

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee	Vice Chair:	Karen LeFebre
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Date/time:	2/17/2019 - 8:00 PM EST
Minutes recorded by:	Bob Bruce		

Number of committee members present: 15	Absent: 3	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Bob Bruce, chair; Karen Lefebre, VC; Denise Brown; Kim Elsbach; Rory Grigull; Lynn Hazlewood; Eric Hektner; Jenny Hodges; Mark Johnston; Bob Kolonkowski; Peter Lee; Joe Linford; Andrew Magazine; Helen Naylor; Will Reeves. Ex-Officio: Donn Livoni, David Minor.		

Call-in Information:

1. Date: Sunday, February 17, 2019
2. Time: 8:00pm EST – 7:00pm CST – 6:00pm MST – 5:00pm PST – 4:00pm AST
3. Call-in Numbers
 - a) Toll call-in number (preferred, use this if possible): 518-530-1840
 - b) Toll-free call-in number (costs USMS, for callers without free long distance): 855-212-0212
4. Meeting ID: 642-003-782 (code for guests to use)
5. Host Code: 9403 (code for acting Chair to use)

Action Items:

1. Bob will contact each OWC subcommittee with tentative action plans and materials.
2. The OWC will review the committee goals statement in the next meeting if desired.

Agenda:

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03pm EST
2. Attendance and determination of quorum: quorum was reached with 15 voting members present.
3. Approval of previous minutes: the minutes of the January 20, 2019, OWC meeting were approved.

Executive Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. My apologies for the delay—caused by a big computer problem—in sending tentative plans and materials. I’ll send them soon.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni. Donn shared general thoughts about the winter BOD meeting and the Open Water Task Force (particularly the surveys). He answered some questions
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator—David Miner. Sanctioning is going well, with 20 events (18 renewals and 2 new) sanctioned and three in process.

Remaining OWC Meetings for 2019 (included here as an ongoing reminder): I expect 100% attendance because every voice matters on this committee. Recognizing that we are all busy adults with full and sometimes-chaotic lives, I’ll allow one no-fault absence.

- Sun 17 Mar
- Sun 14 Apr
- Sun 19 May
- Sun 16 Jun
- Sun 21 Jul
- Sun 18 Aug (if necessary)
- Thu 12 Sep at Convention

OWC goals & measurements for 2019: “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.” Report: No proposals to update; this is the OWC goal for this year.

Discussion of the results of the USMS Open Water Task Force Surveys. See Development & Promotion Subcommittee notes

Subcommittee Reports:

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 & Members: Chair: Will Reeves. Members: Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood, Jim Kennedy, Karen LeFebre, Joe Linford. Report: We discussed the summary of the surveys sent by the National Office and received from the BOD, LMSC leadership, event directors, and open water swimmers at large. Common topics included the perceived high cost and difficult process of putting on events, the difficulty of obtaining dual-sanction events with USA-Swimming, swimwear rules, competition vs. partnering with other NGBs, and marketing.
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee. Purpose: To review, revise, format, and communicate the contents of the OWGTO. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Becky Cleavinger, Lynn Hazlewood, Eric Hekner. Report: None
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: Becky Cleavinger, Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves. Report: Bob reported that—upon Patty Miller’s recommendation—that the OWC will focus on development more than rules this year, only discussing the most substantive and/or controversial proposals.
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: Kim Elsbach, Rory Grigull, Jim Kennedy, Peter Lee. Report: Nothing new to report
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, Joe Linford, Helen Naylor. Report: Helen reported on the upcoming open water management clinic in Tennessee this spring.
6. Officials Subcommittee. Purpose: To evaluate current practices in officiating USMS open water events and to develop materials to improve this. Chair: TBD. Members: Rory Grigull, Peter Lee, Helen Naylor, Will Reeves. Also Jim Davidson from the LDC. Report: Bob reported that he is reconstructing some pertinent documents damaged in a computer crash and hopes that he can have them ready by the next meeting.
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: Jenny Hodges. Members: Bob Kolonkowski, Will Reeves. Report: Jenny Hodges agreed to chair this group.
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: Denise Brown, Kim Elsbach, Jim Davidson, Helen Naylor. Report: Mark Johnston reported plans to coordinate the subcommittee's work.

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 2019?

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, March 17, 2019 - 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm EST

Full OWC (Voting Members = 18; Quorum is Voting Members= 9; Ex Officio Members = 5)

Present	First Name	Last Name	LMSC	Email
Voting Members				
Y	Bob	Bruce	Oregon	coachbobbruce@gmail.com
Y	Karen	LeFebre	Pacific	karen@bigskyendurancesports.com
N	Kate	Andrup Stephensen	Virginia	kands606@gmail.com
Y	Denise	Brown	Michigan	dbrown@fillinghome.org
N	Becky	Cleavenger	Pacific	beckycleavenger@yahoo.com
Y	Kimberly	Elsbach	Pacific	kdelsbach@ucdavis.edu
Y	Rory	Grigull	Florida Gold Coast	rory@paqswim.com
Y	Lynn	Hazlewood	Potomac Valley	lynhzlwd@icloud.com
Y	Eric	Hektner	Pacific	e.hektner@gmail.com
Y	Jenny	Hodges	So. Dakota	nifferannehodges@yahoo.com
Y	Mark	Johnston	Montana	coach@flowswimmers.com
N	James	Kennedy	Pacific	jbkzoomer@aol.com
Y	Bob	Kolonkowski	Metro	rpk248@netzero.com
Y	Peter	Lee	Potomac Valley	peter.lee@treasury.gov
Y	Joe	Linford	Utah	joeblinford@gmail.com
Y	Andrew	Magazine	Kentucky	andrewmagazine@yahoo.com
Y	Helen	Naylor	Southeastern	helen.naylor@vanderbilt.edu
Y	Will	Reeves	Utah	swimrwill@gmail.com
Ex-Officio/Associate Members				
N	Bill	Brenner	NO	bbrenner@usmastersswimming.org
N	Jay	Eckert	NO	jeckert@usmastersswimming.org
Y	David	Miner	NO	openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org
N	Ali	Hall	LDC Chair	mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com
Y	Donn	Livoni	Board	glenhollyfarm.livoni@gmail.com