

2025 U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Jill Wright

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: March 3, 2025, 6 pm MT

Actions taken: NW Zone Championship meets

MSA Oregon Masters' bid to host SCY champs in Newberg, OR April 4-6

MSA Sawtooth Masters' bid to host OW champs 2-mile event on June 14 in Caldwell, ID

Number of committee members present: 20 **Absent:** N/A

Committee members present: AK - Kent Hamilton, Ken Winterberger; IW – Paige Buehler, Dave Cabrey, Margaret Hair, Rob Heath; MT – Jeanne Ensign; OR – Christina Fox, Jayette Pettit, Sandi Rousseau, Joy Ward, Tim Waud, Paul Windrath; PN – Kathy Casey, Sally Dillon, Steve Peterson; SR; Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright; UT – Aaron Norton, Jerry Treiman. Aaron was welcomed back as the new Utah LMSC Chair.

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

General Business:

1. Actions taken between meetings: The December 2, 2024 minutes were approved via email and posted on the Zone and USMS websites.
2. Zone Chair report: From the newsletter, Jill noted that when she became Zone Chair, she was told that she was to preside over the quarterly meetings. She soon realized she was also on the LMSC Development Committee. This year when the requests for committees were sent out, Jill didn't request the LMSC DC because she thought she was automatically on it. That turned out to be wrong and the USMS President didn't assign her to the committee. Jill contacted Doug Sayles, Chair of the LMSC Development Committee and was told that because she didn't request membership in the committee, she wasn't assigned to it. She told him that she learned things on the committee that she should be passing along to the Zone. Jill is again on the LMSC Development Committee. As she becomes more informed of what's happening on the committee, she will pass the information on to the LMSC chairs. Jill noted that Oregon submitted a bid for the 2025 NW Zone SCY Championship, to be held in conjunction with the 2025 Oregon Masters Association meet on April 4-6, 2025 at Chehalem Aquatic Center, Newberg, OR.
Jill also noted that she became the Zone Chair in 2022, taking over for Aaron, who was elected in 2021. Finally, Sawtooth Masters (Snake River LMSC) has bid for the NW Zone OW Championship at Broadside Harbor on June 14, 2025.
3. Finance report: Ken reported a balance of \$9209.18 in the zone's account. He will send the per-swimmer requests once the assessment is official in May.
4. Website report: Dave posts information on the website shortly after it is received. He just posted the SCY Zone meet details.
5. Records report: Steve Darnell did not submit a report, but he stays up to date on all records and reports to Jill and others regularly
6. Zone Chatter report: Christina thanked the LMSC chairs for submitting updates for the newsletter. She was complimented for providing another outstanding issue!
7. Secretary report: Sally appreciates the timely roster updates, which allow her to keep the email list up to date. Sandi asked if Sally would like to do minutes with AI and received a resounding "no".
8. NW Zone At Large Director report: Rob provided an extensive report for The Zone Chatter as follows:
 - The 2 previous board meetings held virtually, and our annual Winter meeting in person, were focused primarily on administrative needs, 2024 budget performance review, budget forecast for 2025, and strategic planning for the coming year. The 2025 budget was approved by the Board, as recommended by the Finance Committee, and is projected to show a surplus for 2025. As of February 21, we are ahead of our budget projections, with membership numbers and financials.

- Grown-up Swimming (GUS) is ahead of our projections for 2025 and is expected to show profitability in the coming year. LaneMate beta testing has just been released, and the coach-provided video review is being ramped up. We'll need more volunteer coaches to offer their help with this program.
- The College Club Swimming (CCS) program is also at a membership high. The transition program for CCS members to swim in Masters events has begun, and several areas are showing a large number of CCS members joining local events. All are reporting great results from their participation.
- Many comments have been voiced about our current membership numbers as they relate to the total in all of our programs. The projected, and current, numbers for USMS membership are stand alone. CCS, GUS, and LaneMate members are not included in the 60k projection for 2025, nor in the total numbers for 2024 (58k). There are currently nearly 9,000 CCS swimmers, and 2,000 GUS members as a part of the USMS umbrella organization.
- There has also been much discussion about moving items from the Rule book and shifting them to Policy documents. There has been voiced fear that those items will “disappear” and be untraceable. The Board is committed to ensuring that the location of the items removed will be notably available to all interested parties and will be reviewed regularly for updates. The Rule Book should contain just the rules of the organization, as its name indicates, but has become a gathering spot for any rule, policy or procedure that USMS utilizes. The items we remove are no less important to the organization and its committees but are considered to be relevant to specific committees or groups within the USMS organization. These items are no less important to those groups but not considered a “rule”. Part of the review of the rule book also included a specific review of what each committee should have as its priorities.
- As USMS shifts from the 1970's non-digital operational model into a modern electronic system, many of the old processes are not efficient anymore. As a long-time member of USMS, holding deep regard for the founders and processes started over 50 years ago, I understand the pain associated with changes to our beloved organization. I also understand that we have many areas where we are not efficient in a modern world. Please know that in my recent experiences on the Board, every single board member loves our organization, and what it stands for, and is committed to making it better for all.

During the meeting, Rob highlighted a few of the topics addressed in the above report. He committed to doing regular reviews and apologized for not doing that. He noted that the board will participate in a GUS event during their next in person board meeting. Sandi, and others, participated in the Open Office board meeting. She is concerned about policies being removed from the Rule Book that don't have a repository. It was said at the meeting that “just the rules belong in the USMS Rule Book”. It was also said that nothing would be removed that can't be easily found elsewhere. She questioned where the items removed will be placed so they are not lost. Thus far there is not an easy path to finding the missing information – such as the historical lists of USMS officers, national championships, MISHOF recognized members, ISHOF recognized athletes, etc. Sally noted that if “only rules” belong in the Rule Book, then the B & C appendixes are not necessary either. Christina asked who would be responsible for updating policies and who would have oversight for ensuring that this takes place. Rob said that this has not yet been discussed or formalized. He mentioned that committees would be responsible for policy updates and the committee's Vice Presidents have oversight. Kathy noted that over time many policies have been lost. Past efforts to move rules to policy have resulted in the committee of responsibility forgetting to write the policy, committees not updating and maintaining its policies, policies being hard to find on the USMS website, and policies disappearing over time. Paul asked if the board has considered that the policies are lost when committees are eliminated. Sandi and others objected to the decision that the Rule Book cannot include historical information as it has had in the past. It's not like the book is terribly large or expensive. Rob said that USMS is trying to be more efficient and that there are only 4 board members who share our concerns. Jill asked if other zones had expressed concern; Rob believed there are 3. He feels he is “being heard” on the board, but it doesn't change anything. He noted that we need our delegates to be prepared to fight for what we want. Sandi said she's not seen any sign of discussion, so the board is making the decisions about the Rule Book without other input.

9. NW Zone Championship events update:

- a. **SCY: OR Masters submitted a bid to host the meet, in conjunction with their LMSC Championships, in Newburg, OR April 4-6. MSA to approve.**
 - b. LCM – no bids received. There are LCM meets in Bend (5/17), Eugene (5/18), Boise, and Wenatchee (dates unknown). It was noted that the Eugene meet will not have official times.
 - c. **OW: Sawtooth Masters submitted a bid to host a 2-mile swim at Broadside Harbor, Lake, Caldwell, ID on June 14. MSA to approve.**
 - d. SCM – scheduled to be hosted by a team “other than OR and PN”. Interested LMSCs need to submit the bid form before the June meeting. Sally noted that Puget Sound Masters plans to have their SCM meet in November and may want to be a backup bidder.
 - e. 2026 – Looking ahead: SCY=PN, LCM=other, OW=UT, and SCM=OR. Bids due December 1.
Reminder: USMS Summer Nationals coming to Federal Way Aug. 6-10.
10. Annual Meeting: It is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, September 12-14 in Kansas City. Following up on discussion at our December meeting, Sally contacted Jessica Reilly about an “early arrival” for our zone’s delegates. Jessica’s reply: “Like we did in Houston, please include the appropriate check-in and check-out dates for delegates and I will submit them to the hotel, and based on their availability can determine the applicable hotel rates for the additional nights.” Jessica followed up to say: “she would need our hotel reservation information by August 15”. We would arrive on Thursday, Sept 11, and meet for dinner that night. Sally will arrange for a meeting room that we can use on Friday morning. Jill will work on discussion ideas for that meeting; please send her your suggestions. LMSC chairs need to discuss this event within their LMSCs and encourage in person attendance this year. Note that the zone’s “Annual Meeting” will take place in August via Zoom (not in Kansas City).
11. Reminder: 2025 is an election year for Zone Chairs. Each ZC is limited to two 2-year terms. Unfortunately, Jill is not eligible to serve another 2-year term.
12. Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Monday, June 2 at 6 pm Mountain time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm MT.