

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Open Water Committee	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Karen LeFebre
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Bob Bruce	<b>Date/time:</b>	4/14/2019 - 8:00 PM EDT
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Karen LeFebre		

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 12	<b>Absent:</b> 6	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b>
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Karen LeFebre, VC; Denise Brown; Becky Cleavenger; Kim Elsbach; Rory Grigull; Lynn Hazlewood; Eric Hektner; Mark Johnston; Bob Kolonkowski; Peter Lee; Helen Naylor; Will Reeves. <b>Ex-Officio:</b> Jay Eckert, Donn Livoni, David Miner		

**Call-in Information:**

1. Date: Sunday, April 14, 2019
2. Time: 8:00pm EDT – 7:00pm CDT – 6:00pm MDT – 5:00pm PDT – 4:00pm ADT
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:**

**Agenda:**

**Opening:**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 EDT, 5:02 PDT.
2. Attendance and determination of quorum: quorum was reached with 12 voting members present.
3. Approval of previous minutes: the minutes of the March 19, 2019, OWC meeting were not approved. Need to move Helen Naylor’s report from Event Management Subcommittee to the Open Water Swim Training Subcommittee. Event Management Subcommittee did not have time to report.

**Executive Reports:**

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. Absent.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni. No report.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator—David Miner. No report.

**Remaining OWC Meetings for 2019 (included here as an ongoing reminder):** 100% attendance is expected 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 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.”

**Discussion of the results of the USMS Open Water Task Force Surveys.** See subcommittee reports

**Subcommittee Reports:** (Started With Subcommittees that did not get a chance to report in March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting)

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, Andrew Magazine. Report: OPEN ITEMS - Communication to LMSC Open Water Chairpersons: Using Forums: Update from National Office; Development: Open Water Non Competitive Swims; Continue discussion: Sanctioned Open Water Non-competitive Swims Vs. Open Water Practices; OWSTF: Denise Brown. NEW ITEMS - Open Water in Club Finder; Open Water in Calendar of Events: Events are listed with Designation “Not Sanctioned/Recognized.”
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 Hektner. Report: None (started with this subcommittee). No report.
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: Becky Cleavinger, Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves. Report: No report.
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: No report. A discussion regarding swim buoys was presented. Bob K. agreed to do some research on swim buoy rules and different ways to use in an event. Final product will be a short guidance document to help race directors decide on how to incorporate swim buoys into their event.
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: Event Management Guidance Document created in 2018 was finalized and sent to USMS National Office for review. A 72-page guidance document last September. It is in pdf and Power Point formats and contains a table of contents that has links to each section. The guidance document is meant to be a reference for new Open Water Swimming race directors that give ideas on how to sanction an event, pointers on event safety to giving out awards and post-race fun. The 72 page document seems long, but is written in large font and is filled with colorful photos from races all over U.S., but mostly features races from Pacific. One can go through the entire document in about 20 minutes. Two weeks ago the document was given to the Dawson Hughes and Jay Eckert for their review and edits. This subcommittee is ready to begin new tasks.
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: No report. There was a discussion regarding Open Water officials course.
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: No report.
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, Andrew Magazine, Helen Naylor, Kate Stephensen. Report: Mark reported progress on this project. Our

group believed that the Manual from 2001 was very comprehensive with 95% of what we needed. Updating is necessary. **Available Open Water Resources** – We are in the process of investigating 11 online coaching platforms. This group may need some help researching these platforms, so please contact Mark if you can assist. At this point, Mark has done some initial investigating into these programs, but not yet ready to report much. It would be great to develop some common review criteria (content, costs, focus, etc.). It may be advantageous at this point to combine efforts between this subcommittee and the Safety Education Subcommittee.

**New/Other Business:** *It seems that the Open Water Committee is at a point where there is overlap between several subcommittees. This may be an opportunity to reassign or divvy up some of the work or at least have a discussion to streamline efforts and goals.*

**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, May 19, 2019 - 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm EDT.

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

Present	First Name	Last Name	LMSC	Email
<b>Voting Members</b>				
N	Bob	Bruce	Oregon	<a href="mailto:coachbobbruce@gmail.com">coachbobbruce@gmail.com</a>
Y	Karen	LeFebre	Pacific	<a href="mailto:karen@bigskyendurancesports.com">karen@bigskyendurancesports.com</a>
N	Kate	Andrup Stephensen	Virginia	<a href="mailto:kands606@gmail.com">kands606@gmail.com</a>
Y	Denise	Brown	Michigan	<a href="mailto:dbrown@fillinghome.org">dbrown@fillinghome.org</a>
Y	Becky	Cleavenger	Pacific	<a href="mailto:beckycleavenger@yahoo.com">beckycleavenger@yahoo.com</a>
Y	Kimberly	Elsbach	Pacific	<a href="mailto:kdelsbach@ucdavis.edu">kdelsbach@ucdavis.edu</a>
Y	Rory	Grigull	Florida Gold Coast	<a href="mailto:rory@paqswim.com">rory@paqswim.com</a>
Y	Lynn	Hazlewood	Potomac Valley	<a href="mailto:lynhzlwd@icloud.com">lynhzlwd@icloud.com</a>
N	Eric	Hektner	Pacific	<a href="mailto:e.hektner@gmail.com">e.hektner@gmail.com</a>
Y	Jenny	Hodges	So. Dakota	<a href="mailto:nifferannehodges@yahoo.com">nifferannehodges@yahoo.com</a>
Y	Mark	Johnston	Montana	<a href="mailto:coach@flowswimmers.com">coach@flowswimmers.com</a>
N	James	Kennedy	Pacific	<a href="mailto:jbkzoomer@aol.com">jbkzoomer@aol.com</a>
Y	Bob	Kolonkowski	Metro	<a href="mailto:rpk248@netzero.com">rpk248@netzero.com</a>
N	Peter	Lee	Potomac Valley	<a href="mailto:peter.lee@treasury.gov">peter.lee@treasury.gov</a>
Y	Joe	Linford	Utah	<a href="mailto:joeblinford@gmail.com">joeblinford@gmail.com</a>
Y	Andrew	Magazine	Kentucky	<a href="mailto:andrewmagazine@yahoo.com">andrewmagazine@yahoo.com</a>
Y	Helen	Naylor	Southeastern	<a href="mailto:helen.naylor@vanderbilt.edu">helen.naylor@vanderbilt.edu</a>
Y	Will	Reeves	Utah	<a href="mailto:swimrwill@gmail.com">swimrwill@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ex-Officio/Associate Members</b>				

Y	Bill	Brenner	NO	<a href="mailto:bbrenner@usmastersswimming.org">bbrenner@usmastersswimming.org</a>
Y	Jay	Eckert	NO	<a href="mailto:jeckert@usmastersswimming.org">jeckert@usmastersswimming.org</a>
N	David	Miner	NO	<a href="mailto:openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org">openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org</a>
N	Ali	Hall	LDC Chair	<a href="mailto:mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com">mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com</a>
Y	Donn	Livoni	Board	<a href="mailto:glenhollyfarm.livoni@gmail.com">glenhollyfarm.livoni@gmail.com</a>