

2026 U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Jill Wright

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: June 1, 2026, 6 pm MT

Actions taken: None

Number of committee members present: 15 **Absent:** 4 chairs

Committee members present: AK: none, IW - Dave Cabrey, Margaret Hair, MT – Mark Brooke, Jeanne Ensign, OR - Christina Fox, Jayette Petit, Sandi Rousseau, Paul Windrath, PN - Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Sally Dillon, Diana Hermanson, Steve Peterson, SR: Jill Wright, UT: Sydney Olson

Committee members absent: LMSC chairs AK: Kent Hamilton, IW: Rob Heath, SR: Jim Clemmons, UT: Aaron Norton

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm MT.

A. General Business

1. Actions taken between meetings:

- a. The December 1, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by the LMSC chairs via email and are posted on the Zone and USMS websites.
- b. The finance subcommittee proposed amendments to the NW Zone Financial Policies (sections 2 and 3). The recommendations were approved by the LMSC chairs via email on March 25. The summary of the policy changes is:
 - 1) 2.1.2 (New) Sets level of LMSC fee assessment, no fee or \$.50, based on current Zone fund balance.
 - 2) 2.2.1 Changes amount that may be spent for Zone related expenses at an in-person to \$1,000 (from \$250)
 - 3) 2.2.3 Defines eligible types of activities which qualify for reimbursement
 - 4) 2.3.4 Refers to USMS Financial Policies and Operating Guidelines for reimbursable expenses and limitations on reimbursements
 - 5) 3.1 Changes definition of “small” LMSCs to include Alaska, Inland Northwest, and Utah in addition to Montana and Snake River
 - 6) 3.2 (New) Sets level of LMSC assets below which that LMSC is eligible to apply for expense reimbursements
 - 7) 3.4 Changes date that Named Delegate(s), for which LMSC is asking for reimbursement, must be submitted to Zone Chair to August 15 (from July 1)
- c. The finance committee also proposed that the NW Zone “suspend the 2026 \$.50/swimmer assessment”. The chairs approved this motion in addition to the previous policy changes.

2. Chair's report: Jill will be meeting tomorrow (June 2) with the other USMS Zone Chairs. In her opinion, the NW Zone is highly functional compared to the other Zones. Few have websites, maintain zone swim records, and meet outside the annual meeting. She hopes to share our successes. A hot topic for the meeting will be “succession planning” for officers. Jill asked if LMSCs in our zone have “plans” and the response was “no”. Paul shared that it was an issue lately for OR as they had many people drop off the board during the last cycle. They do have an exceptionally large board, so that was a bit of a shock. An appeal went out to the membership and much to their surprise, several members stepped up to fill positions. Linda shared two programs recently approved by the PN board. The first is a “shadow” program where a board member can learn another board position from the person currently in that role. The second piece of the program is a “board test drive” where a person not on the PN board can give it a test drive by attending meetings and having the opportunity to participate in discussions but not vote. A “test driver” may shadow a

board role after meeting a minimum number of meetings. Mark shared that MT has defined terms to 2-years for the higher leadership positions. The other positions require more specialized knowledge (i.e. sanctions, coaching). Sydney said UT does not have a succession plan and they have several vacancies.

Jill will report back to the zone's LMSC chairs after the meeting.

3. Finance report: Ken was absent and did not submit a report.
4. Website report: Dave had nothing to report regarding the zone's website; it's up to date! Instead, he brought up the recent message from USMS that addresses the June 15 "silencing" of USMS email addresses. It looks like all contact to the National Office will require filling out a "contact form". There was a significant amount of discussion regarding hacked emails, spam, and other difficulties that we all experience. On that topic, Jill asked that we only use her Gmail account for correspondence (jillwright at gmail.com – but drop all the vowels). Linda shared that PN uses our LMSC domain for email addresses (swimpna.org). Individuals' names are being used, but she has discussed with Lorraine Masse about replacing names with positions (i.e. change linda@xxx.org to chair@xxx.org). PN already uses "contact forms" for members to fill out when contacting board members. It was noted that Comcast repeatedly sends the swimpna.org addresses to spam! It was suggested that the zone's webmasters get together to discuss suggestions and options going forward. Dave will reach out to Matt Miller, who provides the server the zone and some of the LMSCs are using.
5. Records report: Steve Darell did not submit a report, but he continues to keep the zone records up to date!
6. Zone Chatter report: Christina apologized for a late reminder and thanked those who submitted reports for this quarter's issue.
7. Secretary report: Sally continues to assist with the meeting agenda, send emails as needed and keeps the volunteer roster up to date.
8. NW Zone At Large Director: Rob Heath has been traveling and did not submit a report.
9. NW Zone Championship Events: Jill provided the following updates:
 - a. SCY Championship – Federal Way, WA - April 11&12 – 223 swimmers
 - b. OW Championship – Coeur D'Alene, ID, - July 18
Swim Around Tubbs Hill hosted by Croc Masters
 - c. LCM Championship – no bids were received; no LMSC is hosting a LCM meet.
 - d. SCM Championship – PSM is hosting their annual meet on Nov 11&12 in Federal Way. Linda will ask PSM to submit a bid.
 - e. 2027 NW Zone Championship meets: Bids are due to Chairwoman Jill on December 1. Please let her know ASAP if your LMSC does have an event host as per the following schedule. The rotation order for 2027 is:
SCY – an LMSC that is not OR or PN
LCM - OR
SCM - PN
OW – AK

B. New Business

1. Annual Zone/USMS leadership meeting: Jill reported that July 22 is the tentative date set for this annual meeting that connects USMS and Zone leaders. Rob Heath had asked that our LMSC chairs vote for that date. Jill is waiting on a final confirmation from the USMS Board.
2. Sunsetting of USMS Volunteer addresses: Discussed at length during the website report.
3. Zone members who are on national committees: Jill noted that there are a few members of our zone who are not serving on LMSC boards but are members of USMS National Committees. Upon her request, Sally has added the following to our mailing lists: Maddie Sibilia (PN), Kaitlin Spokas (MT), and Linda Bailey (SR).
4. National Committee reports: Jill asked those present, who are on USMS committees, to report on committee activities. Kathy and Christina are both on the Rules committee. They had one meeting early in the year and the committee is working on various projects. Kathy noted "housekeeping", Christina noted rule proposals. USA-Swimming is still working on their proposals, many of which USMS will consider (Kathy is an Ex Officio member). World Aquatics has recently passed new rules

regarding the finishes on backstroke and butterfly. The new rules will allow underwater finishes from the flags to the walls. Kathy said NCAA will likely accept them and USMS as well.

C. Additional comments

1. Paul reported that OR held their Annual Meeting along with a stroke clinic and a tech talk. For the first time ever, it was separate from their championship meet. The event went well.
2. Jill reported that Bill Brenner and Mel Goldstein conducted a great clinic in Boise recently. Sandi suggested our zone consider pulling together to host clinics at various locations.
3. Sally mentioned the recent notice from USMS about the USMS Relay event. Fees to attend have increased by \$100 and dinner is not covered one of the nights. It was noted that the Golden Goggles event is on that same night, so it would conflict with having another catered meal. Sally promoted maximum attendance for this event and reminded the smaller LMSCs that the zone is a good resource for financial support.
4. Linda shared a post from PNA swimmer Jennifer Tran. Your secretary did not get this info during the meeting, but Linda kindly provided the following post meeting:

Are you a Masters swimmer who likes having a goal time to chase, a new event to try, or a way to discover swimmers beyond your own results page? Developed by our own PNW swimmers [Jennifer Tran of ORCA](#) and [Yawei Hao of Mercer Island Redwoods](#), [Openlane](#) is a free tool that helps USMS swimmers get more out of their swim performance and meet results.

[Openlane](#) features two time-standard charts, including [2026 USMS Motivational Times](#) based on National Qualifying Times and [2026 Percentile-based Motivational Times](#) based on season-best times across the country. It also includes Race Quest, a gamified challenge to swim every official event; Featured Swimmers, highlighting local and national Masters athletes; and Analytics Insights, a personalized dashboard with personal bests, meet summaries, event trends, and Olympic Time Machine comparisons. Check them out [here](#)!

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm MT