

# USMS Convention — Greensboro, North Carolina. 2012

<b>Committee Name:</b> Open Water	<b>Session #:</b> 1	<b>Report #:</b> 16
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Lynn Hazlewood	<b>Vice Chair:</b> Frank Marcinkowski	
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b> Lynn Hazlewood/John Traynor	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> 9/13/2012 4:00-5:15 pm	

## Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

## Motions Passed:

1. **MSA** the minutes for the July 22, 2012 meeting.
2. **MSA** to approve as amended the following Committee Objectives.
  - a. To nurture the development and growth of USMS sanctioned open water events.
  - b. To ensure the safety and proper management of USMS sanctioned open water events.
  - c. To develop education, safety and training programs for open water LMSC officials, event officials and swimmers.
  - d. To create USMS member benefits for open water swimmers and incentives for event administrators.

<b>Number of committee members present: 12</b>	<b>Absent: 3</b>	<b>Number of other delegates present: 67</b>
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**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Lynn Hazlewood, John Traynor, Malcolm Cooper, Chris Lundie, Jim Wheeler, Bob Bruce, Laurie Hug, Lisa Bennett, Sue Nutty, Glenda Carroll, Donn Livoni (ex-officio), Dave Diehl (ex-officio)**

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM

1. The Chair called the meeting to order and thanked committee members for their contributions during the year.
2. The Committee **MSA** the minutes for the July 22, 2012 meeting. Motion: John Traynor, Second: Sue Nutty.
3. The Chair reviewed the USMS Mission and Vision statements and reminded everyone that we need to consider these statements when making decisions.
4. The following announcements were made concerning decisions and actions taken during convention on Wednesday and Thursday.
  - a. During its Wednesday meeting (9/12/2012), the USMS Board of Directors agreed that the Open Water Committee (OWC) should go forward with the Safety Education plan defined in the August 3, 2012 concept document. They requested that we edit some of the verbiage and produce a revised document. Jim Wheeler, author of the concept document, reviewed the basic plan and the proposed implementation. The Committee and members of the audience then conducted a lengthy discussion of the safety project with many valuable points being made by all contributors.

- b. During the Finance #2 meeting (9/13/2012), the Finance Committee accepted the OWC requested budget reductions and approved the budget. We now have funding for the safety project and clinics programs.
  - c. USMS will be providing professional editing services for web content and documents as part of a broad web site revision. Laura Hamel, USMS Editor, explained the benefits we will have from this project, which should take at least a year to fully implement and asked open water people to submit suggestions for content to the Open Water Chair.
  - d. The USMS Marketing Department will be providing artwork for an open water logo to be used for marketing and promoting USMS open water. In addition, the logo, based on the USMS logo, will provide a distinctive brand for USMS open water products.
  - e. The Chair discussed the open water section of the Event Results Database with the USMS Webmaster following the Wednesday (9/12/2012) End-to-End Event Management (E2EEM) meeting. All planning documents worked on by the committee have been turned over to the Webmaster for review. These include specifications for data content, data collection, the National Ranking System proposal and the National Challenge System proposal.
5. The Committee discussed and **MSA** to approve as amended the following Committee Objectives (Motion: Bob Bruce, Second: Sue Nutty):
- a. To nurture the development and growth of USMS sanctioned open water events.
  - b. To ensure the safety and proper management of USMS sanctioned open water events.
  - c. To develop education, safety and training programs for open water LMSC officials, event officials and swimmers.
  - d. To create USMS member benefits for open water swimmers and incentives for event administrators.
6. The Chair reviewed the committee accomplishments over the previous three years including:
- a. ***Develop infrastructure that will support open water development.*** That includes modernizing the rules of local competitions so they allow USMS events to be crafted to suit the swimmers needs and encourage new and independent events to become USMS sanctioned events; revising sanction legislation so it is easier for event hosts to use and understand and allows for the development of new kinds of sanctions; and participating in the E2EEM Task Force.
  - b. ***Develop "Bridge Projects" that will bridge the gap between what we have today and our aspirations for the future.*** These projects are intended to provide necessary support services while more complete products are developed. Notable bridge projects include: development of Open Water Safety Objectives Document to provide a starting point for building safe events; creation of an email list ([owsupport@usms.org](mailto:owsupport@usms.org)) to provide assistance for LMSC officials, event officials and swimmers on all aspects of open water—safety, training, event management and rules; updating out-of-date manuals that are posted on the web site that will provide resources until a more complete education system is built; and exploring methods that will allow all open water swimmers to participate in events together that is simple for the swimmers to understand and easy for event hosts to implement. It should be noted that the Safety Education system is the first bridge project to move to implementation status.
  - c. ***Develop ideas that will become the basis for future open water development.*** The discussions and projects reported on in the Committee's Annual Report showcase the idea development. Some notable and most advanced ideas developed include: defining the needs for an open water ERDB that will record the history of USMS open water events and provide the basis for developing awards systems to benefit members; defining the parameters for an open water National Ranking system for competitive swimmers and a National Challenge system for fitness swimmers; promoting the development of more consistent offering of Zone Open Water Championships; and developing a grant program to stimulate growth of open water clinics in conjunction with championship events.

It should be noted that many of the above discussions were accompanied by contributions and questions from members of the audience. John Traynor recorded the ideas presented. They will be compiled after convention and incorporated into project planning.

The meeting was recessed at 5:10 PM