

2020 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	NW Zone	Session #:	#1
Committee Chair:	Paige Buehler	Vice Chair:	n/a
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	Thurs., September 10; 5pm PDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. none

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to approve the modifications to the NW Zone financial policies as presented.
2. Sarah Welch reported that the zone has endorsed Paige Buehler. There is no endorsement for Maddie Sibilias.

Number of committee members present: 32	Absent:	Number of other delegates present: 2
Committee members present: AK-Ken Winterberger; IW-Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm, Rob Heath; MT-Jeanne Ensign, Donn Livoni, Janelle Munson-McGee; OR-Bob Bruce, Marlys Cappaert, MJ Caswell, Christina Fox, Matt Miller, Ginger Pierson, Sandi Rousseau, Tim Waud; PN- Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Jim Davidson, Sally Dillon, Arni Litt, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Steve Peterson, Walt Reid, Maddie Sibilias, Sarah Welch, Teri White; SR-Jim Clemmons, Jeff Erwin; UT-Aaron Norton, Bruce Schroeder		
Committee Members Absent: SR-Jill Wright, UT-Blair Bagley, OR-Jeff Moxie		
Also attending: Dawson Hughes, Jessica Reilly		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm PDT

1. **Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves, their LMSC roles, and their favorite chocolate styles, spicy or mild (in reference to the delicious chocolates that Paige provides at convention each year).
2. **Conflict of interest statements:** Paige announced her conflict regarding the At-Large Director candidate endorsements. In advance of the meeting, she and Maddie agreed that Sarah would manage the procedure.
3. **Actions taken between meetings:** The minutes of the June 2, 2020 meeting were approved by the LMSC chairs via Survey Monkey and have been posted to the meeting minutes section on the USMS website.
4. **Modifications to Section 2 of the NW Zone Financial Policies:** Sarah reported on the recommendations from the subcommittee (Ken, Aaron, and Sarah). The group's discussion was affected by the influences of the Unified Fee and then Covid-19. The modifications were intended to be "broad" and can be revisited in the future. A "housekeeping" addition of an "and" was added to the proposed document. Not hearing any objections, it was MSA (Sandi/Bob) to approve the modifications to the NW Zone financial policies as presented. The final version of the document is attached to the minutes.
5. **At-Large Director candidate/s endorsement:** Sarah reviewed the endorsement process, including the operating guidelines. The balloting will take place through Zoom Ballot Poll and the National Office has the ability to audit the votes in the background. Paige Buehler and Maddie Sibilias were nominated and appear on the ballot, as well as an option to abstain. The specific results will not be announced, just whether each candidate receives enough votes to be "endorsed" by the Zone. Each candidate was given up to 3 minutes to make a statement, followed by a 10-minute Q&A of the candidates. Questions should focus on the candidates. Voting will follow the question period. The results would be announced after agenda item #7 (Chair report), in order to give Sarah adequate time to tally the votes. The results are "endorsed" or "not endorsed". Paige and Maddie each made statements that mirrored the information in their nomination packets. Asked about how she will stay connected with the Northwest Zone once she moves to Oklahoma, Maddie said virtually, and with calls to the zone chair and/or LMSC chairs. She was also asked how she would balance support of the NW Zone while residing in another zone if conflicting ideas were presented; she said as a BOD member her focus would be on what's best for USMS so a conflict would not be an issue. Asked how long she has been in the Northwest, she replied that it has been a little over a year. Paige was asked what leadership positions she has held; she replied that she joined the LMSC Development Committee when it was formed and has served as a member, chair, and vice chair. As the current NW Zone chair, she is once again on the LMSC DC. She's served on the Governance Committee for two years. She was also asked about what her vision is for USMS; she replied that she'd like USMS to find ways to do things that are more cooperative as opposed to competitive, that still brings members together

regionally. Seeing no other raised hands, Sarah closed the Q&A part of the agenda and launched the poll, which stayed open for 2 minutes. She clarified that we can vote for either candidate, both candidates, or abstain. One person did not get the poll so his vote was accepted privately in the group chat.

6. **Unified Fee in pilot for 2020:** Paige requested input from the LMSCs that opted in and opted out.
 - a. Opting in: AK, IW, MT, SR, and UT: Ken said their numbers are down ~25 members, but it is more likely due to Covid-19 than the Unified Fees. Janelle asked if LMSCs could provide support to current members to encourage continuing on. Jeanne mentioned the Covid-19 matching grant program that USMS developed and the MT LMSC voted to support that. Janelle was referring to support for individuals. Maddie said that on the last Board call, they discussed ideas to thank those who joined for full memberships before the year+ program went into effect. The IW chair reported to Paige that it was too hard to evaluate the pilot program given the impact of Covid-19. Aaron said that Utah has more money in their account with no way to spend it due to Covid-19; it's difficult to judge the effects. Jeanne said that the Unified Fee has been 100% painless in MT, adding "Vote for the Unified Fee, when you have a chance!"
 - b. Opting out: OR and PN: Arni believed the year+ registration offering did have a positive effect with registrations continuing to come in even though there are no programs. Even her workout group has received new members.
7. **Chair report:** Paige referred to the committee's annual report to see all that has been accomplished. She added that she's missed seeing everyone. Sandi thanked Paige for getting rid of the Zone jet. The bullet train is much better, but we need a bridge to Alaska since we are blocked from entering Canada! Tim suggested we pool the NW Zone treasuries and take the train to Atlanta next year!
8. **Announcement of At-Large Director voting: Sarah Welch reported that the zone has endorsed Paige Buehler. There is no endorsement for Maddie Sibilia.**
9. **Treasurer's Report:** There has been no activity since January. The NW fund balance stands at \$5,133.97. Ken recommended that zone members refer to the request form (located on the Zone website) if they have a request that would benefit the Zone, whether it be education or travel, don't hesitate to use it.
10. **At-Large Director Report:** Matt deferred to Maddie to give the report. The USMS BOD met twice since the June Zone meeting. Summer meeting: Discussed Covid-19 experiences, additions to the online workout library, start of virtual events (including the virtual championships), virtual coach certification, nominated USMS representatives for FINA positions (technical, sports medicine, and legal committees), budget forecast (better than expected), and membership increases due to year+ program. August 17: increased participation in virtual championship, ~3300 new registrations since May through Year+ offering, budget considerations, discussed ways to "thank" members who paid in full, coach certification updates, sanction policies (subcommittee looking into factors), and prep for virtual annual meeting. Matt had nothing to add.
 - a. Teri asked about the Year+ promotion and it was clarified that is only for those who had not already registered for 2020.
 - b. Sandi thanked both Matt and Maddie for serving on the USMS BOD. She also said, regarding Maddie's lack of endorsement that she hoped Maddie realized that it has nothing to do with personality or her capabilities. It is only an issue with many of us because you are not going to live in our zone. There's a concern that we can be disenfranchised by not having somebody from our geographic area. Paige noted that Maddie has been above board in letting people know what the situation is regarding her move and even encouraged the zone to nominate another candidate.
 - c. Steve brought up L-14, which addresses term limits of At-Large Directors. The Legislation Committee was asked whether term limits apply when an At-Large Director moves from one Zone to another. Nothing was said about the issue of incumbency. He noted that the Legislative Committee's term limit interpretation became subverted into a declaration of incumbency by the Elections Committee. Steve was taken aback by one committee member's non-constructive derogatory comment about Legislation's chair over the issue. Both he and Jane confirmed that during the committee's discussions, there had also been some derogatory comments made about the NW Zone, which were highly inappropriate. Jane noted that there are some conflicts between legislative procedures in the Rule Book and Election Committee's procedures that need to be sorted out. She was told that it was not the Legislation Committee's "job" to address that.
11. **LMSC Reports:** Year-end reports are attached to the end of this document. Paige asked if there were any additions. Jim apologized for inferring that all of Idaho is in the Snake River LMSC. Mike invited everyone to visit northern Idaho where they are swimming in pools and open water. Sally noted that a lot of effort is being made by coaches and clubs/workout groups to get swimmers safely in the water, even if it is only the lakes and Puget Sound. Ken said that open water swimmers are doing well in Alaska, but they are diminishing in numbers as the water temperatures are dropping to the low 50s.
12. **Convention "hot topics":** Paige asked for comments or concerns about legislative issues coming before the HOD.
L-22 - Reorganization of the Rule Book to move Part 2 into other sections. L-22 was not recommended by Legislation. Comments: Jim D. said Long Distance will send an amendment of the proposal to Legislation to move just certain parts. Article 202 would move to Part 1 and Article 203 would move to Part 3. Kathy said that the project was one of the most complex ever done, with Rules, Long Distance, and Legislation working together for many months. Representatives from the three committees did amazing work. Jane provided an "official" explanation from Legislation as to why they did not

recommend L-22. It included concerns about Part 5 (Bylaws, which shouldn't be in the Rule Book), Sanctions and Recognition, and breaking up Part 2. Also, a reorganization of this magnitude should require a special session of the HOD; it's confusing and far too complicated for our first virtual meeting. A larger subcommittee should be formed with more review.

L-13 - Removing past presidents from the board. Comments: The size of the board is too large with them included. There are concerns that very vocal past presidents can intimidate and/or overly influence younger/new board members. The past presidents have a lot of knowledge and having the current past president lead them as an advisory committee is a good alternative. Paige pointed out that past presidents can still have a voice by running for an office.

L-2, 3, and 20 - The Unified Fee. Comments: It represents a significant drop in income for Oregon. Paige mentioned Oregon's letter of concern can be found with the minutes of the June meeting. Utah likes the opportunity it could bring to have collaboration with other organizations.

L-17 - Transferring club affiliation: Comments: It is changed from 30 days to 35 since last time this was proposed. Jim C. said affiliation changes occur as late as the Monday before nationals. The new legislation limits club changes to twice a year. Linda brought up the use of "should" in the original language (item c), regarding contact with the LMSC membership coordinator. What if the swimmer doesn't do that? At point of registration, a swimmer can overwrite the affiliation. A swimmer can be registered with a club and enter a meet as unattached without notifying the membership coordinator. Swimmers try to change their affiliations on line, but it must be done through the membership coordinator. It was suggested that Linda and Kathy take this up with Legislation next year. Arni noted that a swimmer can change affiliation to unattached at a meet; some swimmers don't realize they are registered with the wrong team until they get there. The proposed legislation doesn't address this issue. Hugh said the wording probably predates electronic meet registrations.

L-8 - Club affiliation in meet program: Linda asked if the use of "club" includes workout groups. It should be amended to "club or workout group". Paige suggested that a setting in HyTek would take care of this but Linda had already checked that out, and there is not one. It was agreed that this needs to be brought to the attention of the Legislation Committee.

13. **Online Chat Room:** Paige asked if the zone would like to have a chat room where we could communicate with each other, regardless of what meeting we might be in. Google hangouts and Slack were discussed. Maddie offered to put together a Slack chat room for the zone.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. None stated. The committee meets quarterly and the next meeting will take place in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm PDT

ATTACHMENTS:

SECTION 2 ZONE FUND AND FINANCES

2.1 Revenue

The NW Zone Fund will be overseen by the NW Zone Treasurer. Effective for the 2020 year and thereafter until reinstated, the NW Zone shall not collect per member fees until deemed necessary as described in the following section.

2.1.1 Annually, the NW Zone Treasurer shall report the NW Zone fund balance to the Zone in the first quarter of each year. Based upon anticipated Zone expenditures against the fund balance, the Treasurer and a subgroup of the Zone leadership shall make recommendations to the Zone by the summer meeting as to whether a fee is recommended for the following year (or years). Action on any assessment of fees shall be completed by the conclusion of the Zone meeting each year to allow LMSC's planning time in their subsequent year budgets.

2.1.2 Funds collected for the NW Zone shall be held by USMS.

2.2 Expenses

2.2.1 Up to \$300 of the Fund may be used to pay for a NW Zone social or lunch at convention.

2.2.2 The Fund shall be used to purchase awards for NW Zone championship events.

2.2.3 The zone may approve other Zone related expenses upon a vote of the members as provided for in Section 1.3. The NW Zone Website shall contain application forms and procedures for such requests. Eligible expenditures shall: pertain to the business of the Zone or an LMSC as a whole but not for purely individual benefit, be beyond the ability of the requesting Zone or LMSC or member to pay, and promote education, coaching, leadership, participation or competition within the LMSC or NW Zone.

2.3 Reimbursement

- 2.3.1 Requests for reimbursement of expenses specified in Sections 2.2. shall be submitted to the Zone Treasurer within 30 days of the approved event or activity.

Consolidated Reports of the LMSCs in the Northwest Zone – Sept. 9, 2020

ALASKA LMSC Report – Ken Winterberger

As of 9/8/2020, the LMSC had 241 members, with a member joining as recently as 4 September.

2020 has been pretty much a disaster with pools shutting down soon after our Annual Meeting and Short Course Yards championship held in Sitka in late February. We began to open back up in mid-May, with our Northern Lights Masters Workout group being one of the first (if not the first) pool groups to re-open. Northern Lights essentially did the bulk of the research and wrote most of the pool opening guidelines for the Municipality of Anchorage. Many of those guidelines have been borrowed by pools across the country. Open water (yes, even here in AK) has been a HUGE draw this summer. It started in both lakes and the ocean in mid-May and is just now winding up.

The Alaska LMSC is in the midst of a communications campaign with its current members and recent members. We are sending a Alaska Masters swim cap (new design) to all currently registered members and plan to send “new member packets” to all new members.

We have a new workout group in Petersburg that was just getting started as the pandemic began shutting things down. The group is still “alive” and building.

We are in a holding pattern with regard to all in person competitions for the foreseeable future but are strongly supportive of the National “fitness challenge” series and are looking into sponsoring some virtual competitions.

Our current balance is \$15,066.09.

INLAND NORTHWEST LMSC Report – Matt Bronson

Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC? **No**

Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item: Discussed with delegates. No major topics.

Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

Teams/Clubs in Idaho will have ability to host larger groups for the near future. Teams in Washington are still under phase 2 restrictions. We have discussed clinics that travel to members and conform to the restrictions of that localized area.

Shout outs: Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm and Rob Heath are continuing to persevere with their respective clubs. All are attempting to hold practices under the rules of their respective areas (Moscow, ID; Coeur d’Alene, ID; Spokane, WA)

MONTANA LMSC Report – Donn Livoni

Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC? Yes, but no one has applied

Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item: The action by the Legislation Committee not to recommend L22 the partial breaking up of Part 2.

Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

We hope that by the end of March we will be able to host the LMSC meet in Missoula. If things change with Covid-19 we might be able to host a meet earlier than March.

Shout out to 1-2 people in your LMSC who have been holding things together with your LMSC operations during the COVID-19 pandemic (if none and all just hunkering, that’s OK, too):

Almost all of the pools in MT are open, but with limited pool space and time. Some outdoor pools are staying open a couple of weeks longer than their usual closing date of Labor Day. There has been a lot of open water swimming particularly in the Polson, Kalispell and Whitefish area. Mostly we hunkered down and stayed safe.

OREGON LMSC Report – Tim Waud

Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC?

Yes, we have had only one inquiry and we are waiting for that team to submit their request.

Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item:

L 13 - Removing past presidents from BOD and

L2, L3 & L20 - Unified Fee

Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

I think this is an unknown right now for probably all of us. Nothing on the horizon here and certainly not in Portland.

Shout outs:

Sandi Rousseau for always keeping us in the know even when we are disconnected from our aquatic world.

Bob Bruce for having already planned our 2021 Open Water Schedule.

Matt Miller for his dedication to U. S. Master Swimming Board of Directors and OMS.

Marlys Cappaert for her enthusiasm and newest addition to the USAS Convention as a Delegate-at-Large.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST LMSC Report – Sally Dillon

PNA had a record 1807 members in 2019, which entitled us to a 5th delegate to convention.

Current: 1446 members, 6 clubs, 25 workout groups (all belonging to Puget Sound Masters). A slow trickle of registrations continues with 100 swimmers added since mid-March.

• Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC?

YES. PNA will provide \$10 per swimmer, using the 2019 end-of-year data, which is different than what USMS will use. A 5-person committee has been formed to review and approve applications. Clubs and workout groups must complete an application and submit the W-9 Taxpayer ID document.

• Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item: L-17 . . . changes to transferring club affiliation

• Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

2021 . . . can only guess at what month. None of our fall events will be sanctioned. King County (largest in the state and home of most of our pools) is still restricted to groups of under 50.

• Shout out to 1-2 people in your LMSC who have been holding things together with your LMSC operations during the COVID-19 pandemic (if none and all just hunkering, that’s OK, too):

Kudos to Chad Hagadorn, coach in the YMCA system in the Tacoma area. With all YMCA pools closed, he rallied his open water group, the “Bernardo’s All Stars,” to swim in the Puget Sound. Three swimmers donned their wetsuits during the first week of April at Jack Hyde Park off Commencement Bay (Tacoma). With a water temp of 45°, they swam 3Xweek for only 30-45 minutes. The original group of 3 grew as word got around and new members joined USMS. Keeping a social distance, they expanded workout opportunities and started using American Lake in Lakewood.

Our PNA board continues to meet in odd-numbered months. Most of us have enjoyed using Zoom instead of conference calls; it may become the norm in the future. Hopefully we will be able to meet in-person for a couple of meetings in 2021; we typically meet in person twice a year.

SNAKE RIVER LMSC Report – Jim Clemmons

2020: 5 clubs, 111 members

2019: 5 clubs, 127 members

Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC?

No, although if approached we would consider some kind of action.

Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item: None to note

Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

Possibly 2021, at the earliest, based on current progress.

General status:

Public pools are closed in the Snake River LMSC. Most private pools are open in the LMSC to some degree. YMCA pools are operating on a more conservative basis than private gym pools (Crunch, Anytime Fitness, Axiom, etc.) but have ended their support of Masters swimming. YMCA pools are limiting time and access frequency (# of swims per week) while the private gym pools are far more liberal with access and the amount of time that can be spent in the pool. Some pool swimmers have taken to open water swimming as there are no limitations imposed on access. The LMSC Chair believes this will remain status quo going into 2021 and is hopeful that the Y’s will begin again to support Masters swimming at their facilities sometime next year.

UTAH LMSC Report – Aaron Norton

Is your LMSC offering COVID relief programs to clubs/workout groups in your LMSC?

No. There has not been any need for this.

Rules/Legislation (incl. LD & Appx. D) proposals that you/your delegation would like to discuss under “Hot Topics” agenda item: Other than new NW Zone Director At-Large we are good.

Earliest that you can estimate hosting events open to participants from outside your state and/or LMSC:

Unknown. Will be based on USMS determination. But all of Utah is currently in Yellow COVID-19 Status.

Shout out to 1-2 people in your LMSC who have been holding things together with your LMSC operations during the COVID-19 pandemic (if none and all just hunkering, that’s OK, too):

Will Reeves: He has taken upon himself to lead the effort in Open Water swimming. He has been hosting daily open water practices at several locations all around the state. He will be (and already has) received an Open Water Service Award.

Blair Bagley: She has continued to work very hard in keeping the South Davis Krabs swim team practicing as much as possible while also being safe. They have been back in the water for nearly 2 months under reduced lane restrictions but still holding practices.