

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Aaron Norton		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	12/6/2020 8:30pm ET

Actions Taken:

1. Approved: MSA September 10, 2020 meeting minutes

Number of committee members present:	26	Absent:	N/A	Guests:	none
Committee members present: Ken Winterberger, Kevin Knox (AK), Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm, Matt Bronson, Margaret Hair (IW), Jeanne Ensign, Donn Livoni, Janelle Munson-McGee (MT), Bob Bruce, Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Tim Waud, Ginger Pierson, Kermit Yensen (OR), Sally Dillon, Hugh Moore, Linda Chapman, Kathy Casey, Arni Litt, Sarah Welch, Steve Peterson (PN), Jim Clemmons (SR), Aaron Norton, Bruce Schroeder, and Anna Marie Forest (UT)					

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm MT.

1. NW Zone Chair Aaron Norton called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm Mountain time. Attending were: Ken Winterberger, Kevin Knox (AK), Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm, Matt Bronson, Margaret Hair (IW), Jeanne Ensign, Donn Livoni, Janelle Munson-McGee (MT), Bob Bruce, Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Tim Waud, Ginger Pierson, Kermit Yensen (OR), Sally Dillon, Hugh Moore, Linda Chapman, Kathy Casey, Arni Litt, Sarah Welch, Steve Peterson (PN), Jim Clemmons (SR), Aaron Norton, Bruce Schroeder, and Anna Marie Forest (UT)
2. Approval of September 10, 2020 annual meeting minutes. MSA
3. Actions taken between meetings: The new financial policies approved at convention were posted to the Zone website.
4. Standing Reports:
 - a. Chair: Aaron reported that a Zone Chair hand-off meeting occurred between him and Paige. A new Zone Google Drive was created to share information as needed. Aaron is excited about taking on a new leadership position.
 - b. Treasurer: Ken reported that no activity has taken place since convention. Current balance is \$5133.97. He reminded us that grant request and reimbursement forms are on the website
 - c. Webmaster: Hugh noted that we've been on the new server for ~ 6 months. We moved from the USMS server at a fortuitous time since they had a crash and some LMSCs lost their data. Most of the activity on the website continues to be the posting of updated records. Hugh thanked Steve Darnell for keeping the records current! Hugh is willing to continue as webmaster unless someone else is interested. Hugh is willing to train someone wanting to learn.
 - d. Records: Steve Darnell reported by email that short course records are updated with meets that occurred before COVID hit in mid-March. Results through early March have been included.
 - e. NW At-Large Director: Paige Buehler reported on three activities on the USMS BOD level.
 - i. **Budget approval:** She attended two finance committee meetings in early November, listening in as they asked questions and reviewed the 40K member and 50K member versions of the budget. They asked CFO Susan to reflect cash items which subtracted depreciation and added in capital expenditures, primarily on IT investments. That gave us a better picture of what impact to cash reserves the 2021 budget will have.

Finance Committee recommended to the Board the 40,000-member budget with a net ordinary loss of (\$552,446) and a net change in cash of (\$790,919). It was approved by the Board on November 16th. Numbers this month are not looking dismal.

Paige's take is that this is the rainy day that USMS has been prudently saving for and we need to be sure that we are positioned for resumption of activities and events.
 - ii. **Effort to "enhance" our annual meeting:** President Peter Guadagni has created two task forces to brainstorm ideas and vet their feasibility to present to the Board.

Outlining a USMS Volunteer Summit – larger than the existing “Leadership Summit” with the goal of amplifying the best part of annual meeting with the training, workshops and networking. I have been asked to serve on this task force.

Streamlining our legislative process – 2 hours allotted on the agenda, 8 hours spent to vote. This task force will suggest alternatives to our current process for the Board to consider. Hugh Moore has been asked to serve on this task force.

- iii. **Merger between USMS’s “Swimming Saves Lives” and USA Swimming Foundation:** USA Swimming Foundation will assume the fundraising responsibilities for the ALTS programs with a guaranteed amount granted annually beginning January 1, 2021. They get access to the “Swimming for Life” trademark and to our membership lists. We get the benefits of a much more automated donor tracking and acknowledgement system. The Board reviewed the terms and gave its approval. The risk is low (guaranteed grants to ALTS, easy exit clause if not working out) and the benefits are high.

Tim asked if there was mention of coaching clinics and education that would be part of the leadership summit; Paige said yes. She said not to confuse that with convention 2021. Tim said the coaches are hoping to have more extensive training opportunities at future clinics. Sally asked about the merger and whether funds received will support research or other projects or does it all go to ALTS. It’s Mike’s understanding that USMS wants to take advantage USA-Swimming’s expertise in raising funds. Paige said she would look into this program more thoroughly. Kathy asked if our foundation purposes might expand beyond ALTS and if there is a minimum amount. Donn said the guaranteed amount is \$135,000. Mike said that is a good number and enough to support ALTS well.

Jeanne and Paige said the volunteer Summit won’t happen in the spring. Aaron asked if there is any talk about having an in-person National Championship. Jeanne said the 40,000 membership budget does not include an in-person meet.

5. Old Business (from convention) - None

6. New Business

- a. Discuss 2021 Championship schedule: Sally suggested we roll over the 2020 events to 2021. There was significant discussion about whether events will be able to take place at all. It was also suggested that we could do a virtual event but noted that it can be quite complicated assuring that competitors have even “playing fields”. Aaron suggested we push the bids to 2022. It was agreed to table this decision until the March meeting.
- b. Create new zone positions: Aaron proposed in the agenda that the zone have a designated Secretary, so the responsibility for taking minutes is defined. He also suggested that the Secretary be in charge of zone awards, and Sally suggested there should be a separate Awards position. She distributed a proposal to revise the Zone policies in Section 1 to include the positions with a brief description of each. Hugh pointed out that we failed to follow Sections 2, 3, and 4 at this meeting. He suggested all of the policies be reviewed before making any changes. A subcommittee was formed to review the policies and provide recommendations for change prior to the March meeting. Hugh will lead; other members are Sally, Sandi, Ken, and Aaron.

7. LMSC Reports:

- a. Alaska – Open water swimming was very popular in AK over the summer. Most pools are open, but with limitations.
- b. Inland NW – The LMSC held a clinic in Coeur d’ Alene and members participated in the fall postal swim (they had 3 relays). Swimmers are in the water; how often and where depends on their zip codes.
- c. Montana – The outdoor 50-mtr pool has been open (swimming widths); most outdoor pools are still open. The board offered rebates to returning members (2020) and offered stipends for inspirational newsletter articles. An annual meeting, likely virtual, will take place this spring. The nominating cmte is looking for candidates. Jeanne said Montana gave matching grants to a club and a workout group. MT LMSC provided \$35 per registered swimmer.
- d. Oregon – Bob Bruce talked about the upcoming 1-hour ePostal swim. He encouraged everyone to find time to do the OHP during the 2-month window. OMS is hosting the event.

- e. Pacific NW – PNA has provided matching grants to a half dozen clubs/wogs and is also reimbursing clubs/wogs for 2021 registration through 12/31/20. There are still a lot of swimmers in the lakes and Sound who are making good use of their wetsuits. Many pools are open but none of the public pools in Seattle.
- f. Snake River – Lots of OW swimmers in the water until late September. Pools reopened (Y's more conservatively); private clubs are not requiring reservations or limiting numbers in lanes. They've had no health issues with their swimmers. It appears that the outdoor public pools won't be open in 2021.
- g. Utah – Held their annual meeting via zoom and Bruce Schroeder is the new LMSC chair. The annual "Tour of Utah Lakes" event took place and attendance was good. Swimmers swam 1-mile in 6 different lakes in 1 day. Reporting from Hawaii, Bruce lives in southern Utah, 5 hours from Aaron. Until recently, their state was doing well in relation to COVID occurrences. This summer his small team participated in the USMS virtual competition. Only about half entered but all enjoyed the activity.

Next meeting date: Sunday, March 7 or Monday, March 8 . . . no decision was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm MT.