

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee	Vice Chair:	Rob Copeland
Committee Chair:	Lynn Hazlewood	Date/time:	12/04/2014 8:00 PM EST
Minutes recorded by:	Lynn Hazlewood		

Number of committee members present: 17	Absent: 4	Number of other delegates present: 0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Voting Members—Lynn Hazlewood, Charles Bender, Bob Bruce, Glenda Carroll, Jax Cole, Sandra Frimmerman-Bergquist, Suzi Green, David Miner, Sud Nutty, Rendy Lynn Opdycke, Dave Oplinger, Ally Sega, Jim Wheeler. Ex-Officio— Elaine Howley, Donn Livoni, Chris McGiffin, Bill Roach.		

Action Items

1. The Chair will prepare information on Committee Goals and Policies for the next meeting.
2. Tonight's questions from committee members will be factored into the work of the OW Joint Management Subcommittee.
3. The Chair will contact subcommittee chairs between meetings to get their business started.
4. Jim Wheeler plans to send emails to the people who volunteered for his subcommittee and distribute tasks.
5. Lynn will ask Rob Copeland (OWGTO Chair) what he would like to do about docs management.
6. The committee agreed on the second Sunday of the month for meetings.

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 PM

1. Attendance was taken and a quorum was declared by the Chair. Each person introduce themselves and spoke of their open water experience as attendance was taken.
2. **Report from the Chair**—Lynn Hazlewood: The Chair stated that the Committee Goals and Policies will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. **Management Subcommittee**—Lynn Hazlewood: The Chair explained that an Open Water Management Subcommittee has been created to oversee the functioning of the OWC Goals and Projects and to work on special projects as necessary. Use of this committee initially was necessary because the OWC had immediate projects to work on prior to the naming of the full committee at the end of October. During the most recent Management Subcommittee meeting on December 4, 2014, the subcommittee agreed to make this a joint subcommittee with the Long Distance Committee. Henceforth, the name will be the OW Joint Management Group. Reports from subcommittee members follow.
 - a. **Water Temperature Collars Plan**—Bob Bruce: Bob presented the background on water temperature collars (lower and upper temperature limits for sanctioned events) that were added to the code during the recent Annual Meeting (*2015 USMS Rule Book, Article 302.2.2 Water Conditions, pg. 60*). Bob is working with Bill Roach on developing a plan to communicate the implementation of the collars with our members. He has already published an article in Streamlines on the important changes to the open water rules. The subcommittee is currently looking at what an enhanced safety plan would be for colder water (colder than 60 degrees). The committee members asked a number of important questions about implementation issues. These questions will be considered as the plan is put together.
 - b. **Independent Safety Monitor Plan**—Bob Bruce, Bill Roach, Jim Wheeler: Bob explained that a rule was added to the code during the recent Annual Meeting that requires Independent Safety Monitors (ISM) at all sanctioned events (*2015 USMS Rule Book, Article 3.7.3 Independent Safety Monitor, pg. 66*). The ISM project will be rolled out in several stages as follows:
 - i. The goal is to, at minimum, provide ISMs in 2015 for all five events hosting National Championships (includes six championship races) plus other events which include our largest swims and covers the greatest variety of venue types possible. Potential implementation of ISMs at other events in 2015 is under discussion.

- ii. ISMs for 2015 will be drawn from experienced Safety Director ranks. The committee will teach the selected ISMs additional skills through webinars, including how to use their Safety Director skills to review safety plans in place, work with event SDs to make sure the plan is enforced and understand the risk issues involved in making decisions on site.
 - iii. Once the training plan is defined, the committee will identify potential ISMs, recruit them and prepare them to monitor the 2015 events. The first events should be in May and June.
 - iv. The Safety Education Subcommittee will develop a program to train people to become ISMs, beginning with a comprehensive Safety Director Training Program. A proposal for the training program has been put together by Bill Roach and is now under review. A section for the ISM oversight will be added to the plan and taught to SDs that are ready for the next level.
 - c. **Officials Training with USA Swimming**—Bill Roach: \$5,000 was put into the OWC budget to support a partnership with USA Swimming for Officials Education. Bill is working with Sandy Drake from USA Swimming on this project. USA Swimming is hosting several Officials Training Clinics in 2015 and will reserve some slots for USMS officials. The first clinic is at the Ft. Myers, FL OW festival. The clinic includes instruction and practical application during live events. The OW Joint Management Group is currently considering the most effective use of this opportunity for USMS.
4. **OWC Subcommittee Start-up:** The Chair will contact subcommittee chairs between meetings to get their projects started.
5. **Other/New business:**
 - a. **Safety/Safety Education Subcommittee:** Jim Wheeler plans to send emails to the people who volunteered for his subcommittee and distribute tasks.
 - b. **Document Management:** In the previous discussions, the committee noted the lack of document management for USMS committees. Chris thinks there might be a document management task force. He will check on that for the next meeting. Possible temporary solutions for the OWC include using Drop Box or Google Docs. Lynn will ask Rob Copeland (OWGTO Chair) what he would like to do about docs management.
6. **Next meeting:** January 11, 2015, 8:00 EST (5:00 PM PST). The committee agreed on the second Sunday of the month for meetings, if possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM EST.