

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	To Be Determined
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	1/14/2018 - 8:00 PM EST

Number of committee members present: 16	Absent: 3	Number of other delegates present: 2
Committee members present: Bob Bruce (Chair), James Kennedy, Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Mia Erickson Stevens, Lynn Hazlewood, Jenny Hodges Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Doug Sayles, Ally Segal, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Jay Eckert, Donn Livoni, David Miner.		

Motions Passed:

1. MSA December 10, 2017 meeting minutes.
2. MSA to amend wording of the 2018 OW Committee Overall Goals and Measurements Statement.
3. MSA to accept the amended 2018 OW Committee Overall Goals and Measurements Statement.

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm EST
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.
3. Approval of December 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion: Joanne Wainwright 2nd: Sue Nutty

Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. Bob reported that the three Oregon 2018 national championship events have been sanctioned and are open for registration. He also reported that David Miner has been certified as the first USMS referee.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni reported that the BOD has a teleconference scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2018 and a face-to-face meeting in February.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator—David Miner reported that approximately 12 events have been sanctioned for 2018. He is working to sanction the 2018 Pan American Masters Championships OW events, scheduled for August 4 and 5 and are slated to be ocean, not lake swims.

Action Items:

1. OWC will vote to approve the OWC goals & measurements for 2018.

OWC goals & measurements for 2018:

- a) Proposed OWC goal & measurement (developed during 2017): “The OWC goal is to promote the development of and participation in open water swimming, and to support quality open water swimming experiences for adults in line with the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategy of USMS. The measurement of this goal will be the quantity of events, swims, & splashes, the quality of those experiences, and other metrics that will help us measure our progress to accomplish these goals.”
- b) Bob Bruce moved that committee accept the 2017 Goals and Measurements as the 2018 Goals and Measurements. 2nd: Sue Nutty During the discussion, a recommendation was made to amend the statement to include USMS in the statement and read as follows: “The OWC goal is to promote the development of and participation in **USMS** open water swimming . . . and other metrics that will help us measure our progress to accomplish these goals.” Motion: Joanne Wainwright 2nd: Ally Segal MSA
- c) Subcommittee goals: Yet to be developed.

Subcommittees:

1. Open Water Development & Promotion Subcommittee. Purpose: To generate real, actionable ways to develop and promote open water swimming. This is the central purpose in the committee definition. Chair: Doug Sayles. Jim Kennedy, Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood, Mark Johnston, Karen LeFebre, Will Reeves. Doug Sayles reported that he will be sending out an outline to committee members to help define and articulate USMS elements of OW swimming and would like to translate some ideas into marketing collateral. He asked that any comments or suggestions be sent to him.
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee. Purpose: To review, revise, format, and communicate the contents of the OWGTO. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood. Bob Bruce reported that he would like the OWGTO to be effectively linked on new USMS website design. The new website changes will be coming in phases beginning in February according to Jay Eckert. Bob also reported that that he will add the OW Swimwear Rules Summary ~~will be added~~ to USMS website shortly.
3. Rules & Legislation Subcommittee. Purpose: Working as a joint subcommittee with members from both OWC & LDC, examining & vetting rules proposals and bringing these proposals for consideration to the OWC then the LDC (although proposing rules to the USMS HOD is an LDC function, we have chosen in recent years to have this group work across both committees for thoroughness). Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves, Joanne Wainwright. Bob reported that he will have the next copy of specific revisions, which include ~~many~~ mostly housekeeping items, coming out soon on the Forum.
4. Safety Education Subcommittee. Purpose: To review any new or ongoing business to the OWC relating to safety, and to review the documents and process of safety planning with the Open Water Safety Advisor. Chair: Bob Kolonkowski. Members: Jim Kennedy, Peter Lee. Bob Kolonkowski reported that he will be emailing committee members a copy of US Lifesaving, USA Triathlon, and ARC guidelines for review.
5. Event Management Subcommittee. Purpose: To prepare material for seamless presentation of events and to develop the training a course on event development & management for Event Hosts/Event Directors (first piloted in presentation in 2015). Chair: TBD Members: Jenny Hodges, Karen LeFebre. Bob Bruce reported that a chair and a couple more people are needed for this subcommittee. Please let Bob know if you are interested ASAP.
6. Officials Subcommittee. Purpose: To evaluate current practices in officiating USMS open water events and to develop materials to improve this. Chair: TBD. Members: Peter Lee, Marie Vellucci. Bob reported that this committee needs a Chair and a couple more people. He also reported that primary work will include descriptions of OW officials' responsibilities ~~are needed~~. Please contact Bob if you are interested in this committee.
7. Awards Subcommittee. Purpose: To manage the process for selecting our annual Open Water Service Award, and perhaps exploring the honoring of USMS open water "pioneers". Chair: Sue Nutty. Members: Mia Stevens, Ally Sega, Joanne Wainwright. Sue reported that she sent out email to subcommittee members highlighting the two main subcommittee goals of (1) securing nominations and (2) ~~recognition of~~ recognizing the pioneers of OW swimming. Lynn Hazlewood and Rob Copland were ~~was~~ mentioned as a resource for pioneer information.
8. Open Water Swim Training Subcommittee. Purpose: To develop guidelines and materials for coaches to prepare swimmers for open water swims. Chair: Mark Johnston. Members: Jim Kennedy, Mia Stevens, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Marie Vellucci. Mark Johnston reported that he has reached out to committee members soliciting ideas for 2018 projects. He also spoke with Bob Jennings and reported that the Coaches Committee has not yet discussed the inclusion of OW swimming in their committee projects. Bob Bruce reported that he will discuss items with Bill Brenner regarding ideas for coaches' certification.
9. "Tech" Subcommittee. Purpose: TBD. Chair: Sherry Brooks. No report.

New/Other Business: None

Around-the-Table: Although you are serving on a national committee, your greatest task and bully pulpit strength lies in developing and promoting USMS open water swimming at the local and LMSC level. What are you doing NOW at the local or LMSC level to spread the word about USMS open water swimming in general and to encourage USMS open water swimming specifically for 2018?

Some committee members shared ideas, such as

1. having an OW table at all swim meets to include a laptop with a CD of information for people to look at while waiting to swim events,
2. the early promotion of OW events, LMSC OW Awards,
3. a local calendar compiling OW places to swim and groups to include non-USMS groups,
4. an LMSC hosting two national events in Vermont, and
5. the inclusion of LMSC OW championships.

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, February 11, 2018 - 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Motion: Denise Brown 2nd: Ally Sega

Full Committee (Voting Members = 18; Quorum = 9)

Present	First Name	Last Name	LMSC	Email
	Voting Members			
	Bob	Bruce	Oregon	coachbobbruce@gmail.com
	James	Kennedy	Pacific	jbkzoomer@aol.com
	Sherry	Brooks	So. Pacific	openwater@spmasterswim.org
	Denise	Brown	Michigan	dbrown@fillinghome.org
	Mia	Erickson Stevens	Southern	miaerick@yahoo.com
	Lynn	Hazlewood	Potomac Valley	lynhzlwd@icloud.com
	Jenny	Hodges	So. Dakota	nifferannahodges@yahoo.com
	Mark	Johnston	Montana	coach@flowswimmers.com
	Bob	Kolonkowski	Metro	rpk248@netzero.com
	Peter	Lee	Potomac Valley	peter.lee@treasury.gov
	Karen	LeFebre	Pacific	karen@bigskyendurancesports.com
	Sue	Nutty	Nebraska	waterchick24@gmail.com
	Will	Reeves	Utah	swimrwill@gmail.com
	Doug	Sayles	NE	douglas.sayles@swimri.org
	Ally	Sega	Connecticut	ally98003@aol.com
	Marie	Vellucci	New Jersey	marielovestoswim@aol.com
	Joanne	Wainwright	No. Carolina	jowims@twc.com
	Allison	Ware	Dixie	allisonware@gmail.com
	Ex-Officio/Associate Members			
	Bill	Brenner	NO	bbrenner@usmastersswimming.org
	Jay	Eckert	NO	jeckert@usmastersswimming.org
	Ali	Hall	LDC	mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com

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