

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	Jim Kennedy
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	8/12/2018 - 8:00 PM EDT

Number of committee members present:	14	Absent:	7	Number of other delegates present:	0
Committee members present: Bob Bruce (Chair), Mia Erickson Stevens, Lynn Hazlewood, Jenny Hodges, Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Karen LeFebre, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Segal, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio/Associate Members: David Miner					

Motion Passed: MSA June 10, 2018 meeting minutes

Action Items:

1. Sub-committee members will continue to communicate, working on their various projects.
2. Bob Bruce to send June 10, 2018, meeting minutes to the USMS Secretary for posting.
3. Bob to look into the possibility of certification cards for USMS-certified OW officials.
4. Bob Bruce to post OWC annual report on the USMS OWC Forum.

Opening:

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm EST.
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.
3. The minutes of the June 10, 2018 were approved. Motion: Sue Nutty 2nd: Jenny Hodges

Reports:

1. Report from the Chair: Bob Bruce gave a summary of the OW events he has conducted at the National and LMSC level over the course of the summer. He reported that 48 OW proposals approved by the LDC will be discussed and voted on at Convention. He submitted the OWC Annual Report to the National Office and will post the report on the OWC Forum. Bob also reconfirmed that this will be his last year as the OWC Chair.
2. Report from USMS Vice President Donn Livoni: No report.
3. Report from USMS Open Water compliance Coordinator David Miner: David reported that there are currently 56 sanctioned races; one event was canceled due to heavy rains and the upcoming Whiskeytown swim in Redding, CA, has been canceled due to wildfire. There are 47 certified referees and 111 certified safety directors. David commented that it has been difficult to enforce having a certified referee at all races.

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: There was no report. Bob stated that he will have a discussion with Jim Kennedy regarding this committee.
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 reported that they hope to have a revised OWGTO by 2019.
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. Report: Bob reported on LD 13

(303.7.2E and 3.3.7.3D). LDC concerns were related to the definition of personal buoys and how they will be categorized as Category I and/or Category II Swimwear. Bob would like OWC members to read and be familiar with LD 13 prior to convention.

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 Compliance Coordinator. Chair: Bob Kolonkowski. Members: Jim Kennedy, Peter Lee. Report: Bob Kolonkowski commented on a very well organized OW swim at Rockaway Beach, NY, on August 5, 2018. The race director videotaped the finishes of race. A link can be found as a separate thread on the OWC Forum and also on the General OW swimming forum. He also reported that it would be beneficial for the Safety Education Sub-committee to review reports from completed events whenever possible. He also said that he would make a hard copy of information from the Safety Checklist.
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: Karen LeFebre Members: Jenny Hodges, Bob Bruce. Report: Karen reported that the committee has completed a guidance document containing helpful information and links to information on how to sanction and manage events. This document has been sent to Bob Bruce for review. She also inquired about the possibility of having some type of fundraiser for the Whiskeytown race director who lost her home in the fires.
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: Bob Bruce is waiting for a report from a former committee member before reporting to the subcommittee.
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 Segal, Joanne Wainwright. Report: Sue Nutty reported that committee members received their nomination packets and, after following the established process, the subcommittee has selected the 2018 honoree to be awarded at the Convention.
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. Report: Mark reported that though the subcommittee has not had much interaction over the summer, he has followed up on the outline committee members put together in the spring. Mark has reached out to pre-packaged OW swim coaching programs (SwimSmooth, Total Immersion, WOWSA, Tri-Sport) to give the committee the opportunity to review the material already available in the marketplace. After reviewing programs already available, the subcommittee will be able to determine how to move forward either using a pre-packaged program or creating a program of their own design. Bob Bruce asked that Mark copy him on information.

Other: OW Committee Succession: Bob confirmed his previous announcement that this is the final year of his term and that we need new leadership. If anyone is interested in taking over as Chair, please speak with Bob.

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.

- Mark ran into a person in UK who publishes an OW periodical and Mark hopes to promote OW swimming in US through this connection.
- The committee discussed efforts to involve veterans using OW swimming as a way to manage PTSD.

Close:

1. Next meeting: Convention, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018, 11:30-12:30 p.m. EDT
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm EDT. Motion: Joanne 2nd: Sue