

USMS Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Paige Buehler	Vice Chair:	
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon/Paige Buehler	Date/time of meeting:	Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:00p PT

Motions Passed:

1. MSA – accept minutes from the March 12, 2020 meeting
2. MSA – to not collect NW Zone fee from LMSCs in 2020

Number of committee members present: 8	Absent:	Number of other delegates present: 18
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Paige Buehler, Chair; AK: Ken Winterberger; IW: Matt Bronson, Margaret Hair; MT: Donn Livoni, Jeanne Ensign; OR: Tim Waud, Marlys Cappaert, Christina Fox, Matt Miller, Ginger Pierson, Sandi Rousseau, Kermit Yensen; PN: Sally Dillon, Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Arni Litt, Hugh Moore, Steve Peterson, Walt Reid, Maddie Sibilia, Sarah Welch; SR: Jim Clemmons; UT: Aaron Norton, Anna Marie Forest, Bruce Schroeder		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm Pacific Time.

A. General business

1. Actions taken between meetings: None
2. Approval of March 12, 2020 minutes MSA to approve (Aaron/Jim)
3. *Northwest Zone Chatter*
 - a. LMSC reports due June 9 for the next newsletter. Please include at the minimum: current membership numbers, changes to leadership teams, upcoming events, and notable news like open water venue temps and restart success stories. Go back to previous notable comments since there has not been a newsletter produced since September.
4. Chair report – Paige Buehler
 - a. Small LMSCs P2P – April 2: sharing of best known methods/practices between chairs of AK, SR, MT, IW: Paige met with chairs to discuss best-known sharing. She was encouraged to do this again. Discussed volunteer recruiting, ways to do things in the small LMSCs that could be shared.
 - b. CEO & President met with Zone Chairs – May 11; 2nd time since Paige became chair. Dawson provided slides and discussed...
 - i. the modified year+ proposal (moving Year+ from August 1 to June 1), which was still in process at that point.
 - ii. re-starting of pool activities and there is grant money available from national to help supplement any LMSC initiatives with that.
 - iii. changes in Club & Coach Development to involve the LMSC Coaches Chairs. Use them as a channel to identify pools in the LMSC that could use a Masters Swimming program and to identify more coaches to evangelize and train. The goal is to “take coach training to the people” and use more online and on-demand training platforms.
 - iv. ALTS being put on pause since programs currently can’t take place.
 - v. staff and contractor positions were eliminated in the ALTS and Coaches support areas.
 - vi. Unified Fee – USMS was only 1% off membership target on March 1. That was significant since 31 LMSCs had adopted the Unified Fee, which in some cases increased their fee. The USMS Board had drafted legislation that we have in our meeting materials.
 - vii. Convention – Dawson also explained that Convention would be Virtual. The board and NO is working on the details for the convention.

- viii. Sanctioning Events – Dawson said the decisions to sanction will mainly fall on the local level as per their own state/county guidelines. Dawson asked that we share procedures that are put in place for events as they get sanctioned. They can come to Paige who will share them with LMSC Development.
- 5. Financial report – Ken Winterberger
 - a. Current balance of \$5,133.97 in the account; no change since March. Ken recalled that at the March meeting we agreed to collect the annual fee in 2020. (see item #10.b below)
- 6. Webmaster report – Hugh Moore
 - a. Hugh has not been very active since there haven't been records to update. Hugh said that Matt Miller has switched our website to a new server and a security certificate. The link now needs https due to the security certificate protocols. Matt mentioned that the USMS server that housed some USMS forums and some LMSCs websites failed, so our timing to move the NW Zone website off that server was timely. Donn has the understanding that the data has been saved even though the server is gone.
- 7. Records report – Stephen Darnell emailed that since there haven't been any events, there have been no changes to the records. There was a SCM meet in Coeur d'Alene in February at which some records were broken; Paige will check to see if that information was sent to Steve.
- 8. NW Zone At Large Director report – Matt Miller sent via email
 - a. Biggest item moving forward is the Unified Fee Proposal. USMS is already offering membership until the end of 2021 for new members for \$60. Matt believes revenue for these extended year-plus memberships will be split 80% to the NO and 20% to LMSCs.
 - b. All national-level volunteers should have received an email about a virtual convention this year.
 - c. USMS is largely following USA Swimming's lead with all things COVID-19 related.
 - d. Legislative proposals from the Board to accommodate Unified Fee.
 - i. 201.1.5 - Sally asked about "if applicable". Maddie said it is to be considered for College Club Swimming swimmers. Kathy said it is important that the proposal be specific.
 - ii. Kathy pointed out an error in 201.2.3. That rule deals with clubs and the proposed wording refers to the "individual" rather than the "club." Maddie will take that back to the Board of Directors.
 - iii. Christina Fox asked about the \$60 fee for clubs and workout groups (WGs). Sally explained about registered WGs vs. user input WGs. Linda asked if there will be a conditional pop-up that lets clubs/WGs know that an LMSC (like PN) will refund the LMSC portion collected back to the clubs. Sandi asked why the club/WG fee keeps increasing by such large amounts. Maddie said that it would provide marketing packages that clubs and workout WGs can use. Kathy – WGs are optional and not provided for in the rule book. Sandi said her people can't register for their WG unless it is registered as part of the club with USMS. Kathy said she can enter her WG and register. Jeanne said the rulebook cannot list every fee. Hugh said there are as many or more WGs as clubs and he thinks it could. Kathy cited where WGs are listed in the rule book – re: scoring at nationals. Sandi thinks it would be financially more attractive for clubs/WGs if the fee is not increased this year – considering the current situation. She also suggested a reduced fee for coaches might be considered.
- 9. NW Zone Championship events update - Let Paige know if you have an event that will be held and could be considered as a Zone Championship
 - a. No Open Water bid – no indication that anyone would be sanctioning one
 - b. LCM Champs – Gresham, OR – Aug. 22-23; TBD, depending on the opening in Oregon.
 - c. SCM Champs – Hood River, OR – Nov. 5; TBD depending on opening status
- 10. NW Zone Financial Policies project – Ken Winterberger, Aaron Norton, Sarah Welch.
 - a. A proposal was made in March and no feedback was received. The draft policies have not been shared.

- b. At the March meeting, it was suggested that the zone collect the surcharge in Olympic years. This didn't happen this year. Jeanne's opinion is that we should not collect this year. MSA to not collect the NW Zone fee from LMSCs in 2020. (Sarah/Sally) Paige will distribute the draft of the proposed policy changes to those on the call when she sends the minutes out for corrections.

B. New business

1. Sanctioned Events (as of this meeting)

- a. UT: Summer Pool vs. Cool Swim Challenge July 1-August 31 – Aaron Norton – A team is hosting a virtual event, similar to fitness challenge. There are sponsors for awards. Both are sanctioned with pool or open water workout requirements. Paige said that this event is hard to find on the USMS calendar – it doesn't connect to your location. Aaron will send the link to chairs so we can share within our LMSCs. <https://www.usms.org/events/events/2020-summer-pool-versus-cool-swim-challenges?ID=8740>
- b. Donn mentioned the ePostal championship events 5K/10K meter and 3000 & 6000 yard events are still happening. One National Championship OW swim in Santa Barbara, CA on 8/29 is still on the books.
- c. Matt Miller still has two OW events in southern Oregon on the calendar Aug 8 and Sept 12.

2. Oregon LMSC's letter to USMS Board of Directors re: Unified Fee – Tim Waud

- a. Oregon LMSC (OMS) received a response from USMS President Peter Guadagni addressing their concerns about the Unified Fee. Oregon's board will be responding back to Peter with follow up. Tim asked if any of the other LMSCs wanted to share some input.
- b. Questions and discussion:
 - Is the ultimate goal to change the way the NO is run? Oregon sees 2 things going on: 1) LMSC funding will diminish enough to affect their ability to conduct programs adequately. With the Unified fee, the LMSC has considerably less flexibility. OMS wants to know what the NO's future prediction is regarding fees, and what can the LMSC expect. They would like to know what is coming back to the LMSCs over time. 2) OMS wants more specificity about the USMS fees 2 years from now. Are there programs that will take the programming burden off the LMSC
 - What does Oregon want to see happen? OMS is not against the benefits of the Unified Fee, but the lost revenue decreases the LMSC's flexibility because more and more membership income has gone to the national office, and they are not seeing the direct benefits. A huge increase in costs for using the Tualatin Hills pool (Beaverton, OR) was cited as an example of when the LMSC had to step in to help fund a meet
 - Are National Championship meet hosts making a good profit? Sandi said every host makes profits; spring more than summer
 - Kathy compared the implementation of the "Year Plus Unified Fee" to College Club Swimming: it was politically campaigned around the country, all before being codified in the rule book.
 - The OMS letter to the BOD is not just about the Unified fee. OMS has concerns about the membership decline in recent years. Sandi encouraged our Zone to express our concerns, if we have them. In Oregon, they have been able to provide services in the past, that they will no longer afford. The question is, what help from the NO can they expect?
 - Paige suggested that we think about how the NW Zone can support Oregon. For example, we've had a flow of membership fees helping the smaller LMSCs. If we find that a larger LMSC needs help, maybe we can do that. Sandi said, while grateful, that was not on their radar.
 - Aaron liked the OMS letter and thinks National needs to make it clear about what they can do for the registered swimmer. He likes the Unified fee, because it will make it easier to partner with other fitness organizations (i.e. USAT).

- Kermit agreed with Aaron's point; we shouldn't be bashful about holding the NO to the plan, and the extent to which the NO can enhance the coaching and value to swimmers. The fee the swimmer pays and the money that goes to the NO, are the least efficient use because they are paying salaries rather than supporting volunteer efforts
- Jeanne was bothered by the negative tone and suggested OMS think about how they want it to be and try to make it work that way
- Speaking for the Coaches Committee perspective, Tim said they had a call with CEO Dawson Hughes and Peter discussing how to increase membership. The Level 1&2 certifications will no longer be in-person clinics. That clinic also included a Stroke Clinic for Swimmers in which newly-minted coaches would participate. Oregon was putting on successful clinics but paid more than they wanted to for pool rentals. Due to increased costs, they have had to cut back on coaching clinics. It all goes back to the money coming in. The Coaches Cmte is asking: is it up to the LMSCs to provide the clinics? On a recent coaches call they did not understand what they need to do.
- Paige wrapped up the discussion by asking attendees to be sure to read through the various documents and provide their feedback to Tim or others from Oregon

c. Attachments

- i. Oregon LMSC's Letter sent May 27th to the USMS BOD and President Peter Guadagni
 - ii. Response from Peter Guadagni June 1st
 - iii. Unified Fee legislation proposals (as of May 4th)
 - iv. CEO Update May 28th
3. Other – Linda expects to be able to deliver the LMSC Standards results this week.
 4. Good News to share – by LMSC reverse-alphabetically
 - UT – pools are opening up and they are getting back in the water. 2/lane, no locker rooms.
 - SR – pools open with restrictions; most gyms open. Can share a lane if you are comfortable with that. Boise YMCAs have dropped their Masters programs; no plans to resurrect it. Opening up next week with reservations to general Y membership.
 - PN – no pools open; 2019 membership topped out at 1807 - highest ever! Will be sending 5 delegates
 - OR – don't expect pools to open until phase 3 (Sept)
 - MT – pools open with some restrictions; coaches on the deck. Lots of lake swimmers. Outdoor pool not yet filled
 - IW – Northern Idaho – opening with restrictions, teams hit the water first, up to 4/lane. Eastern Washington – spotty by county.
 - AK – lake swimming, pool in Anchorage was one of the first in the country to open in mid-May.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.
