

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Annual Meeting via Zoom

Committee Chair: Jill Wright

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: August 24, 2023, 7:00 MST

Actions taken:

- **MSA to approve the PSM bid to host the 2023 SCM Zone Championship meet.**
- **MSA by acclamation to elect Jill Wright to the NW Zone Chair position.**

Number of committee members present: 20

Absent: 5

Guests: 7

Delegates attending: AK: Ken Winterberger, IW: Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm, Rob Heath, MT: Mark Brooke, Jeanne Ensign, OR: Bob Bruce, MJ Caswell, Arlene Delmage, Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Tim Waud, PN: Linda Chapman, Jim Davidson, Sally Dillon, Lorraine Masse, Walt Reid, SR: Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright, UT: Jerry Treiman.

Delegates absent: OR: Robbert van Andel, PN: Kathy Casey, Steve Peterson, SR: Teri White, UT: Bruce Schroeder.

Guests: Jay Eckert (National Office), Peter Guadagni (USMS President), Susan Huckeby, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Joy Ward, Sarah Welch.

Zone Chair Jill Wright called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm MST.

A. General business

1. **Actions taken between meetings:** The June 4, 2023, minutes were approved via email and posted on the USMS website.
2. **Chair:** Jill expressed her thanks for the help that she has received since she assumed the chair position last fall. She is grateful that our Zone operates so smoothly.
3. **Finance:** Ken provided a financial report. The current balance is \$8,619.92, a significant increase since the zone assessed LMSCs for 2022 and 2023 after skipping a few years. He noted that the May 1 numbers used for the assessments changed unexpectedly, a difference of less than \$5 total. Paige suggested it might be the result of a membership transfers. Consensus was to ignore the small difference. Sally encouraged smaller LMSCs to take advantage of the Zone funds and seek financial support for the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Relay events.
4. **Webmaster:** Jill complimented webmaster Dave Cabrey, for the many wonderful changes he has made to the Zone website since taking over last year.
5. **Records:** Jill noted that Steve Darnell is always "on top" of the zone record keeping. He sends frequent updates to Jill, Sally, and Dave and the updates are promptly posted on the website.
6. **Zone Chatter:** Jill complimented Christina for the outstanding Zone Chatter newsletters that she puts together quarterly. Christina thanked the LMSC chairs for their "mostly" prompt submission of details.
7. **Secretary:** Sally asked everyone to please provide edits quickly when the minutes draft is distributed. The approved minutes need to be posted ASAP. She thanked the LMSC chairs for keeping her up to date with leadership team changes.
8. **NW Zone At Large Director:** Paige reported that the Board of Directors met for their summer meeting online in mid-July. USMS President Peter Guadagni joined our meeting and added that since the BOD's meeting, the directors had been meeting with LMSC representatives by Zone as part of their ongoing communications efforts. The NW Zone met with Teddy Decker, John King, and Kris Wingenroth on August 17th. Paige noted other projects that the Board recently reviewed:

- Suggestions for modifications to the CEO bonus criteria from the Compensation & Benefits committee.
- Implementation of processes the Grievance Task Force is working on suggested by the former task force that Sarah Welch led. The TF developed and the Board approved a Code of Conduct to be added to the USMS waiver starting October 1st. It is slightly different from the unsporting conduct section of the rules in that it is meant to address “being a good citizen and respecting the rights of others.” The next project it will undertake is developing an ombudsman at the national level to help LMSCs and appellants through the process when needed.
- Oversight of the steps in the potential acquisition of Grown Up Swimming as CEO Dawson is working through talks and financial considerations. Peter was able to elaborate more on what Grown Up Swimming is and what it would bring to the USMS offerings. It is more like summer recreation league sports with just friendly competitions: short meets, short distances, no records, meant to be for fun. It is viewed as a way to attract people not interested in a more structured program and people with children who may be swimming in their own summer rec leagues. It is another way of pursuing our mission, like College Club Swimming. Sandi said it’s her understanding that the USMS BOD voted to approve Dawson Hughes further investigating a liaison with Grown UP Swimming, with the potential to invest \$50K into the program in the hopes that the swimmers will get more involved in USMS. Dawson’s time and some external legal expenses are costs to date. There will be discussion about this at the annual meeting. Finally, the National Office had the opportunity to terminate its lease on Mound Street in Sarasota early which saves money this year and in the next couple of years. Jay Eckert clarified it’s about \$80,000. Many office staff are working from home. The Sarasota Sharks Swim Club have office and storage space to share with USMS. The new mailing address for USMS is 8388 South Tamiami Trail, Suite 221, Sarasota, FL 34238.

9. NW Zone Championship events:

- a. As was previously reported, the SCY event was held in Federal Way, WA at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center April 15 & 16. 270 swimmers attended.
- b. The Open Water 1500m event was scheduled for July 29 at Elk Lake, outside of Bend, OR. It was canceled due to air quality issues from nearby forest fires.
- c. The LCM Zone championship was held at The Dalles, OR on August 5. Attendance: 89.
- d. SCM: On behalf of PSM, Sarah Welch submitted a bid just prior to this meeting for the SCM Zone meet. Scheduled for November 18/19, 2023, the Puget Sound Masters (PSM) meet will be held at WKCAC in Federal Way. Sarah noted that the order of events will include some, but not all relays, and a 1500 but not an 800. The 1500 will be the last event on Saturday. **MSA to approve PSM’s bid to host the 2023 SCM Zone Championship meet.**

NOTE: Bids for the 2024 NW Zone Championships are due to the Zone Chair by December 1, 2023. The rotation for 2024 is:

- SCY – an LMSC “other” than OR and PN
- OW – PN
- LCM – open to any LMSC
- SCM - PN

B. Other business

1. Next meeting: A consensus was not reached. Jeanne will conduct a Doodle poll to help determine what days of the week are preferred. We will continue to meet quarterly.
2. Election - NW Zone Chair: Sally reported that the Zone Chair is elected in odd-numbered years for 2-year terms. Jill stepped in to complete the previous chair’s term and has agreed to run for the position. Sally asked for other nominations; there were none. **MSA by acclamation to elect Jill Wright to the NW Zone Chair position.**
3. USMS Annual Meeting: Sally reported that 18 delegates from the LMSCs in the NW Zone will be attending in person and all will arrive by Thursday (instead of Friday). A few arrive on Wednesday so they can visit NASA. Six delegates will attend virtually. Former PN board members Hugh & Jane

Moore will also be in attendance since Hugh is serving as the Parliamentarian for the HOD meetings. In addition to getting together at meals, a room has been reserved for 2 hours so the NW in-person delegates can meet. Notes will be taken so we can share good ideas (bad ones too) but official minutes will not be produced from this unofficial meeting. Jill thanked Sally for organizing the early-arrival activities.

4. Hot topics from Legislation, Rules, and Long Distance committees:

Rules: Unable to attend the meeting, Kathy Casey provided information about some of the Rules proposals; they were included on the agenda and there was no discussion about her comments.

Legislation: Sandi mentioned that she and others in the zone would like to propose an amendment to address the Preamble issue. Paige said we should eliminate the preamble and instead propose the information for inclusion in the History section of the appendix. Sally said the location for this brief statement about the founding of USMS is in the correct space, although it should be placed above "Organizing Principles". It could be called an "Introduction" (not Preamble). Sandi suggested that an amendment could be proposed. Sally, Sandi, Paige volunteered to work offline on an amendment. They will share their proposal with the zone delegates and send the wording in advance to the Legislation Committee.

R3 & R4: It was noted that the Championship committee was not consulted. Sandi said there is a subcommittee working on the situation but no proposal coming. Championship is not in favor and there is not a capability to do what is being suggested.

Long Distance: Jim noted the language changes that indicate the NO is taking over the Virtual events. Bob commented that the "tie-back" suit issue is a step away from the usual rules, but not considered an issue for open water.

5. Cable Course in Oregon: Jill asked about the Foster Lake venue and the efforts to rebuild the cable course. Bob said the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Equality has not issued the permits. He will be getting the crew together to build the course as soon as the permitting process is complete.

MSA to adjourn at 8:05 pm MST.

Post meeting note from Sally: "Appendix F: USMS History" contains the history of USMS awards, national and world meets, and conventions and elected officers. Nothing else!