

2020 USMS Open Water Committee – Minutes (in Red)

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee	Vice Chair:	Mark Johnston
Committee Chair:	Kim Elsbach	Date/time:	4/19/2020- 8:00 PM EDT
Minutes recorded by:	Kim Elsbach		

Number of committee members present:	Absent:	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):		

Meeting Information:

1. Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020
2. Time: 8:00pm EDT – 7:00pm CDT – 6:00pm MDT – 5:00pm PDT – 4:00pm ADT
3. Respond to Zoom Invite from Kim Elsbach

Agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Reports from USMS NO and OWTF
3. Update on OWTF Projects
4. Questions/Other Issues

Full-Committee Scheduled Meetings for 2020 (all meetings from 8-9 PM Eastern Time):

January 12, 2020
February 9, 2020
April 19, 2020
June 14, 2020
July 12, 2020
Tentative August Meeting

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8 pm EDT.
2. Attendance and determination of quorum:
3. Approval of previous minutes: Denise moves to approve, Mark Johnston seconds. Approved.

Executive Reports:

1. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni.
Board meeting tomorrow night, talking about financial decisions. Info will come from NO.
2. Report from USMS Open Water Safety Coordinator—David Miner.
Lots of race cancellations. At least 8 cancellations. Some rescheduling to later in year. August 29th, 1 mile National Championship in Santa Barbara.
3. Report from OWTF – Jay Eckert
Communications from National Office have been going out. Trying to pivot content for members. Probably postpone the new event start up fund. Will talk about eliminating sanction fees for existing events for the next year, rather than focus on new events.

Project Reports:

1. Open Water Start Up Fund:

Members: Mark Johnston, Helen Naylor

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Latest communication: based on most recent call with Peter Guadagni (3/7/20) our understanding of this project is the following: Jay/David will develop t a request for funds to the Finance Committee. They will run it by the OWC meeting. The OWC's role in administering this project will be discussed at our next OWTF meeting. Until that time, we will not do anything with regard to this project. **Status: Request that funding be put in the budget for 2021 or 2022, instead of making a special request. When turn in open water budget in July, we can include. Helen Naylor will help with budget. Jay will discuss in budget meeting April 20t, 2020.**

2. Connect OW clubs on Clubfinder and create network of OW clubs.

Members: Will Reeves, Mark Johnston

Latest Communication from NO: Clubfinder is the place where workouts for OW should live, they shouldn't be listed as events. If workouts are sanctioned events they can be on calendar.

3/29/20 – I spoke with National Office regarding this subject. I asked if we could utilize an official USMS Facebook page for OW communication. Kyle Deery and I spoke. He followed up with the attached correspondence on 2/13/2020. He requested we wait until new USMS web community correspondence app comes online in the near future. See attached letter in dropbox Promotion Subcommittee folder.

4/16/2020 – The Swim.com update for open water swimming went online. It appears to work well. Given the pool and event moratorium, open water practices are about the only swimming currently possible. Mark and myself have made open water swims which were uploaded into the Swim.com database. We see each other's swims; pool and open water. Now is the time to use these tools to promote open water swimming including virtual competitive events online. Mark and I participated in the recent Swim.com Carryon Challenge in February. It was virtual distance competition lasting 20 days with awards for gear drawings. The same can be done within the USMS community for both genders and all age categories for the summer months: June, July and August. Additionally within the same program we could include speeds competition for a open water 1 mi and 5 K. In my opinion this would do more for OW promotion than any other program. OW practices and OW virtual competitions are the only alternatives for swimming right now. Let's not miss this opportunity.

Proposal: Working with the National Office and Swim.com, the OW Committee will sponsor Virtual Distance and Speed competitive events under practice guidelines this summer. We do not need funding although award and event participation gear would be appreciative.

Currently up to 18 teams listed as Open Water on Clubfinder. Web community online will come online this Summer and we should wait for that instead of creating something new. Swim.com app now has Open Water included. The pool challenge in Swim.com was done outside of USMS.

Will is proposing using the Swim.com app to run virtual open water event. Propose running in June, July, and August. Can be participation and timed events. No second to proposal was offered.

Jay noted that right now, promoting a virtual OW series from USMS is not recommended due to the state guidelines. If it's doable on a local level, that's OK. But don't promote on National Level. But individual challenges could be put on Swim.com. Uses Garmin GPS and others.

If National Lockdown's are opened by June or July, USMS might promote more widely.

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Mark announced he created a virtual competition outside of USMS. The event is being offered on Club Assistant and will be starting May 1, 2020.

Helen Naylor has 4 page specifics in how to hold Open Water Practice.

Kim suggests coming up with swim tether workouts. Mark just shot an Open Water sighting drill and will send to USMS Facebook page.

3. Revise Event Mgt Guidance Document.

Members: Karen LeFebre, Rory Grigull, Denise Brown

Latest Communication from NO: Revise to be in line with check list from NO. Use NO checklist as a Table of Contents for a more detailed document.

Status: Karen, Mark and David Miner met to discuss project in April. Came up with the idea to take the current videos on the USMS site and the current guidance document and put together a quick guide for starting an event. Also, there will be a longer Guidance Document that have 8-9 separate chapters for putting on their own open water event. All the material is existing, but needs to be re-organized.

National Office just wants text on the guidance documents, no photos. Mark suggests just going through the existing documents and updating the text. They don't want photos. They don't want formatting. Just give them the raw text.

4. Develop Guidance Document for Fundraising and Conservation Efforts in Conjunction with OW Events.

Members: Kim Elsbach, Helen Naylor, Mark Johnston

Latest Communication from NO: Based on most recent call with Peter Guadagni (3/2/20): We may continue correspondence with only those folks that have already contacted us and have indicated that they are interested in learning more about volunteer/fundraising/conservation activities they can put on in conjunction with an Open Water Swim event. We may continue this project as individuals, and make it clear that this is not an official project of USMS. We may develop an article to be submitted online. Any documents that we wish to make available to interested parties will be kept on a personal website, not a USMS website. **Status:** Kim has developed blogsite and is constructing spreadsheet with info about fundraising and conservation efforts to post there.

5. Updated Safety and Crisis Management Guidance Document.

Members: Peter Lee, Bob Kolonkowski, Denise Brown, Becky Cleavenger, Karen LeFebre

Latest Communication: Starting with power point developed last year by Karen LeFebre, new document will be developed and roll in info on crisis management from Peter Lee?. David Miner will have input to this and NO legal team will review.

Karen's look into 3 slide shows on Open Water Safety. Could have Open Water Safety as part of Event Management.

Karen suggests that Helen and Becky look at the 3 safety slide shows and eliminate duplicates and add to Karen's original slide show and make one new slide show. Would have to change pdf slide shows and convert to power point.

Peter Lee – has had to discontinue the crisis management.

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6. Open Water Service Award

Members: Kim Elsbach, Jenny Hodges

Status: Waiting for nominations in July.

7. Update Open Water Guide to Operations

Members: Bob Bruce, Helen Naylor, Becky Cleavenger, Marie Velucci

Latest Communication: On-going.

Status: New Rules passed by LDC:

302.3 Straightaway Swim Courses . . .

B The course shall be certified by a licensed surveyor before initial use and every year if the turning points are not permanent. and every five years if they are. For permanent courses, certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since the original certification.

303.4.2 Rules for Category I Swimwear for Open Water Events

A Swimwear shall include only a swimsuit, cap or caps (including those made of neoprene when the water temperature is not greater than 78 degrees Fahrenheit), and goggles. Swim caps shall be defined as head gear conforming to a traditional swim cap design, may have a chin strap, and shall not extend to protect the neck and/or shoulders. Nose clips, ear plugs, and wristwatches are also allowed.

Still Pending: 303.7.3 For cable swims, when a final time has been submitted to the nearest second, .99 second shall be added to the time submitted. When a final time has been submitted to the nearest tenth of a second, .09 shall be added to the time submitted. For other open water swims, this timing adjustment is not required.

8. On-Going Projects: Bob Bruce: (1) monitor OW Forum on USMS and (2) Oversee Category 1 Swimwear Exceptions.

Close:

- 1. Next meeting: .
2. The meeting was adjourned at pm EDT.

Full OWC (Voting Members = 18; Quorum is Voting Members= 9; Ex Officio Members = 5)
Present = X, Absent = o

Table with 5 columns: Present, First Name, Last Name, LMSC, Email. It lists voting members with their status (X for present, o for absent), names, LMSC affiliations, and email addresses.

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o	Peter	Lee	Potomac Valley	Peter.Lee@treasury.gov
o	Joe	Linford	Utah	Joeblinford@gmail.com
x	Timothy	Murphy	South Texas	tmurphy@global.t-bird.edu
x	Helen	Naylor	Southeastern	helen.naylor@vumc.org
x	William	Reeves	Utah	swimrwill@gmail.com
x	Marie	Vellucci	New Jersey	marielovestowim@aol.com
Ex-Officio/Associate Members				
x	David	Miner	Ex -officio	dminer02@gmail.com
x	Jonathan	Eckert	Ex officio	jeckert@usmastersswimming.org
o	Ali	Hall	Ex officio	mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com
x	Alana	Aubin	Ex Officio - LDC	coachaubin@outlook.com
o	Jim	Davidson	Ex Officio - LDC	jedavidson98001@yahoo.com
x	Donn	Livoni	VP Programs	dlschwimmer22@gmail.com