

Northwest Zone Meeting Minutes

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Sally Dillon

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: Sunday, December 11, 2016

Motions Passed with financial implications:

1. MSA to order 1000 first place ribbons before the SCY championship meet.

Motions passed - MSA to:

2. Approve the minutes of the NW Zone meeting held in Atlanta on September 22.
3. Approve the financial report.
4. Revise Zone Policy 2.1.1 to state that the per/swimmer surcharge would be \$1 for pool meets and 50¢ for open water championships. The change would be retroactive to include this year's open water and SCM championships.
5. Allow that any USMS sanctioned open water event within the NW Zone would be eligible to be a Zone Championship.
6. Accept the bids for the following 2017 Zone Championships: SCY – BWAQ in PN, OW – ORCA in PN, and LCM – Oregon Reign in OR.
7. Approve a new design for Zone ribbons, which would replace the second mention of United States Masters Swimming with the NW Zone Logo.

Number of committee members present: 17

Absent: 2

Number of other delegates present: n/a

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Sally Dillon (PNA), Ken Winterberger (AK), Melinda Greig (AK), Ruth Carter (AK), Matt Bronson (INW), Margaret Hair (INW), Paige Buehler (INW), Jeanne Ensign (MT), Tim Waud (OR), Matt Miller (OR), Sandi Rousseau (OR), and Mike Grimm, Sarah Welch, Lisa Dahl, Hugh Moore, Steve Peterson, Jim Davidson (all PNA). Snake River LMSC and Utah LMSC were not represented.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

A. General business

1. Approval of convention minutes: **It was MSA to approve the minutes of the NW Zone meeting held in Atlanta on September 22.** No actions had occurred since that meeting.
2. NW Zone Chatter newsletter: Sally reminded the chairs that December 15 is the deadline for submitting information to be included in the December issue of the *NW Zone Chatter*. The information should include a listing of meets occurring within the next 3-6 months, final membership and club numbers for 2016, and other items of interest to Zone members.
3. Zone Chair report:
 - a. Mentoring within the Zone: Sally noted that one of the things the Zone Chair is tasked with is mentoring the LMSCs. It's not just a matter of helping our LMSCs meet the LMSC standards, but also helping individuals within the LMSC. While not an expert about many board positions, she offered to find people who are. This would include mentoring meet directors, webmasters, treasurers, etc. Please don't hesitate to ask if help is needed.

- b. Spring meeting: Sally proposed that the next Zone conference call be held on Sunday, March 19; there were no objections.
4. Financial report: Ken's financial report was distributed prior to the meeting; the net balance as of 12/4 was \$3881.79. Two individuals were reimbursed for their convention expenses. It was noted that three Zone meets over the past year have not yet paid the meet surcharges; they are expected to do so before month's end. **It was MSA to approve the financial report.**
5. Webmaster report: Hugh reported that he posts records when Steve Darnell updates them and he also posts the *Chatter*. He will be listing the new zone meets once the bids are approved.
6. Zone Records report: Steve Darnell was unable to attend but submitted the following written report as of December 2:
 - Northwest Zone SCY records: up to date, posted on the Zone website.
 - Northwest Zone LCM records: up to date, posted on the Zone website.
 - Includes all new records established at the 2016 USMS Summer National Championship meet at Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon.

 - Northwest Zone SCM records:
 - Updated with new records established at the November 19 SCM meet at Hood River, Oregon.
 - Awaiting final results for the November 12-13 Zone SCM Championship meet in Idaho.
 - Awaiting final results for the November 19-20 SCM meet hosted by PNA.
 - Awaiting final results for the December 10 SCM meet in Bend, Oregon.
 - Awaiting final results for any other recent Northwest Zone SCM meet not listed here.

B. Old business

1. Report from the Finance Sub Committee (Sarah, Ken, & Susie): The committee will meet before the March meeting. Sarah recognized that information they could have recommended would have had a bearing on tonight's discussion and apologized that they hadn't met.

C. New Business

1. Consider an amendment to Revenue Policy 2.1.1: Reduce the \$1.50 surcharge on Zone Championship individual entries. Sally noted the following: 1) Ribbon costs are 28¢ each. 2) Open Water championships have only one event and only one opportunity to earn a ribbon, unlike pool championships, which have many opportunities to earn ribbons. 3) For the most recent pool championship – the SCM meet in Coeur d'Alene – factoring in a reduced surcharge of \$1/swimmer, their costs would have been ~\$60 and the actual ribbon cost to the Zone is only ~\$50. Sarah predated Ken as Treasurer and said that she did not recall getting OW surcharges. Sally said that an OW event last paid the surcharge in 2013 but the 2016 event will be paying it. Sarah explained that the reasoning for the surcharge was to have the swimmers pay for their ribbons. It was assumed that each Zone championship meet would pass on the surcharge cost to the swimmers through entry fees. Sarah supported making the reduction now, and noted that a decision needs to be made before we accept bids for the 2017 events. Mike and Jeanne voiced their support. Paige asked when the change would take effect and Sally suggested it be retroactive through the summer's open water event. **It was MSA that we revise Zone Policy 2.1.1 to state that the per/swimmer surcharge would be \$1 for pool meets and 50¢ for open water championships. It was MSA that the change be retroactive to include this year's open water and SCM championships.** It was also noted that the policy change applies to 4.4.5 (Open Water).
2. Consider an amendment to Open Water Policy 4.4.2: Allow Zone Championship distances to be from 1500 meters through 5000 meters. Tim referred to an email distributed by Bob Bruce, who was unable to attend the meeting. In the email, Bob explained that the policy restricting the distance for

open water championships was based on the idea that it would be more attractive and inclusive to swimmers. He favored waiving the requirement rather than changing the policy. Jim noted that 5000 distance doesn't include Fat Salmon. Sally suggested that we allow any sanctioned event within the zone. Regarding waivers, Paige said that without changing the policy, we would be less likely to receive bids from non-complying distance events. **It was MSA that any USMS sanctioned open water event within the NW Zone would be eligible to be a Zone Championship.** This decision will eliminate the distance requirements in NW Zone Policy 4.4.2. Rotation rules would still apply.

3. Consider an agreement or policy to avoid the scheduling of meets that compete with premier meets: Sandi, Matt M. and Sally discussed via email, the recent situation when there were three SCM meets taking place within our Zone over a 2-week period. Our Zone Championship meet was held in Coeur d'Alene November 12/13. The following weekend, meets were held in Federal Way and Hood River, which drew swimmers away from CDA and affected the other two meets. While designating one meet as a perpetual Zone Championship was considered, they proposed this agenda item instead.

There were many opinions and ideas expressed. Having an "unwritten agreement" to avoid competing with special meets received support. It was noted that finding a date for a meet can be complicated as clubs and teams deal with pool and community schedules, holidays, availability of meet personnel, etc. If we had such an "unwritten agreement", it would be up to the host LMSC to designate which meets those would be. There are some meets within the Zone that are always held the same weekend – for example, PNA's SCY Championships are always on the 2nd weekend of April, regardless of whether Easter takes place that weekend or not. The Gil Young LCM meet is always on a specific weekend. Most likely some meets in the other LMSCs are on "fixed" weekends. Puget Sound Masters and PNA are working to establish the November meet (held the weekend before Thanksgiving) at Federal Way as a "premier meet on the West Coast" and they have a promise for pool time at KCAC for many years to come. The rental fee is exceptionally high at KCAC, so the future of the meet is dependent on having good attendance.

It was suggested that other meets in the Zone avoid the weekends before and after this meet; others felt that was too constricting. There was some support for having a perpetual SCM Zone meet and dissension for this idea as well. It was suggested that we change the SCY and OW rotation to favor the other LMSCs over OR and PNA. Other suggestions included: "recommend" that LMSCs not schedule meets when other LMSC championship meets are taking place, periodically remind people by publicizing annual championships, and plan farther ahead to avoid certain meets. It was noted that swimmers appreciate meets that have traditional dates and are advertised well in advance because it allows them to schedule their competition schedule and take advantage of early reservations. In the end, there was support for an "unwritten agreement" to avoid competing with special meets, but no conclusions, decisions, or motions were made.

4. Review and approve bids for 2017 Zone Championship events (materials attached separately).
 - a. SCY Bid (PN) – Blue Wave Aquatic Club; KCAC in Federal Way, April 8&9 – it was noted that Oregon has scheduled their championships in Bend, for the same weekend. Bob Bruce had said that Bend did not have other options, but Tim agreed to go back to Bob to double check on this. PNA has no other date option at KCAC. **It was MSA to accept the bid from BWAQ.**
 - b. OW Bid (PN) – ORCA; Fat Salmon 3.2-miles in Lake Washington, July 15: **It was MSA to approve the bid from ORCA.** ORCA requested a waiver of the surcharge, which is not allowed, but is reduced to 50¢ as per the new policy.
 - c. LCM Bid (OR) – Oregon Reign; Mt Hood CC, Gresham, August 18-20: It was noted that MT has a level 3 coaching clinic the same weekend. They will try to change it. This is also a

“locked in” weekend for the Gil Young Meet. **It was MSA to approve the bid from Oregon Reign.**

- d. SCM Bid (OR) – Columbia Gorge Masters; Hood River, OR, November 11&12: Sandi submitted a grant request for financial help to cover pool costs. It was indicated at convention that there were funds available. Current rental is \$100/hour at Hood River. A Zone meet takes longer due to the additional events that need to be provided, and she noted that meets are expected to make some money. In the past, they received financial assistance from the OR LMSC. It was suggested that we defer the decision on financial support until the finance subcommittee has an opportunity to meet; Sarah doesn't envision the committee having much to say about the proposal. She noted that philosophically, we ask the swimmers attending the meet to pay for the cost of the meets they are in and she thinks our Zone money should go toward activities of a more universal nature, not a user fee. Sandi noticed that the fees in CDA were more than those in Oregon. When asked if she considered that the PSM SCM meet was being held the following weekend, Sandi replied that the pool is available on another date but the workers are not. She agreed to see if she can get another meet date and also to approach the OMS board to see if the fees can address the actual costs. In response to a question about support for the grants, it was suggested that we go to swimmers, clubs, LMSCs, and then the Zone when it comes to financial support. It was agreed to postpone a vote on the bid until a later date, but no later than the March meeting.

5. Review and revision of bid materials: The materials need updating and Sally, Sandi, and Steve agreed to take on the task.
6. NW Zone ribbons: Due to a redundancy in language on the current ribbons, and a desire for a change in general, it was **MSA to approve a new ribbon design, which would replace the second mention of United States Masters Swimming with the NW Zone Logo. It was MSA to order 1000 1st place ribbons before the SCY championship meet.** Other places will be ordered when necessary.

D. Special announcements (more detailed reports to be submitted by December 15 for the next issue of the *NW Zone Chatter*).

1. Alaska – Held a “How to Run a Masters Swim Meet Workshop” last weekend. They are trying to encourage non-competing members to get involved. Membership totals are over 400.
2. Inland NW – Will be holding an Officials Clinic in Coeur d'Alene at Kroc Center on January 7 and a meet in Ellensburg on January 21.
3. Montana – 2016 registration totals left them 9 members short of 2 convention delegates. A new registrar has been appointed.
4. Oregon – Tim attended the Natl Coaches clinic in San Mateo. There were 130 in attendance and they heard new ideas and old ideas; it was a wonderful opportunity. Oregon will host three OW national championships in 2017 and a Swim-cation in 2018.
5. Pacific NW – Membership increased over the previous year.
6. Snake River – no report.
7. Utah – no report.

The next NW Zone conference call is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.
