

Northwest Zone Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone
Committee Chair:	Paige Buehler
Minutes recorded by:	Paige Buehler & Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: Sunday, 12/8/19; 7:00pm PT

Motions Passed with financial implications: MSA to allocate \$116.65 for 3-year renewal of NW Zone domain registration (northwestzone.org)

Motions passed:

1. MSA to approve the meeting minutes from convention (Sept. 12, 2019) as submitted.
2. MSA to allocate \$116.65 for 5-year renewal of NW Zone domain registration (northwestzone.org).
3. MSA to accept Blue Wave Aquatics' bid to host the 2020 SCY zone champs.
4. MSA to accept Oregon Reign Masters' bid to host the 2020 LCM zone champs.
5. MSA to accept Columbia Gorge Masters' bid to host the 2020 SCM zone champs.

Number of committee members present: 11 **Absent:** 1 **Number of other delegates present:** n/a

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): AK - Ken Winterberger; IW - Matt Bronson, Paige Buehler, MT – Donn Livoni; OR – Tim Waud, Sandi Rousseau; PN – Linda Chapman, Sally Dillon; SR – none; UT – Aaron Norton, Anna Marie Forest, Bruce Schroeder

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

A. General business

1. Approve 9/12/19 (convention) meeting minutes. MSA (Aaron/Sally) to approve the minutes.
2. Actions taken between meetings: Exception to SCY champs order of events – online vote to allow an exception to the order of events because the weekend the meet will be held is Easter weekend. The meet will be Friday evening and all day Saturday. This was proposed and approved unanimously by the LMSC chairs during mid-October.
3. Standing Reports:
 - a. Chair – Paige Buehler – apologized for not getting the meeting date decided upon earlier.
 - b. Treasurer – Ken Winterberger (PDF accompanies agenda) The current total of the NW Zone account is \$5,133.97. Convention cost reimbursement to Snake River and mailing awards for SCM champs constitutes the \$1375.25 spent since convention. Sally mailed the ribbons to Utah; Aaron noted that they ran out of blue (1st place) ribbons.
 - c. Webmaster – Hugh Moore reported by email
 - i. Most of the activity on the website continues to be posting updated records. Thanks to Steve Darnell for keeping the records current!
 - ii. Hugh will update the website with the 2020 Zone Championship schedule once minutes from today's meeting are approved.
 - iii. Our domain registration expires in February. Hugh requests approval for a five year period for \$116.65. Linda noted that the company may have increases in coming years so it is good to lock this in for 5 years.
 1. MSA (Sally/Aaron) to approve the renewal of the domain registration for five years at cost of \$116.65.
 - d. Records – Steve Darnell reported via email

- i. SCM records are updated to include all meets through December 1, 2019; they have been sent to Hugh and posted on the website. Steve receives data from meet directors and/or LMSC record chairs.
- e. NW At-Large Director – Matt Miller was unable to attend. Paige read the following report: Not a lot has happened on the USMS Board of Directors in the 2 meetings since Convention. What follows is a quick summary of the topics covered in the October and November meetings and a few things likely to be covered in the upcoming December meeting.
 - i. Three new BOD members were voted onto the Board in the October meeting:
 - Oceana: Clare Kubiak
 - South Central: Diana Triana
 - Southwest: Jill Gellatly

Their first official meeting as BOD members was on the November call.
 - ii. New board member orientation was held on November 21st to welcome the new board members and to help get them up to speed on the current status of membership, ensure they are familiar with the structure of the organization, and to inform them of key areas of focus for USMS going forward.
 - iii. Our new president, Peter Guadagni, has nearly completed making the 2020 National Committee assignments and Chair/Vice-Chair selections.
 - iv. Swimming Saves Lives (SSL) and Adult Learn-to-Swim (ALTS) Task Force recommendations were presented and discussed at the November meeting. Primary responsibilities of a new committee would be to help grow ALTS programming, provide mentoring, provide continued support to engage certified instructors, share best practices and business models, and to work with each LMSC development committee to standardize ALTS outreach within each LMSC.
 - v. National Office has been focused on the 2020 registration cycle. Matt expects that CEO Dawson will have an update regarding registration numbers heading into 2020 in the December 16th BOD meeting.
 - vi. Some updates with regards to the Unified Membership Fee:
 1. 31 LMSCs opted in for 2020
 2. Includes 5 of 7 largest and 13 of 14 smallest LMSC.
 3. Represents an estimate of nearly 2/3 of total USMS membership (38,000+)
 4. 9 LMSCs indicated support for concept in 2021 but need the transition year to adjust
 5. The national budget will cover hotel accommodations for approximately 137 delegates.
 6. From the NW Zone: Alaska, Inland NW, Montana, and Utah have opted in for 2020; Snake River is listed as “supportive” for 2020 and 20201 but not yet opting in ; Oregon and Pacific Northwest are listed as “Not supportive yet” for 2020 or 2021
 - vii. One of the agenda items for the upcoming December BOD meeting will likely be to approve a new pool of individuals for the National Board of Review (NBR) pool. The NBR is responsible for managing grievances and appeals that reach the NBR. The USMS NBR pool is the group of individuals from whom USMS draws hearing panel members, when needed. The last pool was approved in 2017. Currently, Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) and Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) serve on the NBR from our Zone. It is the responsibility of the NBR Chair (Bruce Hopson) to appoint pool members, subject to USMS BOD approval. However, Peter is requesting that Board members suggest people from their LMSCs and Zones who might be willing to serve on the NBR. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving, or are interested in serving yourself, please let Matt Miller know via email.

1. Sally & Sandi are on the board of review – but neither realized it because they had not been contacted for years.
- viii. Donn commented – SSL/ALTS is still a task force, not a committee. It is headed by Carrie Stolar from Minnesota. Its goal is to justify ALTS being a standing committee of USMS.
- ix. Sandi noted that it seems the Volunteer Task Force recommendations have been dropped and the task force has not been encouraged to pursue their recommendations. Paige said the Governance Committee has been looking into change to the structure. Sandi said that the task force recommendations did not get presented at convention.

B. Old Business (From “Tasks for the Upcoming Year” in 9/12/19 minutes):

- a. “Make changes, if recommended, to our financial procedures.”
 - i. If the unified fee goes forward, and LMSCs receive hotel fee assistance, will we want to adjust our financial policy on convention reimbursement?
 - ii. How to better promote the NW Zone grant process, which is being underutilized. Paige suggested we table this and keep an eye on the situation; Ken suggested that we be more proactive. Aaron recalled from convention that Sarah Welch, Ken and he would look at the financial policies. Sandi noted that the Unified Fee brings an increase to some of our treasuries. Those LMSCs might get a windfall and won’t need the financial assistance. Paige will connect Sarah, Ken and Aaron to initiate the review.
- b. Renew domain for website in February – previously approved. The NW Zone website is hosted on USMS web servers. Paige noted that we might want to move to a server that provides better site security protocols. Sandi suggested that Matt M. be contacted about hosting; but she wonders why the USMS website would not be safe. Donn said that USMS is retiring some of their servers and will be offering new options. Montana is one of the LMSCs taking advantage of the new USMS “template website” option. Hugh will need to investigate the site hosting options. (Regardless, the domain renewal is still required.)

C. New Business

- a. Approve bids for NW Zone Championship events
 - i. SCY: Bid is from Blue Wave Aquatics for Easter Weekend, Friday-Saturday, April 10-11, 2020 at King County Aquatic Center.
 1. MSA to approve (Sandi/Matt B) – there was no discussion.
 - ii. LCM: Bid is from Oregon Reign Masters for Friday-Sunday, August 21-23, 2020 at Mt. Hood Community College.
 1. MSA to approve (Ken/Matt B) – Sandi noted that both bids from Oregon have estimated fee structures. Considering the ramifications of the Unified Fee (which reduces Oregon’s income), the LMSC is trying to determine how much will be necessary to pay. She asks that the be allowed to come back to the zone to finalize the fee.
 - iii. SCM: Bid is from Columbia Gorge Masters (Hood River, OR) for Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020 at Hood River Aquatic Center.
 1. MSA to approve (Aaron/Tim) – Paige noted the previous discussion about the fee structure. Sandi noted that they would only run the 800 free.
 - iv. Open Water: AK
 1. No bids received. Is “Change Your Latitude” in Sitka interested?
 2. If not, BWAQ would bid for the 2-mile distance at “Last Gasp of Summer” at Angle Lake in Sea-Tac, WA in September. Ken will get back to Paige by 12/20 to see if the

Sitka group wants to bid.

- b. Unified Fee Pilot – Paige
 - i. Of the NW Zone LMSCs AK, IW, MT, and UT opted in to the pilot. SR, OR, and PN have not (from Matt Miller's report).
 - ii. What has feedback been regarding increase in 2020 fee?
 - 1. In Alaska the feedback so far was that members expect the LMSC to do more with the extra money they are paying to register. It is a \$15 increase for Alaska.
 - 2. MT gets a \$2/swimmer increase. This will help them get out of deficit spending mode.
 - 3. UT gets \$4 more/swimmer. No one was against it at the annual meeting; more than 1/3 of the members have registered for 2020. Some new teams are trying to get off the ground. They expect the increase to make their deficit go away.
 - 4. IW income increases by \$6/swimmer.
 - 5. Matt Miller's initial report said that OR and PN were against it, which wasn't exactly correct.
 - a. OR needs to look at adjustments to revenue and spending in the LMSC before committing to the new fee structure.
 - b. Sally said in PN there was not enough support from convention delegates because their concerns and questions were not answered. They decided to ride with the current fees.
 - iii. Donn noted that there was no vote to set this fee; those opting in voluntarily agreed to the \$60 fee. Many are asking the question as to whether there is a definite answer or promise that the approval of the new arrangement to pay for hotel costs will last for any certain length of time.

D. LMSC Reports: (see attached)

Tim added info about Oregon's IMSHOF recipient, Willard Lamb.

E. Other Topics

Tim asked about Snake River's upcoming dual-sanctioned meet because USA Swimming has a new rule that (possibly) requires the designation of bathrooms to be for athletes only and spectators only. The program is called **MAAPP (minor athlete abuse protection policy)**. Tim said there are documents that require signing by officials, volunteers and non-minor USA-Swimming athletes to acknowledge the policy. Paige clarified that athletes from USMS in a dual-sanctioned meet are exempt from the proscriptions and that the crux of the policy is to have all interactions between minor athletes and non-related Applicable Adults (those with frequent contact and in "power positions") be "observable and interruptible." Aaron asked how they can enforce this. Utah has meets at a multi-use recreation center.

MAAPP is viewable at <https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/minor-athlete-abuse-prevention-policy> and Paige recommends reading the "Educational Documents" with their definitions and FAQs after reading through the MAAPP.

The following portion addresses concerns from the meeting under Locker Rooms and Changing Areas:
IV. One-on-One Interactions

Except for athletes on the same team or athletes attending the same competition, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults* permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area, except under emergency circumstances. If the organization is using a facility that only has a*

single locker room or changing area, separate times for use by Applicable Adults must be designated.

V. Monitoring

The host club must regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas to ensure compliance with this Policy. Locker rooms and changing areas may be monitored by use of the following methods:

- a. Conducting a sweep of the locker room or changing area before athletes arrive;*
- b. Posting staff directly outside the locker room or changing area during periods of use;*
- c. Leaving the doors open when adequate privacy is still possible; and/or*
- d. Making occasional sweeps of the locker rooms or changing areas with women checking on female locker rooms and men checking on male locker rooms.*

**USMS members participating in the meet can use the locker room with USA Swimming minor athletes. However, if they also can be categorized as an Applicable Adult, then they need to follow the guidelines for the Applicable Adults (have a buddy, no exposing buttocks/breasts) to use the same areas.*

Next meeting date: Sunday, March 8, 2020 or Monday, March 9, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM PT

LMSC Reports

Montana

- 206 Members at 10/31
- \$10,261 LMSC Balance 11/24/19
- HS format meet Jan. 25 in Butte -- posting soon
- MT LMSC Champs meet -- Feb 29 & Mar. 1 in Bozeman
- Coaches Certification, Coach Clinic & Swimmer Stroke Improvement -- May 9 & 10 in Missoula. Registration going live next week.
- OW swim at Lake Como -- July 25 1500yd. Info later in the spring
- Pentathlon in Oct in Missoula
- New MT LMSC website coming soon -- using USMS Template.
- Unified fee adopter -- Annual fee \$60 & OVET \$15

Snake River

- Clubs: 5
- 127 members at 10/31
- USMS registered swimmers had the opportunity to participate in a dual sanctioned SCY meet at Boise Y West, November 15-17, which had 13 USMS members entered.
- Upcoming dual sanctioned meet: Candy Cane Invite, SCY, December 14-15, 2019, Boise West Y (entries will be closed by the time this is published)
- Results of the 3,000 and 6,000 are being compiled and should be posted soon.

Inland NW

- 342 members at 10/31
- LMSC Board of Managers voted to accept the unified membership fee and unified single event fee. Unified club fee was not discussed.
- 2020 Meets/Events:
- February Flurry Meet, Kroc Center, CDA Idaho – Date TBD
- LMSC Annual Meeting/Swimposium (Spring) – Location and date TBD

- Inland NW Zone Champs (Spring) – Moscow Idaho- Date TBD

Pacific NW

- 1807 members at 10/31
- Total assets as of 12/6 - \$58,693
- 2020 pool events through July
- PNA will sanction only three meets this spring. One SCY meet was cancelled due to lack of volunteers and another SCY meet due to pool refurbishing.
 - Sunday, January 19 - Bellevue Club Masters Mile, Bellevue, WA – 1500 SCM event
https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1534&smid=12652
 - Sunday, February 2 - Thunderbird Masters, Anacortes, WA – SCM, full meet schedule
https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1534&smid=12655
 - Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11 - PNA Champs / NW Zone Champs, King County Aquatic Center, Federal Way, WA. The meet falls on Easter weekend, therefore the Friday/Saturday format. The link is not yet available.
 - Sunday, July 19 – PNA LCM Meet, King County Aquatics Center, Federal Way, WA OW event dates for 2020 (links not available)
 - Sunday, June 28 - Whidbey Adventure Swim –1.2 & 2.4 miles Sarasota Sound in Langley, WA
 - Saturday, July 11 - Fat Salmon – 3.2 miles, Lake Washington in Seattle, WA
 - Saturday, August 29 – Aly Fell Memorial Swim – 4 distances, Lake Padden in Bellingham, WA
- Notable

Rick Colella was inducted into the Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame.
One addition to the leadership team: Fitness/Clinic chair Wade Praeger

Oregon

- Membership: 2018-2019 Season: [1,246 members, 5 clubs](#)
- Account Balance: \$18,000 Checking and \$31,000 Savings
- Notable items: New records set by Oregon Masters swimmers at the 2019 SCM Zone Championship
 - Alexis Higlett – 1 Oregon
 - Sonja Skinner – 3 Oregon, 2 Zone
 - Joy Ward – 3 Oregon, 3 Zone
 - Mirjana Prather – 1 Oregon, 1 Zone
 - Dan Kirkland – 3 Oregon
- Upcoming Events: December 14, 2019 [11th Annual All-Around Challenge Meet](#) Bend, OR SCM

Utah

- 315 members at 10/31
- Account Balance: \$13,000
- New Officers
 - Vice Chair - Bruce Schroeder (newly elected)
 - Secretary - Karen Hodges (newly elected)
 - Registrar - Dean Stonehocker (newly elected)
- Events held since convention:
 - 13th Annual South Davis Masters Meet and Zone Championships; attendance ~100; several state records and 1 National Record from Montana Swimmers
- Upcoming: Have prepared a 2019/2020 Meet schedule that includes 6 meets
- Notable: Planning for biggest attendance by Utah LMSC members at Nationals in Utah history

Alaska

- 2018-2019 Season membership - 269
- \$13,996 LMSC Balance 11/25 2019

- 2019 SCM Meet - 30 November & 1 December - Fairbanks, AK - *13 Participants*
- 2020 SCY Championship Meet - 22 and 23 February - Sitka, AK - registration opens on 1 January 2020 - housing is available - go here for more info and to enter the meet - https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1816&smid=12522
- Smarty Pants Fall Fitness Challenge - *6 participants from AKMS*
- 2019 Change Your Latitude open water event in Sitka Sound is in the planning stages - go here <https://changeyourlatitude.org> - 2020 information coming soon.
- Adult Learn To Swim (ALTS) instructor certification is being planned for this spring - more to come
- The Alaska LMSC decided to become an “early adopter” of the Unified Fee. We are looking forward to several things coming out of this.
 - Closer collaboration with other organizations, e.g., USA Triathlon
 - Offering Grants to Workout Groups within AK LMSC
 - Hosting more clinics in more places for our membership
 - Holding more events around the state.
 - Ability to do a better job of recruiting members
- The Alaska LMSC is struggling with membership numbers. Sadly we are not alone. It is not clear what the problem is but some of the problem is probably associated with the Alaska economy.