

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Open Water Committee		
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Lynn Hazlewood	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Rob Copeland
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Lynn Hazlewood	<b>Date/time:</b>	07/12/2015 8:00 PM EDT

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 14	<b>Absent:</b> 3	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b> 0
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Voting Members: Lynn Hazlewood (Chair), Rob Copeland (Vice Chair), Bob Bruce, Jax Cole, Suzi Green, Sue Nutty, Rendy Opdycke, Dave Oplinger, Ally Sega, Jim Wheeler. Ex Officio: Elaine Howley (Publications Liaison), Donn Livoni (LDC Chair), Chris McGiffin (Vice President), Bill Roach (OW Compliance Coordinator).		

### Action Items

1. **MSA** Open Water Committee minutes for July 7, 2015.
2. OW Management Group approved minutes for January 22 and May 20 2015 by email on July 18, 2015.
3. **MSA** to approve the OWTF Revenue Proposal to the BOD.
4. **MSA** to approve the concept of the Committee Recommendation to BOD on the OWTF Revenue Proposal.
5. The committee agreed to send the issue of the status of swimmer aids who swim in events to the BOD.

### Agenda

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

1. The Chair declared a quorum (10 voting members out of 13 present).
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **MSA** Open Water Committee minutes for July 7, 2015 (Bob Bruce motion, Jim Wheeler second).
  - b. The Chair announced that the OW Management Group approved minutes for January 22 and May 20 2015 by email on July 18, 2015.
3. **OW Joint Management Group**—Bill Roach
  - a. **Independent Safety Monitor Program**—Five events have taken place with an ISM present. All ISMs have reported to Bill that the events have been conducted according to the safety plan. Bill has implemented the following process to get the ISMs ready to monitor the events: 1) He has sent the event approved safety plan, the outline of ISM duties, the checklist for Safety Directors, and a copy of the Incident Report Form. There are three more events to go with USMS organized ISMs. After those events are completed we will make an evaluation of the ISM program and decide how to proceed for 2016. Chris requested a copy of the emails that were sent to the ISMs for his report to the BOD on the status of the program.
  - b. **Partnering with USA Swimming for Officials Training**—The committee sent Bill Roach, Donn Livoni and Dave Miner to Ft. Myers in April for a USA Swimming Officials Clinic. The clinic included classroom presentations plus practical application. USMS and USA-S participants shared a lot of information during the clinic. We will discuss the future of the partnership during convention. USA-S may have one more clinic in 2015 in New York, but the information is not yet available. Rob asked if we could obtain a list of people who attended the clinic to start creating a list of officials. Bill agreed to ask for the list.
  - c. **Sanctions**—During 2014 we had 60 sanctioned events. In 2015 we currently have around 50 sanctioned events. It is unlikely we will have the same number of events as previously and may be down 8-9 events.
  - d. **High Water Temperature**—Bill reported that we have an event coming up in Sarasota in October where the temperature may exceed 85 degrees. The event has asked if they can create a thermal plan for greater than 85 degrees. Bill pointed out that, at this point, the rule doesn't give us that flexibility. The event will be held two weeks later than normal in order to avoid the high temperatures.
4. **Report from Vice President**—Chris McGiffin
  - a. **OWTF Revenue Proposal to BOD**—The Committee had a final discussion before voting on approval of the OWTF Proposal to the BOD. The only questions were about how to read the

document on fees proposals, which were answered by OWC members who were on the task force (Bob Bruce, Jim Wheeler, Rob Copeland and Chris McGiffin). Following the discussion the Committee **MSA** the OWTF Revenue Proposal to the BOD. The vote was taken by roll call with no dissenting votes.

- b. Following approval of the OWTF Revenue Proposal, the Committee considered a proposal by the Chair that the Open Water Committee send a document to the BOD (attached) expressing our belief that "A revenue plan for USMS without looking at business considerations of the event host and LMSC is an incomplete plan and has potential for failure." That the plan represents a significant increase in fees without an improvement in services and that USMS must improve services to events and swimmers to justify these new financial requirements if we want to remain a relevant player in open water swimming events. To that end, the Open Water Committee is asking the BOD to support planned initiatives for 2016 in education, IT and editorial services. The Committee **MSA** to approve the concept of the Committee Recommendation to the BOD on the OWTF Revenue Proposal (Sue Nutty, motion; Rob Copeland, second). Following editing by Rob Copeland, the proposal was sent to Chris McGiffin for presentation to the BOD.
5. **OWGTO**—Rob Copeland
    - a. Swimmers with Disabilities addition to OWGTO—The updated document will be posted on the OWC forums for one week for comment. Following the one week comment period, the draft will be sent to the BOD for approval.
    - b. The committee discussed the status of swimmer aids who swim in an event. The issues are whether these swimmers are required to sign waivers and/or enter the event, including the need for full or OEVT USMS membership. The committee agreed this issue should go to the BOD because of insurance and risk considerations.
  6. **Safety Subcommittee**—Jim Wheeler
    - a. Webinars and Convention Workshop Progress—Jim has discussed the workshop with Bob Bruce and has around 12-14 slides completed that relate to the sanctioning part. Next he will add the safety section. He will soon have something to send to the committee for feedback.
  7. **Rules & Legislation Subcommittee**—Bob Bruce
    - a. Legislation proposals—The LDC submitted legislation changes for Article 601.4 that eliminate the 2-year staggered cycles for rules and legislation. The Committee had no objections to this proposal, but did not take a vote since the July 10 deadline had already passed.
  8. **Awards Subcommittee**—Sue Nutty
    - a. Ballots have gone out for the national service award. We have four candidates this year, including some new names in the mix. It appears that our outreach effort has produced dividends. Bob requested that we have a meeting of the Selection Committee to discuss the vote. Sue said she would set up a meeting.
  9. **New/Other Business**
    - a. Rebates—The Chair reported that there have been very few requests for rebates this year.
  10. **Next meeting:** The OW Management Group will meet on August 16, 2015 at 8:00 PM EDT. The full committee will have August off.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM EDT.

Attachment: **OWTF Sustainable Model—What's Missing?**