

2024 U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Jill Wright

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: December 2, 2024, 6 pm MT

Actions taken: None

Number of committee members present: 18 **Absent:** none

Committee members present: AK: Ken Winterberger (treasurer), IW: Rob Heath, Dave Cabrey (webmaster), Margaret Hair, MT: Jeanne Ensign, Karen LeFebre, OR: Tim Waud, Sandi Rousseau, Jayette Pettit, Arlene Delmage, Christina Fox (editor), Paul Windrath, Joy Ward, PN: Sally Dillon (secretary), SR: Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright (chair), UT: Bruce Schroeder, Jerry Treiman

Committee members absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm MT.

A. General Business

1. Actions taken between meetings: The minutes of the zone's August 28, 2024 annual meeting were approved via email and posted on the USMS and NW Zone websites.
2. Chair: Jill had nothing to report.
3. Finance: Ken reported that we have \$9209.18 in our Zone's account. He would like to see the funds used, if we are going to continue to collect. Ken also mentioned that he has been unable to pay Matt Miller's \$50 annual fee to host our website. USMS will no longer mail a check and requires instead the use of electronic fund transfers (EFT). Matt is unwilling to give USMS his banking information. Sally offered to mail a check to Matt and get reimbursed. She has not had any issues with EFT procedures in the past. Sandi will contact Matt to see if this will work for him.
4. Website: Dave asked that meet directors send the links to their meet information directly to him for posting on the zone's website. It was noted that the Zone's policies are also on the website and the zone's "meet rotation" charts are in the document.
5. Records: Stephen Darnell reported via email that the Zone records are up to date with information received through November 27. He will update Zone records with results from the SCM meet at Federal Way on November 23-24, when those results are available. The Federal Way meet was canceled, and Sally had let Steve know.
6. SCM pools: Jill wondered how many pools were available to host SCM meets. Many were mentioned: WA: Whitworth, Anacortes, Federal Way, OR: Hood River, Oregon City, Bend, ID: Kroc Center, Coeur d'Alene, ICAC Boise and UT: Bountiful.** Our championship meet is scheduled for the fall, so we are dependent on meet hosts running a SCM meet at that time.
7. Zone Chatter: Christina noted that the Thanksgiving holiday affected the timeliness of submissions. Secretary's note: she did a great job pulling the information together for a timely distribution!
8. Secretary: Sally reminded LMSC chairs to let her know when changes to leadership teams take place and thanked those who do this. She maintains the "team" spreadsheet and the mailing list.
9. Stroke clinics: Rob shared that the IW is offering free stroke clinics to their members. The costs for pool time and instructors will help spend down the IW LMSC's assets. The event will be at Whitworth College and be run by Rob and Mike Hamm. The first event will be short-axis strokes and videos will be shown before putting the swimmers in the water. There is a cut-off of 40 participants, but Rob said they would be willing to allow swimmers from other LMSCs if space allows. The short axis clinic is scheduled for December 14.
10. NW Zone At Large Director: Rob reported in the December Zone Chatter that "most of the focus during the November BOD meeting was on approving the budget for 2025. For the minutia, you can look it over once it's posted. The projections for 2024 were not quite met, as we anticipated 60k members but finished with over 58k. Since Covid support ended, the organization has been operating under budgeted projections. Part of that has been due to our recent investments in Grown-Up Swimming (GUS), College Club Swimming (CCS), and the Lanemate App. All of these

investments are projected to be profitable within the next 2 years. Meanwhile, the financial reserves for the organization are strong, including the significant reserves in our LMSCs. The budget was unanimously approved, following the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The Committee appointment process for 2025 is still ongoing and should be completed by our next meeting, in December.”

Rob also noted that while he is fully in support of an in-person Annual Meeting every year, the recent survey indicated that only 30% of the delegates want to meet in person. There is support on the BOD, but the survey results are the main obstacle. Sandi suggested USMS could combine the Annual Meeting with the Relay event; it was discussed by some at the recent Relay event, which she attended. Rob noted that while the BOD seems to be functioning well, he has made it clear that he will speak out when necessary.

Sally asked about the upcoming rule book and whether it will include the committee assignments. Rob replied that unfortunately, it won't. President Ed Coates is currently finalizing the committee chair assignments, so the deadline for the rule book's publication won't allow the inclusion. Sally opined that all the past Presidents have managed to appoint the committee chairs and form the committees in a timely manner. She feels it is unacceptable to remove this information from the annual USMS rule book. It is a historic document, and the committees are part of USMS's history as well.

11. NW Zone Championship bids: Jill reported that no bids had been submitted by the December 1 deadline. The rotation schedule was distributed in November (and is in the Zone Policies). The meets are often (but not always) held in conjunction with an existing LMSC meet. For SCY, the meet is usually the LMSC's annual championship.

OR is scheduled to host both the SCY and LCM zone meets in 2025. Paul said the potential hosts are reluctant because of concerns with scoring. Sally noted that while we do not keep team scores for the zone championships, we do provide zone ribbons (currently 1st-6th). She said Meet Manager can be set up so the LMSC team scoring can be limited to OR members. She believes overall results would include other swimmers. The SCM meet can be hosted by any LMSC “other than” Oregon and Pacific Northwest. OW goes to Snake River. Jill noted that SR hosted this year and said the swimmers enjoyed getting the zone ribbons.

Jill asked OR to let her know ASAP if they have a team that will host SCY. And LMSCs interested in hosting the SCM champs in the fall should submit a bid soon. The bid forms are on the Zone website.

B. New Business

1. Planning for 2025 USMS Annual Meeting: It appears that the event will be in Kansas City in September (actual date TBA). Sally suggested our zone arrive a day early, as we did in 2023. She volunteered to work with Jessica Reilly to arrange for reduced room rates the extra night and a meeting space for our attendees. There was good support for this idea. Sally suggested we encourage our delegates to attend in person, as opposed to attending virtually. Zone funds are available!
2. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3 at 6 pm MT.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm MT.

** Other SCM pools provided post meeting from AK: Sitka, Anchorage, Fairbanks