

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	To Be Determined
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	1/22/2017 - 8:00 PM EST
Number of committee members present:	15	Absent:	5
Number of other delegates present:			
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Voting members: Bob Bruce (chair), James Kennedy, Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Charlotte Brynn, Lynn Hazelwood, Jenny Hodges, Bob Kolonkowski, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio: Mark Johnston, Donn Livoni, Chris McGiffin, Bill Roach.			

Motions Passed:

MSA amended minutes from December 11, 2016.

New Action Items:

1. Bob Bruce to redraft the OWC goals and measurement statement for committee members to review by February 19, 2017.
2. Bob Bruce to draft new 303.9.5 for the committee's review.
3. Bob Bruce to structure the OW Development Subcommittee.

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 EST.
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.
3. Amended minutes from December 11, 2016 were approved. Motion: Sue Nutty 2nd: Denise Brown

Status of Action Items:

1. Develop OWC goals & measurements for consideration at next OWC meeting. Incomplete
2. Reorganize OWGTO section on USMS Website as this project progresses. Bob & Bill. Ongoing, as needed to post new and/or revised material.
3. Review Part 3 Rules (and comment to Bob by Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017. Incomplete
4. Sign up for the subcommittees of choice by Sunday, January 29, 2017. Incomplete

Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce reported that he has been working on the OWGTO to support Bill Roach's work as the OW Compliance Officer.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Chris McGiffin reported news from the BOD. There has been a 5% increase in 2017 USMS memberships at this point in time which may be a result of the competitive nature of the membership drive. USMS members may opt out of a printed copy of Swimmer magazine and receive a digital copy. Chris will present reports from his acommittees at the winter BOD meeting being held Feb. 10-12 in Phoenix.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Officer—Bill Roach reported that USMS has 14 certified safety directors who have passed exam. There have been 12 sanction applications submitted in 2017 with six sanctioned events, two pending (have been approved by the sanction chair), and four under construction by sanction chairs with input from Bill. Chris McGiffin requested a final 2016 report of sanctioned events on the forum including historical data from previous years.

Building our Committee and Status of Projects:

OWC goals & measurements for 2017--Bob Bruce created an OWC goal and measurement statement in alignment with the USMS strategic plan (see below) and asked for comments. A question was raised as to how

we will quantitatively measure the quality of swims and what methods we can use to draw other swimmers into OW swimming. A suggestion was made to form a subcommittee to brainstorm ways to measure quality of swims, and clinics may be an avenue to draw pool swimmers into OW swimming. Another suggestion was made to pull information from 'Go the Distance' to report OW mile progress.

- a) Overall OWC goal & measurement (DRAFT #1): The OWC goal is to support outstanding open water swimming experiences for USMS members with the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategy of USMS. The measurement of this goal will be the quantity of events, swims, and splashes, and the quality of those experiences.
- b) Subcommittees:
 - OWGTO: Report to be made when all committee members are finalized.
 - Rules & Legislation: Bob reported that more people are needed on the committee. We discussed the disqualification 303.9.5 mentioning that in triathlon athletes are not penalized for resting on physical features. Due to safety considerations, should we remove "resting on physical features on or near the course other than the bottom" if this is not an advantage? After discussion including the pros and cons of retaining or eliminating this item, Bob Bruce will draft a new 303.9.5 for the committee to review at the February meeting.

303.9.5 Receive assistance by pulling, pushing, or resting on physical features on or near the course other than the bottom. Incidental contact shall not be a basis for disqualification.
 - Safety Education: No Report
 - Event Management: Bob Bruce will reach out to committee members within the next couple of weeks.
 - Officials: Bob Bruce reported that he senddraft work on material to train referees to committee members within the next week.
 - Awards: Sue Nutty will email information to committee members this week.
 - OW Swim Training: Jim Kennedy volunteered to Chair this committee. Bob Bruce will get in touch with Jim in the next week.
 - IT Task Force - Will Reeves and others will communicate with Chris McGiffin.

New/Other Business:

1. What are you doing now at the local or LMSC level to spread the word about USMS OW swimming in general and to encourage USMS open water swimming specifically for 2017? This question was asked of committee members with the following responses: 1. Weekly OW swims 2. an App to test recreational beaches water quality as a means to encourage OW swimming 3. Adopt-A-Beach to connect swimmers together 4. Newsletters 5. Mentoring someone interested in OW swimming 6. Development of new OW swims

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, February 19, 2017 - 8:00pm EST
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. EST.