

<b>Committee Name:</b> Open Water	<b>Session #:</b> 1	<b>Report #:</b> 1
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Lynn Hazlewood	<b>Vice Chair:</b> Rob Copeland	
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b> Joanne Wainwright	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> Sunday, Feb. 17, 8:00 PM EST	

## Action Items:

1. Minutes from Jan. 6 meeting approved. Motion: Rob Copeland 2nd: John Traynor
2. OWC members to read the National OW Service Award document posted on forum by Bob Bruce and send comments to him by March 10, 2013.

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 14	<b>Absent:</b> 7	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b> 0
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Lynn Hazlewood (Chair), Bob Bruce, Rob Butcher, Glenda Carroll, Rob Copeland (Vice-Chair), Nadine Day, Dave Diehl, Donn Livoni, Dave Oplinger, Bill Roach, Heather Rodriguez, Heather Stevenson, John Traynor, and Joanne Wainwright.		

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. EST

1. Call to order and attendance.
2. **Rob Butcher** announced that Bill Roach has been hired as the new USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator (OWCC).
3. **Lynn Hazelwood's Report** - Lynn sent out a new task list, and one of the things she wanted to address is that the OWC is engaged in many administrative projects and not able to move forward expeditiously with open water development. Even though this will not be a good year to promote development we need to move forward with planning for 2014, which should include development projects. We will have to work with the Long Distance committee in an evaluation of whether our current structure and definition will serve open water swimming into the future.
4. **Safety Subcommittee Report** - Lyn Hazlewood reported for Jim Wheeler on the safety projects in process. Jim Wheeler is working on the Safety Guidelines for clinics/practices/training swims. The Safety webinar is ready to present. Bill Roach and Jen Baker are working on the OW Regulation Comparisons in which USMS regulations are compared to other governing bodies (i.e., USMS, USA-S, & FINA). The Safety Subcommittee is also slated to assist the OWCC in reviewing safety plans and providing support for LMSC and event officials.
5. **Officials Subcommittee Report** - Bill Roach sent out three documents prior to the meeting: 1) The Safety Director Development Program, 2) The Official Safety Director Policy Manual, and 3) the Safety Director Clinic. Bill hopes to have the first safety director's clinic at the Convention in Anaheim this fall. There was much discussion surrounding the purpose and end product for the clinic and whether the clinic would be a certification class. Rob Butcher discussed the process and needed core competency that led to the curriculum for the USMS Coaches Certification program as it may relate to the development of such a program for safety directors. The general consensus of the group was that the clinic at Convention should be educational in nature providing attendees with information related to the creation of a safe open water event, and not necessarily a certification training. Any such certification program should have to be approved by the Officials Committee and the BOD. Bill needs review comments on the three documents from the OWC members.
6. **Rules and Regulations Subcommittee Report** - Bob Bruce sent a proposed plan/schedule to his Subcommittee based on successful plans from previous years and needs his members to get back to him with comments. In 2012, the OWC and LDC, working together, submitted eleven proposed changes and three questions to the Legislation Committee. The questions were unanswered, and the proposals were deemed non-emergency and not passed by the House of Delegates. His committee plans to review those questions and proposals and consider new ones, share discussion with the OWC and LDC, and forward approved results to the Legislation Committee. Bob asked the committee to review Part 2 (Legislation) and Part 3 (Long Distance) of the 2013 rulebook carefully and solicit, gather, and discuss proposed changes that pertain to open water, such as water temperature and quality issues, and motorized escort issues. These changes will be forwarded to the LDC as a whole for discussion and approval. If the LDC approves any proposals as emergency items, they will submit them to the HOD.
7. **OWGTO Subcommittee Report** - Rob Copeland - The question was raised as to how we categorize our work product. There was a discussion regarding the terms: rules (code), policy, guideline, objective, and procedure and what criteria dictates whether it is a policy guideline, objective, etc. Rob Copeland posted a set of personal definitions on the forum to help with clarification. It is important for the committee to qualify the "shall" and "must" (policy) from the "should" or best practices (guidelines) when dealing with safety issues.

8. **Development Sub-Committee Report** - John Traynor commented on his report from the January 6 meeting in which he listed OW national and zone events. As of January 5, 2013, 8 OW events had expressed interest in applying for 2013 USMS \$500 open water swimmer training clinic grants. There were 5 prospective 2013 USMS Zone OW Championships from the following zones: Breadbasket, Colonies, Dixie, Great Lakes, and Northwest and 3 are OW National Championship event hosts: Lee County Gulf Coast Masters Swim Team - Miromar Lakes, FL (5K), Swim Las Vegas - Lake Mead, NV (10K), and Mission Viejo, CA - Pacific Ocean, Dana Point, CA (2.4-Miles). Because of the emergent USMS insurance issue, all OW event sanctions were put on hold by USMS. His committee would like to know who is still interested in holding their events. An application form is still needed for the clinic grants. Independent OW clinics are not sanctionable at this time. Clinic grants are now limited to same weekend as the OW Zone and National Championship events and the \$500 grant must be used for the clinic itself, not the OW event. It was noted that the clinic grant program is different than the Proposed OW Sanction Relief Grant Program. Rob Copeland will be posting a draft of the Proposed OW Sanction Relief Grant Program and over-budget request on the discussion forum after the meeting.
9. **Awards Subcommittee Report - Bob Bruce** - Three projects on the docket: 1) National Service Award, 2) OW Ranking System, and 3) Challenge System for Fitness Swimmers. Bob has posted a document outlining the OW Service Award on the USMS forum and would like feedback by Sunday, March 10. The award criteria will then be submitted for approval and a process to secure nominations will be developed. The subcommittee will work on the challenge system and point system once the open water event results database is available.
10. **Swimmer Training Subcommittee** - No report available.
11. Next Meeting ---scheduled for March 17 at 8 p.m. EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM EST