

**U.S. Masters Swimming Executive Committee Conference Call minutes**  
**November 16, 2010**

**FINAL**

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**Action Items:**

**1. MSA - The Executive Committee makes the recommendation to the USMS Board of Directors to adopt the language submitted by Legal Counsel to 403.1 to create a policy to assist an LMSC and the National Board of Review when a grievance is filed.**

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Jeff Moxie – President called the meeting to order at 8:33 PM EDT. Also present were, Michael Heather VP of Administration Nadine Day-VP of Community Service, , David Diehl-VP of Programs, C.J. Rushman – Secretary, Ralph Davis-Treasurer, Rob Copeland-Immediate Past President, Doug Church-Legal and Executive Director - Rob Butcher.

Absent: Ed Tsuzuki - VP of Local Operations

EC Agenda topics:

1) President's report (Jeff); nothing to report.

2) Executive Director Report (Rob B): As of November 16, 2010, we have 580 of 692 clubs renewed. Of the 580 clubs, 42 are new. Our membership retention plan is being implemented and we are seeing good early results from membership renewal. As of today, we have registered/renewed 8,637 members, more members than we did in all of November last year. The member retention plan requires a lot of communication between staff and LMSC volunteers. One thing we are learning through this communication is that some LMSCs have volunteers in place who really didn't realize what they were signing up for. They enjoy being part of their local club, they like the social benefits, etc. but they do not have a high interest in the governance or operation aspect within their LMSCs. As a result, they might not have the time or training to implement the member retention plan within their LMSC. While offering volunteer experiences is important, we do not want to "force" volunteers into positions or put volunteer names down as placeholders without understanding the responsibilities. This leads to a broad question of should we merge LMSCs where volunteer commitment is lacking?

3) Legislation proposal (Doug): Doug has recommended we add the following paragraph to 403.2: "The LMSC and National Board of Review processes shall be exhausted before a grievant or appellant has standing to initiate civil litigation. In the absence of the exhaustion of the administrative procedures afforded to all members of USMS, USMS shall seek dismissal of any civil action initiated as premature." Rob C asked if we wanted this initiated as policy now, and introduced to Legislation Committee. Doug said that is correct. This is a better tool by having this stated as either policy or rule. Mike said that this does not expedite the matters once the National Board of Review has received an appeal. Doug said that to his knowledge in the two instances, the Chair person has been diligent in obtaining materials. Doug will offer some language for due diligence in these matters. **MSA - The Executive Committee makes the recommendation to the USMS Board of Directors to adopt the language submitted by**

**Legal Counsel to 403.1 to create a policy to assist an LMSC and the National Board of Review when a grievance is filed.**

4) Convention action Items (Nadine) – Rob B. presented a spreadsheet with roughly 50 action items requested by Committee's at Convention. Jeff requested Rob B highlight the status of the action items and provide back to the EC.

5) Open water Safety (Rob B) – Rob B presented a proposal for USMS to host an Open Water Safety Conference. With recent passing of Fran Crippen, there is heightened aquatic and media interest on open water safety. FINA and USA Swimming each are conducting independent studies on Fran's passing. The issue though of Open Water safety is global and Rob B believes USMS is in a leadership position to host such a conference that will bring together open water experts from various disciplines (i.e. cold water, warm water, marathon, mass participation, etc.) and share best practices, case studies and ultimately issue guidelines for Open Water safety. The timing for the Conference would be February or March, 2011. Nadine asked if we have a budget for the event. Rob B indicated there is budgeted money in the Open Water budget that has not been allocated as an option, or we might be able to look at reallocating already budgeted money. Dave asked if Heather and Lynn are involved from the USMS. Rob B said they are aware at a high level for brainstorming ideas and support the need for Open Water safety. Rob C said one area that is not addressed in the agenda is Open Water Training. Rob B will add that to the discussion in the case studies. The Conference information would be captured in both written and video taped form, and made available for anyone to see. Rob C mentioned that the date could be too early for most open water enthusiasts. Doug said it would be better to have this sooner rather than later. Ralph complimented the organization for recognizing a need and being willing to act. Rob B. will formalize the budget and present back to the Executive Committee.

6) Sports Medicine Committee concerns about published articles (Nadine) – Some of the articles that are listed on the USMS website are submitted by sponsors and while good content may appear to be self promoting. Rob B. shared that we solicit articles for our various publications from many constituents and by that vary nature they may be some self serving. The opportunity for sponsors to provide education where appropriate along with information on their products is an important part of their partnership benefit. Mike requested the Vice President's be included when emails are sent from staff to committees so that everyone is in the loop.

7) Open Water sanctions coordinator (Nadine) –This was not approved at convention so what is the status of this position. Dave reported open water committee is working on an updated version

8) Old business-

- Rule Book listing - Mike is waiting on a few more people to be named to three remaining committees. Final lists to be published coming soon.
- Convention Schedule – Nadine sent out the final schedule. Nadine asked Rob B to let Tracy know that is the final schedule.
- Forums – Rob B followed up on the EC request of required use of real names while on the USMS Forum page rather than aliases. Rob B. shared the Forums are not a paid

member benefit and open to all, including many internationals and people seeking information. The three main issues if required use were put in place are; (1) closing out non-members from use, (2) new programming, and (3) enforcement. It was shared we do have moderators in place as well as posted rules for Forums use. Jeff asked if we should have a third party moderate the forums. Mike said that this should go to the board for discussion. Ralph ask Rob to find out the cost of programming to make changes with the forum

9) New Business

- Investment Committee – Sent out eleven RFP's. Received eight in return and narrowed the selection down to four. The committee will have a teleconference call with all four companies individually to narrow down to two in order to select the investment advisor.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 8:30 pm EDT.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM EDT.