

Northwest Zone Meeting Minutes

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Sally Dillon

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: March 19, 2017 6 pm PDT

Motions Passed with financial implications: none

Motions passed: MSA to approve Columbia Gorge Master's bid for the SCM Zone Championships.

Number of committee members present: 14

Absent: n/a

Number of other delegates present: n/a

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Sally Dillon (PN), Ken Winterberger and Melinda Greig-Walker (AK), Paige Buehler (IW), Jeanne Ensign (MT), Tim Waud, Sandi Rousseau, Ginger Pierson (OR), Zena Courtney, Kathy Casey, Steve Peterson, Sarah Welch (PN), Paula Moores (SR), and Karen Oliver (UT).

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm PDT.

A. General business

1. Actions taken between meetings: **The minutes of the December 11, 2016 meeting were approved via email and have been posted.**
2. NW Zone Chatter Newsletter: LMSC reports for inclusion in the newsletter were due March 15. Sally thanked those who had submitted their reports and reminded the others. She will get the newsletter distributed in the upcoming week when the reports arrive.
3. Zone Chair report: Sally reported that she has been informed that Blue Wave Aquatic Club has in their possession 238 of the NW Zone ribbons. She has added the details to the inventory and the ribbons will be used at the SCY Zone Championship being hosted by BWAQ and held in Federal Way, WA April 8/9.
4. Financial report: A financial report was distributed by email and Ken reported that the current balance in the Zone account is \$4003.79. Deposits since December were from Zone championship surcharges: OW \$59 and SCM \$63. \$598.87 is outstanding for new ribbons. Once paid, the new balance will be \$3,404.92. Ken reported that he hasn't received the surcharges from the 2015 SCM Zone meet hosted by Puget Sound Masters. Sarah will follow up on it.
5. NW Zone Representative report: Speaking from her hospital bed after falling, breaking her hip on Thursday, and having surgery on Friday, Sarah reported on the USMS Board's February meeting in Phoenix. The focus was on the strategic plan and elements, LMSC Leadership Summit, and reports from task forces. The Futures TF is identifying how we can bring younger members into volunteer positions and eventually, leadership positions. Work is nearly concluded and recommendations will be in the minutes of the meeting, which should be approved in the coming week. The Board wants to provide a reward and incentive system so we can identify younger members and bring them up within the administration. They also want to encourage turnover in leadership positions so more opportunities are available, including mentoring opportunities for older members. A "star system" is being developed to give credit for years of service and for mentoring. The Diversity TF is 2 ½ years old and has been challenged to better focus on what they are doing, and to determine what can be done to identify gaps in our participation (such as racial). By edict of Congress, all

Olympic sports are asked to self-identify to better determine goals. This won't be in the registration system but they will be working toward this goal. The Board looked at the strategic plan and CEO Dawson has asked what the IT strategy is and should be. USMS has been challenged to deliver to members due to various issues; Dawson will move forward on this. Financially, USMS ended the year not having to draw on investment reserves; we were essentially on budget. We have been able to work through cuts of spending at the National Office and attracted new members at end of the year. A focus for the LMSC Leadership Summit was to determine how we use volunteers. Sarah shared that Ted Haartz was unable to attend the Board meeting due to his wife's health problems. Ted is always a very engaged member and he was missed!

6. NW Zone Championship events: Sally clarified that NW Zone ribbons will be awarded in two divisions at the Fat Salmon OW event in Lake Washington this summer – the wetsuit division and the non-wetsuit division.

B. Old business

1. SCM Zone Championship: Columbia Gorge Masters were unable to obtain a different date for the meet so it is still scheduled for November 11/12 in Hood River. Their proposed entry fee is a \$36 flat fee. It was **MSA (Sarah/Tim) to approve CGM's bid for the SCM Zone Championships**.
2. New design for NW Zone Championship ribbons: The new ribbon design "proof" was distributed prior to the meeting. Sally thanked Ken for adapting our NW Zone logo so it would work for our ribbons. 2000 blue ribbons are on the way, for a total cost of \$598.87 (ribbons 27¢ each, \$25 to design, \$5 to proof, and \$28.87 shipping). We will not order ribbons for the other places until the inventory warrants it.

C. New business

1. LMSC Standards: Sally requested comments from those who participated in the recent survey process. She suggested that the PDF version of the questions be distributed in a format that could be used on the computer to "fill in the blanks", which would allow the respondent to determine their answers before doing the online version. Karen found that she didn't know many of the answers; she didn't realize it was more of an "audit" and didn't seek help for the answers beforehand. Paige clarified that in July we will do it again. Tim noted that Jeanne Teisher took the survey for Oregon but could not replicate the comments to pass them on to him. He is concerned that a second survey in July is premature; we should wait until after convention to see if changes need to be made due to policy changes. Jeanne asked about results and Paige replied that Michael Moore and Chris Stevenson have the results. Paige has emphasized to them that we want the results and many in the group voiced the same opinion. There is no feedback when filling out the form; it would be helpful. Sally mentioned that there are three surveys: The LMSC Chair and Treasurer each receive one and the National Office completes a third survey about submitting annual minutes, the national swim administrator, and top ten and event standards. Kathy wanted to know who the national swim administrator is, and Paige responded that it is Mary Beth Windrath. Kathy echoed the concern that there is not a plan for feedback. Sandi wondered what the point of the survey is, if the LMSCs don't get feedback. Paige said that eventually we will get feedback, the process needs to be defined. Sally will send this discussion to Michael and Chris.
2. Annual reports: Sally noted that annual financial reports and minutes are accessible online by going to USMS – for volunteers – meeting minutes. She has looked and the reports have not been posted for many of our Zone's LMSCs. Jeanne noted that Montana LMSC's bylaws currently require that the minutes be approved at the "next" annual meeting, which is a year later. MT will vote to revise the bylaws and hopefully the board will be given more responsibility. Changing bylaws, typically a monumental task requiring a vote of the members, makes it sometimes a difficult task to effect change. The deadline to submit the financial reports and annual minutes to the National Office is March 31. Go to the following website to see if your financial reports and/or minutes are posted:

http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/?utm_campaign=top_nav&utm_medium=for_volunteers

3. Other

- a. Leadership Summit: Ken, Paige, Jeanne, Tim, and Zena represented their LMSCs at the summit, which was held March 10-12 in Texas. Karen reported that Blair Bagley represented Utah and Paula said that no one from Snake River attended. The attendees all enjoyed the summit. They broke into groups for brainstorming, which was beneficial. There was sharing between meetings where even more was learned. The presentations were well put together. Tim noted that resources from the 2015 summit are on the website and are interesting. Zena said that the leaders tied the 2015 summit to the 2017, building on what was done previously. The sharing of ideas, and teaming up with other LMSC leaders was beneficial and fun. It was noted that only 30% of our members compete and it was asked, “what are we doing to reach out to the fitness swimmers”. There were good thought connecting exercises, and the time between meetings was productive. There were great presentations and breakout groups about volunteer issues. Ken said that it was news to him that you could ask people on the registration form if they want to volunteer. Paige and Zena were thrilled to win copies of the keynote speaker’s book.

- b. NW Zone Records: Steve Darnell reported via email that all courses of records have been updated and are posted on the NW Zone website. SCY is updated through the end of the 2016 SCY season, SCM through December 2016, and LCM through September 2016. He has recently added a new record set in Victoria in January and will send to Hugh Moore when there are a few more records. Sally reminded everyone that the LMSCs should be forwarding their record information to Steve.

THE NEXT QUARTERLY NW ZONE MEETING will take place on Sunday, June 11, 2017
5 pm Alaska, 6 pm Pacific, and 7 pm Mountain. Please put this on your calendars so you can attend!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.
