

OW Safety Task Force Meeting October 23, 2011

Call to Order: 8:10 PM EST

Attendance: Bob Bruce, Glenda Carroll, Dave Diehl, Heather Hagadorn, Lynn Hazlewood, John Traynor.

Discussions:

1. Report from OW Chair: The topic of this meeting is open water safety and event management education.
 - a) **Goals:** Safer and better run USMS sanctioned events for the 2012 OW season through basic safety and event management education.
 - b) **Target Audience:** LMSC sanctions officials, event officials, swimmers and any other interested parties.
 - c) **Mel Goldstein's proposal:** Mel has proposed linking OW live education with the Coaches Level 3 certification. There will be a 4-hour Level 3 clinic and a 4-hour open water clinic offered. Participants can sign up for one or both clinics (discount for both). The logistics for set-up will be done for us and the current plan is for Steve Munatones to teach the clinics. USMS would like to have a member of the OW committee at each clinic and has placed money in our budget for that purpose. If Steve cannot make a particular clinic, we will be asked to provide the trainer. Lead time for finding a substitute is unknown. At this point, we are unprepared to offer live education. Note: Both the 2011 LD (during convention) and OW (by email) committees voted to approve the concept. Some members of OW wanted more detailed information before endorsing.

Comments from Jim Wheeler (by email prior to the meeting):

"I was initially uncomfortable with the idea of combining these clinics with the level 3 certification as I felt it had not been flushed out...Since Steve M. had been chosen to do this and he is our greatest OW asset I think it could work. I also know that we may be perceived as not being prepared to do this sort of education, but I feel it is only because we have not spent time developing it. We have done education at convention two years now and many of the OW and LD committee members have done this sort of stuff before. I guess if we link these Mel will be able to keep going on the road and doing this sort of stuff."

Discussion by Task Force:

The task force members present believe that we have a different target audience than the Coaches Certification program. This could create problems in setting up the clinics to optimize attendance and reach the intended target.

Because we have a large geographical area to cover and an immediate need to educate for the 2012 season, we have to find a way to get into people's homes through web education. Combining open water education with the Coaches program should run in parallel and may be the key to long term education development.

There is the dilemma that we will be expected to provide a substitute instructor should Steve Munatones be unable to attend one or more of the clinics or should USMS decide that we should do all the teaching. This would be problematic, since we neither have an agenda in place nor a staff to implement at this point. Without more information on logistics, planning, placement and lead times, we could not commit to providing trainers or an agenda for teaching at this time. Lynn will discuss our concerns with Mel.

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- d) **Webinars:** The Safety task force will not be presenting live clinics in 2012, but we can use Webinars to reach out to the target audience. USMS will set up an account at <http://www.gotomeeting.com/fec/webinar> when we are ready. We can do a 30-day free trial, during which we have unlimited webinar service using a subset of the full-price version. This will enable us to prove the concept, determine the interest of the target audience, polish our presentation and determine how and when we will use the service (check out the web site for options and prices). The webinar cost is relatively low and we can fund it through the over budget process and/or transfer of funds (\$300) from office costs that are on our budget.

Comments from Jim Wheeler:

"Webinars are a good idea too, but if we are not prepared to do live education, how can we be prepared to do webinars?"

Discussion by Task Force: After much discussion, the task force agreed that our primary need was to get out information to help event directors to put on safe events. We can accomplish this task by using webinars to reach a lot of people in a short period of time. It may also be possible to combine a live event with a webinar from the location. We need to find out what expertise we have in-house and whether that talent can be tapped for education.

Bob Bruce volunteered to create an outline of a presentation that is modeled on the live presentation he made in Oregon at the end of September. Once we have the outline, we can begin to put together our education possibilities.

- e) **Human Resources:** Development of human resources to help LMSC sanction officials and event officials solve problems for the 2012 season. The task force agreed to continue the owsupport@usms.org email list and include the following people on the list: Bob Bruce, Glenda Carroll, Heather Hagadorn, Lynn Hazlewood, Frank Marcinkowski, Karen Reeder, John Traynor and Jim Wheeler. These list members will handle questions from our target audience. Other responders will be added as necessary, so no single person is overburdened.
- f) **Grant Proposal:** Grant proposal to the Swimming Saves Lives Fund to develop staff resources and a program for live education and support services in the future. (Note: This topic was not discussed)

Next Meeting: As needed.

Adjournment: 9:06 PM Eastern Time