

Committee Name: Open Water	Session #: 1	Report #: 1
Committee Chair: Lynn Hazlewood	Vice Chair: Rob Copeland	
Minutes recorded by: Lynn Hazlewood	Date/time of meeting: July 13, 2014 8:00 PM EDT	

Number of committee members present: 8	Absent: 9	Number of other delegates present: 0
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Lynn Hazlewood (Chair), Rob Copeland (Vice Chair), Bob Bruce, Sandra Frimerman-Bergquist, Sue Nutty, Donn Livoni (ex-Officio), Bill Roach (ex-officio), Chris McGriffin (ex-officio)		

Action Items:

1. The committee agreed to ask the BOD to make a decision on where open water is going to fit into its total structure and make the commitment to support the development effort.

Open Water Committee Meeting Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM EDT.

1. Attendance and Quorum determination—no quorum
2. Approve minutes from June 8, 2014 meeting—tabled until next meeting due to a lack of quorum
3. Report from Chair—Lynn Hazlewood
 - a. July 20 Webinar sign-ups—22 so far (final count was 39)
 - b. Convention Agenda—the committee discussed the convention agenda. For a mini-workshop on event management, Rob Copeland said he would see if he could send out a survey to event directors to determine what officials they are using at their events.
 - c. Making the OWC more effective—the committee discussed making the Open Water committee more effective. The Chair expressed the view that the standing committee structure is not an effective way to develop a major enterprise. Volunteers do not have the time and, sometimes, the skills to do broad-based development. It is difficult for a committee to do a labor intensive job and get the authority to advance a project without support from the national organization. Bob noted that the Coaches committee had some of the same difficulties initiating a Coaches Certification program before the Coach & Club Services Division was formed. The committee agreed to ask the BOD to make a decision on where open water is going to fit into its total structure and make the commitment to support the development effort.
4. Report from BOD—Chris & Rob: Chris said he will send the message about making a commitment to open water to the BOD. He wants the committee to make recommendations to the BOD on how that might be done. The Chair pointed out that many suggestions have been delivered to the BOD on these topics in the past five years with no action taken. On another topic, Chris has drafted a generic file format layout to IT for an open water event results database. He started with the NC data with additional information not yet inputted. The committee will get the final word on what will go in the database subsequently. The Chair expressed disappointment that the proposed initial database is targeted at a specific and limited purpose (recording the NC results) that will not include data for the proposed National Ranking and National Challenge systems. It should also be noted that the OWC was not consulted during the development of the NC data. Rob suggested we need to come up with the business model for USMS OW swimming, make recommendations on how we can improve the value and the message we send on the OW product to our membership.
5. Report from Insurance Rebate Panel—Rob Copeland: no new rebate requests in the last 3-4 weeks.
6. Report from OWCC—Bill Roach: We are up to 56 sanctioned events with 2 pending (last year we had a total of 58). He will be able to compare 2013 and 2014 at the next meeting.
7. Report from Rules & Legislation—Bob Bruce: Bob discussed the current status of the rules proposals and changes made since the last meeting.

8. Report from Safety Education—Jim Wheeler: The July 20: Safety Staffing & Emergency Response is set to go. August webinar presenter is still TBD: Safe Training, clinics, staying warm and temperature. Convention Workshop organization is proceeding.
9. Report from OWGTO—Rob Copeland: Rob is still working on Part 3: Officials Guidelines
10. Report from Awards—Lynn Hazlewood: The selection committee has been appointed by the OWC and LDC Chairs. As soon as the selection is made, Joanne will talk to the fabricator to create the award.
11. Other/New business—none
12. Next meeting: August 3 @ 8:00 PM EDT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM EDT.