

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Open Water Committee	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	To Be Determined
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Bob Bruce	<b>Date/time:</b>	3/18/2018 - 8:00 PM EST
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Bob Bruce		

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 11	<b>Absent:</b> 6	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b> 0
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Bob Bruce (Chair), Jim Kennedy (Vice-Chair), Lynn Hazlewood, Jenny Hodges, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Karen LeFebre, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Sega, Marie Vellucci. <b>Ex-officio members present:</b> Jay Eckert, Casey Keiber, Donn Livoni		

### Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm EDT.
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was declared.
3. The minutes of the January 14, 2018 were approved.

### Reports:

1. Report from the Chair Bob Bruce: None
2. Report from USMS Vice President Donn Livoni: None
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator David Miner: 21 sanctioned events to date and 3 events in the process of being sanctioned. **Comments:** "One thing that I'm seeing a lot of lately, including the three pending sanction requests mentioned above, is that the USMS sanction application form is not being completed and attached to the sanction request. I'm having to go back to the applicant to request this document be completed, which adds time and delays the request. Technically, the LMSC should not be approving the sanction request without the application being provided by the race director. There is obviously some break down here as the LMSCs are just passing it through to me. In my opinion, some communication needs to be provided to all LMSCs that the application must be completed before approving a sanction request. All of these races with this problem are repeat races, so it's also surprising to me that the race directors don't realize the application is needed as they would have had to fill it out last year or the year before...right? Anyway, something is being missed here and we need to get it addressed so that the process can run more smoothly."

### Action Items:

1. Sub-committee members will communicate before the January 14, 2018, meeting. Done
2. OWC will vote to approve the OWC goals & measurements for 2018. Done
3. Renewal of USMS membership for 2018. Done?

**OWC goals & measurements for 2018:** OWC goals should align with the USMS Strategic Plan. See the plan—in full, abbreviated, & infographic forms—at <http://www.usms.org/admin/policies/>

- a) OWC goal & measurement (developed during 2017): "The OWC goal is to promote the development of and participation in USMS 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." Approved January 14, 2018.
- b) 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. Report: None.
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. Report: Bob Bruce will send a proposed outline of the OWGTO as it might appear on the

new website to the subcommittee this week . We're waiting for the new USMS website—the host for the OWGTO—to be rolled out, so that we can see how the pieces can fit.

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). You have one assignment for the next meeting...to review (and comment on as necessary) part 3 of the 2018 USMS rulebook, which will be available on the OWC Forum shortly. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves, Joanne Wainwright. Report and action. We approved many small items—particularly housekeeping items—to the LDC for approval.
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. Report. Bob Kolonkowski reported that he is compiling safety information from other OW sources/providers for reference.
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. Report: Karen LeFebre is working on a draft based on the Convention presentation in 2015.
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. Report: No action.
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. Report: it's time to get out there and solicit nominations for this award.
8. Open Water Swim Training Subcommittee. Purpose: To develop guidelines and materials for coaches to prepare swimmers for open water swims. I hear that the Coaches Committee is considering adding such material to the Coaching Certification program, so we may have an opportunity to work jointly with this committee. Chair: Mark Johnston. Members: Jim Kennedy, Mia Stevens, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Marie Vellucci. Report: Mark Johnston wrote “With this as our background, our group has communicated via e-mail, and I have also spoken with each member personally on the telephone (as well as Bill Brenner). Here is our current task plan:
  - Create a bullet point “wish” list containing important aspects of open water coaching and training
  - Prioritize and develop an outline for the program
  - Dialog with key USMS Coaches Committee members for input
  - Discuss with Bill Brenner for potential implementationThe group has several solid ideas, and I feel things are falling together nicely.”

**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?

**Close:**

1. Next meeting: Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm EDT