

Northwest Zone Meeting Minutes

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Sally Dillon

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: Sunday, 6/9/19; 6pm PDT

Motions Passed with financial implications: none

Motions passed:

1. MSA to approve the financial report as amended.
2. MSA to approve the revised zone policies as presented.

Number of committee members present: 18

Absent: n/a

Number of other delegates present: n/a

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): AK - Ken Winterberger; IW - Matt Bronson, Paige Buehler, Margaret Hair; MT – Jeanne Ensign, Donn Livoni; OR – Tim Waud, Ginger Pierson, Sandi Rousseau; PN – Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Sally Dillon, Hugh & Jane Moore, Walt Reid, Sarah Welch; SR – Jim Clemmons; UT – Aaron Norton

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

A. General business

3. Actions taken between meetings: The March 10, 2019 minutes were approved via email, distributed to LSMC leaders, and posted on USMS website.
4. Northwest Zone Chatter: LMSC reports were due Friday, June 7 for the next newsletter. Sally's received reports from two LMSCs. Please include current membership numbers, changes to leadership teams, upcoming meet schedule, and notable news. The new deadline is June 12.
5. NW Zone At Large Director report: Matt Miller was unable to attend the meeting and submitted the following report:
 - a. Budget modernization proposal – Jeanne can probably give all of the details on this. There will be some legislative proposals for HOD regarding budget modernization. Changes are to articles 504.2.2, 506.3.6, and 506.7.3. The main change of the proposal is to develop the budget in the period after Convention and finalize it before year-end. It also takes the review and approval process out of the HOD and the budget is will be approved only by the BOD instead.
 - b. Unified Fee – Much more discussion on the unified fee proposal has taken place in the recent meeting on May 20th and on the USMS BOD forum since then. National office proposes the unified fee of \$60 (\$48 going to N.O., a \$3 increase from 2019, and \$12 going to LMSCs) citing that it is intended to improve the long-term health of the organization. Some benefits listed if the unified fee moves forward are:
 - Clearer marketing message
 - Easier to create joint memberships with other entities (i.e. USAT)
 - Ability to offer discounts for different segments of USMS membership (i.e. ALTS, Open water/triathlon, fitness-only, competitive, coach, CSS bridge)
 - Reduces 125 various membership fees to just a few

Some concerns expressed by Oregon board members with regards to the proposal:

- Reduces flexibility of LMSCs to create and fund their own budget by changing local fees. All LMSCs will receive \$12 per member. Many will see increased revenue, others will be reduced
- LMSCs with new additional funding might not have volunteer base to effectively use new funds
- Path forward isn't 100% clear in terms of how new membership options and joint memberships with other organizations would work and why they couldn't be done within the current framework

- c. USMS has partnered with www.swim.com to leverage their fitness tracking app and offer this feature to USMS membership. No money exchanged hands in this partnership.
- d. Open Water Task Force is moving forward. Donn can add more information.
- e. Try Masters Swimming week results were positive. As of May 20th, over 700 people filled out the trial membership since it opened on May 15th. Quite a few clubs had written into the N.O. to report positive experiences with new inquiries and people trying out USMS.

Numerous comments were made in response to Matt's report. Those attending the Leadership Summit in March recalled that Dawson touched lightly on the concept of a Unified Fee and the possibility of different fees for fitness-only swimmers, etc. USMS Board members will be inviting leaders from each LMSC to join a conference call to discuss topics that the board will bring to convention. Aaron and Jeanne have both received these invites so we expect the others to arrive soon. Sandi has been calling in to USMS Board meetings and the information from Matt is not confidential. Oregon has discussed the situation with their Treasurer to see how the proposal would affect them; other LMSCs should do the same so they can be prepared to ask relevant questions. Donn noted that along with the \$60 membership fee (USMS - \$48, LMSC - \$12), USMS is considering paying some fees (e.g. convention registration) to minimize the reduction in fees to the LMSCs. Jeanne noted that there would not be a fee change in 2020; decisions do not take effect that quickly. Still, we need to have the information if we will be voting on a change for 2021. The budget assumptions won't be seen until July. She thinks the alarms are unfounded, noting that at this time the N.O. is simply, and still, gathering information about the concept.

Jeanne also commented about the Budget Modernization proposal. She thought Matt's take was rather negative. There has been a subcommittee of Finance working on this since the fall and they have generated 180 emails and many phone calls. They finalized the legislative proposal and rationale and it was approved by the board. It will go into the convention packet as submitted. Generally, the N.O. has to have the budget done by the July board meeting. They do it in May with only 4 months of data. The thinking was that they needed more time to develop data. The proposed changes provide opportunities to brainstorm ideas at convention and to have them included. The HOD would be given opportunities to review. Jeanne will send Sally a copy of the proposal for distribution to the chairs. In talking to Susan Kuhlman, the proposal provides the N.O. more opportunity to pay attention to detail. Paige asked if we could change the fiscal year and Jeanne said USMS and 52 LMSCs would have to do that. A calendar year is most practical. Donn noted that this was brought up on the board forum; it would not be practical.

6. Chair report: Swimming Canada has released a statement saying that they will no longer facilitate registration directly with Masters Swimming Canada. Swimming Canada and their provincial sections will continue to register all Masters Members and affiliated clubs. Members will still receive the full benefits of membership they have received in the past from Swimming Canada, including access to sanctioned competitions, insurance, and coach, official, and club development. This is effective September 1, 2019. Sally will send out links to more information if needed. Linda has asked the N.O. for guidance but has not heard back from them. Canadian swimmers attend our meets so we need a clarification of the situation
7. Financial report: Ken distributed the financial report. The annual dues have been received from all LMSCs except UTAH (a new Treasurer had come on board and Ken now has the correct contact). Financial support for convention delegates (MT and SR) totaled \$1379.95. Balance in the account is \$6,387.67. Jeanne noted that the dates were incorrect in the left-hand column. **MSA to approve the financial report as amended.**
8. Webmaster: Hugh keeps busy posting records that are submitted regularly by Steve Darnell. We will need to register the website domain in the coming year and the committee needs to determine whether we do this for 5 or 10 years. Sally will put this on the agenda for our September meeting.
9. Records report: Steve Darnell reported via email that the NW Zone records for all three courses (SCY, SCM, LCM) are up to date on the Zone website, with all of the information received from swimmers and LMSC Record Chairs, as of June 5. In particular, Zone SCY records now include all new record swims from:
 - a. 2019 PNA SCY Championship meet (mid-April)
 - b. 2019 USMS SCY Championship meet (late-April)
 - c. 2019 Oregon SCY Championship meet (mid-May)
10. NW Zone Championship events update: Sally is looking for the meet information for the OW championship and LCM championships in Oregon. She expected the meet directors to send it, and they haven't. She has checked the Oregon website a few times but they weren't posted. As chair, she should have a look at the paperwork before it goes live. Tim said the 1500 meter OW event in Bend is live now. The LCM event is still

being worked on. Aaron noted that Utah's webmaster is developing a webpage for the SCM meet they are hosting in the fall.

B. New business

1. Revise Zone policies regarding meet year rotation schedule: Thanks to Kathy Casey, who made the corrections to the policies that reflect changes to the years that are stated in the document. Page asked about the changes that took place during 2019. The SCY and OW events were assigned to LMSCs out of rotation due to lack of bids. Sally said this does not affect the rotation. **MSA to approve the revised zone policies as presented.** Kathy asked that we add the new amendment date.
2. LMSC Standards: Linda distributed the final version this weekend. Overall, the zone did quite well. There are still a few areas of weakness but Sally believes a lot of progress has been made; she offered her help. Linda Chapman has singlehandedly prepared the information, distributed it, received dozens of corrections, and prepared the final documents. Sally suggested that the surveys be done every other year for LMSCs that obtain the top scores.
3. Zone Chair election - September 2019: Paige Buehler has indicated her intention to run for the position. If others are also interested, please let Sally know. She has information about the duties of the position to share.

C. Announcements:

1. PNA is hosting a 1-day LCM meet at King County Aquatic Center on Saturday, July 6. Entry link is on the website at swimpna.org. This is our first summer at KCAC for many, many years.
2. PSM's SCM meet in November will be a 1-day only meet on 11/24 (Sunday). They will offer all individual events except the 1500. Relays will be limited to 200's. Sarah said this is due to the cost and the number of athletes attending makes it an extremely expensive proposition.
3. Aaron reported that South Davis Masters will be featured in the July issue of *Swimmer Magazine*. The article focuses on the team and their efforts to help the family of a member who passed away suddenly.
4. Sarah reported on the USMS Clinics held in Seattle this weekend. Coach certification for levels 1/2 and level 3 were offered. Also held - a "how to conduct clinics" workshop, a swim clinic for swimmers, and ALTS training. The clinics were well attended and attendees came from Minnesota, Oregon, and San Diego.
5. Utah will be hosting USMS clinics in November (level 1&2 and others). Details are forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM PDT
