

NW Zone Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 2, 2025

Attendees: AK – Kent Hamilton, Ken Winterberger; IW – Paige Buehler, Dave Cabrey, Rob Heath; MT – Mark Brooke, Jeanne Ensign; OR – Christina Fox, Marisa Frieder, Jayette Pettit, Sandi Rousseau, Joy Ward, Paul Windrath; PN – Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Sally Dillon, Diana Hermanson; SR – Jill Wright; UT Aaron Norton, Jerry Treiman.

Jill called the meeting to order at 6 pm Mountain time. She recognized the following five new LMSC chairs: Kent Hamilton, Mark Brooke, Marisa Frieder, Linda Chapman, and Aaron Norton. First timers were Kent, Mark, and Marisa. Linda and Aaron have served as LMSC chairs previously.

Comments: IW is hosting a officials certification clinic September 9; it is open to all zone members. Paul asked if an LMSC Officials Chair needs to approve a member's participation in another LMSC's clinic. It was suggested he speak with Teri White or Mike Abegg (both from the USMS Officials Committee). Joy noted a mistake in the PSM SCM bid. It says "no" to the question about having a pool certification on file with USMS. **See clarification at end of minutes.

A. General business and reports

1. Actions taken between meetings:

- a. The 3/3/25 minutes were approved via email and posted on the Zone and USMS websites.
- b. A bid for the LCM zone championship was submitted a week after the March meeting by OR LMSC's Central Oregon Masters team. The 1-day meet was approved via email by the LMSC chairs. The meet took place on May 17.

2. Chair: Highlights from Jill's report in the quarterly newsletter: Two zone championships have been held since the last meeting: SCY in Newberg, OR and LCM in Bend, OR. The OW championship will be June 14 in Boise, ID.

A freestyle and turn swim clinic took place in Boise and we had a great fundraiser in May. SR membership has increased, and coaching has remained steady. I've met some great new friends and am faster!!

The LMSC Standards Survey was sent on May 1st to LMSC chairs, treasurers, and sanction chairs. These were to be completed by June 1st. She can see who has completed theirs and who hasn't.

Jill is not allowed to be the Zone Chair for another 2 year term, so the position is open for 2025-2027. She encouraged interested people to let her or their LMSC chair know.

Jill mentioned the upcoming USMS Annual meeting. Our zone plans to arrive a day early as we did 2 years ago in Houston. Send her ideas for topics that we can discuss at this event. See A-5 below.

SR will host a senior games event on August 23rd

3. Finance: The Zone's account balance is \$9177.31. Ken is currently sending out invoices for the 50¢ per swimmer fee that LMSCs pay each year and expected income is \$1988. He noted that financial support is available for members attending the Annual Meeting, Relay, and/or clinics. Jill said most of the LMSCs have their own funds to provide financial assistance to members. Ken reiterated that requests for reimbursement are available to people from all LMSCs, not just the smaller LMSCs.
4. Website: Dave has received an increase in requests to post meet events this past year. He encourages LMSCs to submit all of their meets to him for posting on the Zone website.
5. Records: Steve Darnell reported via email: All NW Zone records for SCY, SCM, LCM courses are up to date with information received through 5/28/2025. As always, swimmers or coaches or LMSC R&T volunteers are encouraged to send data for swim times that break existing records, directly to him via email.

6. Zone Chatter: Christina expressed thanks for the information submitted by the chairs. The Chatter shares news as well as information about meets. Jill said she shares it with her entire LMSC and has received good feedback.
7. Secretary: In addition to preparing meeting minutes, Sally is keeping busy updating email lists and the leadership roster and distributing meeting info.
8. NW Zone At Large Director: Rob submitted the following for the newsletter: Much of the BOD's recent meeting time has been dedicated to investigating and responding to the recent transgender issue at Nationals in San Antonio. Most of the data has been gathered and we are currently working with an attorney in San Antonio that we have retained in that area of expertise. This is due to the Texas Attorney General raising a criminal investigation into USMS for state "fraud" over the event. No information has been released yet as to the final disposition of the investigation and will not be until the process is completed.

The upcoming election cycle will include openings for the positions listed below. The window to register opened on May 1 and will close June 20. If interested, get your application package in by June 20. The open positions are as follows: President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Admin, VP Local Operations, VP Programs, and VP Community Service

The next regular USMS BOD meeting is scheduled for June 9. A special meeting has been called on June 3 to address the Transgender competition policy.

Rob added to his report and answered questions. USMS is 3% ahead of membership expectations. Regarding the athletic eligibility issue at the Spring Nationals in San Antonio, the transgender policy has been reviewed as well as other organization's policies. He believes the board is prepared to decide. We'll be advised as soon as he is able. Paige said she has been aware that this might happen and has looked at how to improve the policy. She said this isn't all reactive; there wasn't a surprise that this came up. Sandi asked why USMS had a different policy than World Aquatics and Paige said we have a different drug policy as well (so people don't stop taking drugs). Rob has read the World Aquatics policies, and it gives all governing bodies the option to make their own policies. Kathy clarified that we have the same exact drug policy as World Aquatics. She said that in 2005 there was a "short sentence" policy for transgender, it was elaborated in 2012 and has changed frequently since then. In her opinion, the BOD didn't go back far enough to make the decision.

Regarding the Huntsman games issue, a decision was postponed until the next regular BOD meeting. Summarizing the issue, USMS leadership submitted times to World Aquatics that should not have been submitted due to World Aquatics rules. Rob sees where the errors were and has heard both sides of the issue. The OEVT swimmers' participation triggered this. Now World Aquatics is looking at our UC swimmers. Apparently, some committee chairs did not think this was clear to them. Aaron said he has advised the Huntsman folks to eliminate OEVT swimmers in the future. Paul noted that what USMS thinks, isn't the issue. USMS must follow World Aquatics rules in meter meets. He noted that Mary Beth Windrath repeatedly advised staff and committees that they should not do what was done. Kathy mentioned the formation of UC clubs, which went into our rules in 2014 because of FINA decision in 2013 that unattached swimmers could not enter international meets, UC clubs (rep LMSC) could be a place for unattached. Other countries have the same issue.

9. NW Zone Championship events update:
 - a. Bid from PSM for SCM zone championship. MSA to accept the bid.

A. New business

1. Upcoming Zoom call with USMS board members. June 10, 5 pm Pacific. The BOD will be represented by Carrie Stolar and Rob Heath. CEO Dawson Hughes will also attend. Specific LMSC officers are expected to attend and anyone on the LMSC leadership teams is welcome to join the call. Jill will forward the information and link to Sally, who will send to all. Rob said there have been a 20-40 participating so far in other zones.

2. Zone Chair election: The biannual election will take place during the Zone's Annual Meeting. The August 23 event is scheduled for 5 pm Pacific via Zoom. Jill encouraged volunteers to step up and asked if anyone was interested. Sally indicated she is, and others were encouraged to let Jill know if they are as well. The deadline to nominate is August 15.
3. Jill reminded the Chairs, Sanction Chairs, and Treasurers to complete the LMSC standard surveys.
4. USMS Annual Meeting plans: Scheduled for Friday-Sunday, September 12-14 at the Kansas City Airport Marriott. It is quite a ways away from downtown KC. Linda said Aug 15 is the deadline to submit names of delegates. At the March meeting it was agreed that we would plan to arrive a day early, as we did in 2023. With a Thursday arrival, we were able to dine together that first evening, have breakfast with fellow zone members, meet as a group to learn more about each other and to discuss issues within our zone, LMSC, and USMS in the morning, and then have lunch together. Most delegates met with others who hold similar positions in their LMSCs. Jill requested suggestions for discussion topics at the Friday morning meeting. A few were: helping get more certifications within the zone, finding ways to encourage swimmers to travel to our LMSC meets, and hosting visiting swimmers. Send other ideas to Jill.
Sally has already reached out to Jessica Reilly about arrangements for Thursday night. Please send delegate lists to Sally with the following information for each person BY JULY 15 (sooner is better):
 - a. Name and contact information for all attendees (cell & email)
 - b. Arrival day - Thursday or Friday
 - c. Room preference – single or double (you pay ½ room rate if choosing to be a single)
 - d. Name of roommate, if that is determined
 - e. Designation of delegates who will be attending virtuallyLMSCs who would like to send more delegates than they are entitled to should request an At Large Delegate. Contact USMS President Ed Coates and copy Jessica Reilly.
5. Final comments:
OR will be deciding on Level 2, 3, and ALTS clinics in November at their next meeting. It was noted that the date conflicts with the PSM SCM Zone Championship approved earlier in the meeting. A certification clinic will be held in Reno, NV in September.

Next meeting will be the Annual Zone meeting, currently scheduled for **August 21 at 8:30 EST**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 Mountain time.

Linda Chapman provided the following information regarding the pool length issue Joy mentioned:

Per USMS rule 108.1.1 (d) the correct terminology here is that the measurement is on file with USMS. (vs not on file)

108.1.1 (d) The length of the competition course is in compliance **and on file** with USMS in accordance with articles 105.1.7 and 106.2.1, but as a bulkhead course, is subject to length confirmation. Eligibility of times for USMS Top 10 and records will be contingent on verification of bulkhead placement.

Also: The course is to be measured before the meet and after each session (vs “throughout the meet”).