

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Aaron Norton		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	6 PM MDT, June 6, 2021

Actions Taken: none

Number of committee members present:	16	Absent:	N/A	Guests:	none
Committee members present: AK – Kathy Tide and Ken Winterberger, IW – Matt Bronson and Paige Buehler, MT- Jeanne Ensign and Donn Livoni, OR – Bob Bruce, Christina Fox, Ginger Pierson, and Sandi Rousseau, PN – Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, and Sally Dillon, Snake River – Jim Clemmons, UT – Aaron Norton and Bruce Schroeder.					

Minutes

1. NW Zone Chair Aaron Norton called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm MDT. He welcomed a new attendee, Kathy Tide. She is the AK Membership Coordinator. A 20-year member of USMS, she's been a volunteer at the LMSC level for 1 year.
2. Actions taken between meetings: The 3/7/21 meeting minutes were approved via email and are posted to the Zone website.
3. Standing reports:
 - a. Chair: Aaron Norton had nothing to report and asked for an update on pool availability within the zone. PN: Sally said that the YMCAs have dropped their severe restrictions and are allowing more swimmers in the water and not requiring reservations. OR: Bob said that in Bend, practices have been taking place for a couple months. He expects the governor to drop restrictions within the few weeks. He is hosting the National OW Cable championship at Foster Lake at the end of June and expects more than 80 vaccinated participants, so he won't likely need to include mitigations. He is hosting another event in July and planning a pool meet in December. Bob said his entire workout group is vaccinated, but the pool does not require it. Sandi said the bubble top is off the Hood River pool and circle swimming is now allowed. Her WOG is requiring proof of vaccinations, but they have 1 lane available for 2 swimmers to share who are not vaccinated. IW: Matt said that big teams are working out together except in Wenatchee, and that is due to a lack of pool space for Masters. SR: The YMCAs had relaxed standards and allowed 3 per lane (if you know each other). Just last week they began allowing 3 per lane for those who don't know each other. There are 1-hour limits, but back-to-back sessions can be reserved. MT: Most facilities are open and mostly without restrictions. Donn and Jeanne are swimming in the outdoor 50-meter pool and 4X lane is allowed. They were delayed getting in the water Saturday due to a racoon on the slide! UT: It is back to normal in southern Utah with no restrictions. Aaron reported that in the greater Salt Lake area masks are no longer required for employees or patrons and they started swimming 4 per lane last month. AK: Pools in Anchorage have been open since last summer and they're swimming 3 per lane now. Cathy lives in Juneau where limitations have been dropped. Organized Masters workouts started a month ago.
 - b. Treasurer: Ken Winterberger reported there have been no expenses since the March meeting.
 - c. Webmaster: Hugh Moore emailed that his only activity was posting the March 7 meeting minutes.
 - d. Records: Steve Darnell reported by email - no new updates since March.
 - e. NW At-Large Director: Paige Buehler reported that membership looks better than the 2021 Plan at 40,000 members and even better than the Q1 Forecast which was based on 43,500 members by the end of the registration year (Oct. 31). The National Office is promoting Try Masters Swimming during the month of July. Clubs needed to confirm to participate. The NO will do extra advertising in areas that plan to participate (w/in 10 miles of zip code). Looking for a membership boost in the Olympics year. SW Zone has a new chair: Robert Mitchell. The BOD is reviewing policies (whistleblower, communication, conflict of interest, etc.) They are also giving input into the evolution of sanction guidelines for meets this year and have voted to suspend rules needed to also SCY and LCM National Championships to occur with necessary precautions as recommended by Championship Committee. Jim was asked about the upcoming national meet. 529 entries have been received at this time. They expect to cap the meet around ~1000. Sally asked about the Top Ten and if a decision was made regarding the extension of the deadline for LCM. Jim said that Championship will submit the proposal before the June 10 deadline.
4. Old business:
 - a. Oregon's Natural Water Swimming webinars: Sandi & Bob spoke to the success of the program. The speakers have been excellent, received honorariums, and the programs have been very valuable.
 - b. Policies: The March 7, 2021 revision of the NW Zone Policies were posted to website.

5. New business

- a. Ransom Arthur Award: Congratulations to Bob Bruce, who has been selected as the 2021 Ransom Arthur Award honoree! Bob said he has enjoyed working at the local level, on national committees, and is honored to receive the award.
- b. Re-appointment of Zone Administrators: Aaron noted that the following volunteers have agreed to continue in their positions and are duly appointed.
 - i. Ken Winterberger (Treasurer), Hugh Moore (Webmaster), Steve Darnell (Records), Sally Dillon (Secretary). Sally also offered maintain the Zone awards.
- c. The Zone Chatter: Aaron has received reports from some, but not all LMSCs. Please submit ASAP so he can put together the newsletter.
- d. PNA Legislative Proposals: PNA will be submitting three legislative proposals to make clear the procedures for selecting at-large directors to the USMS Board. The draft was sent to the zone email list prior to the meeting. The proposals were reviewed, and a missing phrase was noted. Kathy will adjust the proposal accordingly. A straw vote was taken and all the zone's LMSCs endorsed the legislative proposals.
- e. LMSC Delegates: Aaron noted that Convention selections are due to the National Office by July 1.
- f. LMSC leadership: The current roster of LMSC leaders was distributed. Please send updates to Sally so she can keep the email lists accurate.

6. LMSC reports: Each LMSC briefly reported on meet activity

AK – A Brute Squad virtual meet is being organized by the Sitka group; 10-15 people entered. The Change of Latitude OW events are coming up in Sitka 2nd weekend in August.

IW – LMSC Championships using multi-venue format during a 10-day period have taken place in Coeur d'Alene on 3/28, the Spokane Club & in Moscow, both on 4/3. ~40 people participated.

MT – A dual sanctioned LC meet in was held in May in Bozeman; 3 masters and 360 age groupers! A clinic is coming up in July. The board will meet soon to look at other events.

OR – Open water events mentioned previously; no other meets planned.

PNA – A meet in Snohomish was conducted by PSM and PNA today. Two identical sessions with 40 each swimmer.

Between the sessions, five swam the 1650. Volunteers came from the other sessions, along with a few other volunteers who didn't swim. Times weren't particularly fast, but it was a joy to be together. April Cheadle (BAM coach) was there scoping out the event to see if her team can host an event in the fall.

SR – No meets on the horizon.

UT – Southern Utah held a small meet mid-week in May with 10 swimmers. They plan to do some more mid-week meets.

Northern Utah had their first meet with ~25 swimmers yesterday afternoon. Both were sanctioned. The annual South Davis meet will be in August this year (due to construction in the 4th quarter).

7. Other business:

Zone financial status: Jeanne noted that the NW zone has significantly more money than other zones; likely more than we need. Should we distribute money proportionally to LMSCs? Sally said our zone is far more active than others and we have ways we can use the funds. Coaching Clinics and other opportunities will come back. Ken said we need to encourage people to apply for grants when this happens. Aaron said we should avoid assessing a fee for a few years and down the road, review our funds.

Paige asked for insight. A member of the IW LMSC submitted a proposal for a legislative change. What is the LMSC's responsibility regarding that proposal. Sandi and Kathy said the LMSC is not a "pass through". The LMSC should review the proposal and would submit it if they are in favor.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the USMS Annual Meeting. Date is TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm MDT.