

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Wisconsin Masters Swim Committee, October 1, 2016

Board Members present: Jeanne Seidler, James Biles, Mike Murray, Dick Pitman, Melodee Nugent, John Bauman, Jerry Lourigan, Dave Clark, Mary Schneider

Swim members present: Trina Schaetz, Bob Corris, Fred Russell, Clark Knuth, Rick Pease, Dave Parkins

The meeting was called to order by the WMSC Chair, Jeanne Seidler.

Introductions commenced, since not everyone knew each other. Jeanne announced that Suzi Green was retiring from her position as secretary, and thanked her for her years of service. Jeanne also thanked John Bauman for all his years of service, in many different positions during his tenure. John is retiring from his current position as Registrar.

There was a motion from John Bauman to approve the minutes of the Jan. 10, 2016 interim meeting. The motion was seconded by James Biles. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The first order of business was the Treasurer's report. Mike presented year-to-date financials for 2016, along with the budgeted amount for 2016. As a comparison, Mike prepared a spreadsheet with both year-to-date for 2015, along with the full year of 2015. Mike stated in 2015, there was a net loss of approximately \$7,800.

Bob Corris asked what the one event fee was. Mike stated it is a fee due to USMS for non-members who wish to participate in a sanctioned open water swim, such as the Madison Open Water Swim, or a sponsored clinic. The one event registration can be used multiple times in one year. In 2016, since the MOWS meet was cancelled due to weather, the entire \$21 fee (\$15 USMS, \$6 WMSC), was refunded to swimmers registered for the event.

Dave Parkins asked a question about the trending of loss of income, and whether it was a conscious decision. The answer was yes, since the balance of reserves can be drawn down. The purpose of the reserves is to promote masters swimming in Wisconsin, run coach clinics and adult learn to swim programs.

Convention expenses were higher in 2015, since the WMSC paid for 5 people, but only paid for 4 in 2016. Some of the members are committee chairs and have their expenses paid by USMS.

Looking forward to anticipated expenses in 2017, it is anticipated that no adult learn to swim clinics will be held in Wisconsin or nearby. There will be coaches clinics held, though, for which the WMSC pays the registration cost, but not the travel expenses.

WMSC is considered to be a 501(c)(3) organization under USMS, and is to implement policies from USMS, such as ALTS (adult learn to swim programs), and coaching certification clinics.

Dave Parkins also asked about the receivables, and when the funds were expected. Mike explained they have already been received, and were merely checks in transit at the time the financial report was prepared.

Chair, Top 10, Webmaster Report

Jeanne reported that several members of WMSC were award recipients at the USMS convention. James Biles was awarded the Dorothy Donnelly award for contributions to not only WMSC as the Long Distance Chair, but also for his coordination of Wisconsin entries for ePostal swims, ePostal relays, and contributions to the newsletter. Fred Russell was awarded the Kerry O'Brien coaching award for his years of service as the Coaches Chair for WMSC for a number of years, and also for his organization and coaching of the WMAC team attending short course nationals for the last 12 years. Dave Clark commented there were 8 Kerry O'Brien award recipients from all over the country, which were selected from 15 nominations. Kerry O'Brien selected 4 winners, and the coaches committee selected 4 winners.

For top 10 listings, Jeanne indicated she uploads meet files for each meet, which is needed for the USMS Top 10 lists. This is for SCY, SCM, and LCM.

As webmaster, Club Assistant is used for meet entries, and has been working well. Mail Chimp has been used recently to deliver emailed announcements. There is also a Facebook page for Wisconsin Masters Swimming.

Fitness Report

Melodee will again be running the Water Warriors contest, which will run from Nov 1, 2016, through Dec 31, 2016. In 2015 there were 37 participants. There is a budget of \$600 for awards. Winners will be announced in January.

Sanctions Report

Jeanne announced there were 6 SCY meets, 1 LCM meet, 1 SCM meet, 1 fitness event, and 1 recognized meet sanctioned in 2016. The proposed meet schedule was presented. There will be a meet in February in Madison, but the date and the venue have not been confirmed yet. Jerry Lourigan stated he will run the Baraboo meet again. The \$100 sanction fee was forwarded to USMS, even though the event was cancelled.

Jeanne thanked Dave Clark for running the Senior Olympic meet at Shorewood. There were 42 USMS registered swimmers, and 43 non-USMS swimmers participating in the meet.

Coaches Report

Dave Clark reported that the coaches' committee at the USMS convention is currently working on refining the requirements for a level 4 coach. One of the requirements is to submit a portfolio, and to have a life guard certification. There are plans to add a level 5 certification also. In the next year or 2, there will not be any nearby certification clinics for coaches. There was an ALTS (learn to swim) class in Milwaukee that had 14 participants, 6 from WI, and 8 from elsewhere. ALTS does not plan to hold another clinic in the area for another 2 years.

Dave stated he is currently working with 3 workout groups to see if he can get them to join USMS. One of the groups swimming with the MPS recreation program has 80 swimmers.

Trina Schaetz asked if it were possible to use Mail Chimp to send pertinent information to groups of people, such as coaches. Jeanne said yes, it can be done, just be defining who is in the group. Dave stated he already has an email list for coaches, and does send information their way.

Newsletter Report

Mary Schneider reported that the newsletter has been going out on time during the last year. She also stated there has not been as much contribution with articles from people as in the previous year.

Officials Report

Sue Wagner was not in attendance, but will continue as the Officials Chair. Certification to be a USMS official is the same as for USA Swimming, with the exception of not having to shadow another official. If an official is not USA Swimming certified, that official can be a stroke and turn judge, and a starter, but cannot be a referee.

Long Distance and Open Water Report

Meagan LaPoint was the national champion, and James Biles was second in their respective age groups in open water swimming. James stated this was a very bad year for open water swimming, with several events being cancelled either due to water temperature or unsafe weather conditions. USMS will be implementing new rules for open water swimming effective 1/1/2017. For events 5K or below, a water temperature over 88+ degrees will result in the event being cancelled. For events over 5K, the water temperature must be below 85+ degrees. Another rule change will be the age group determination, which will now mirror the long course meter rules, where the age is determined as of 12/31 of any given year. The same rule will also apply to ePostals and long distance events. The 1 hr ePostal event will be held in January and February. Other events will be a 5K and 10K open water event in the summer, a marathon swim around Needle Key on April 22, a 10 mile swim in June, and a 2.4 mile swim in Chattanooga, TN. Due to Pan Ams being held in Orlando, FL in 2018, no bid was awarded for a USMS LCM national meet.

Registrar Report

There are 576 Wisconsin Masters swimmers registered with USMS. USMS started a program for those swimmers who register in Sept through Oct in 2016, that offers a discounted fee to register for 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the discounted fee will be available for swimmers registering in Aug through Dec, of 2017, to cover 2017 and 2018. There were 10 Wisconsin swimmers who took advantage of this in September.

Safety Report

Jerry Lourigan pointed out that there have been swimmers diving into the water during warmups, instead of the feet first entry. There was discussion as to what could be done about this. It was agreed that meet directors should place a laminated card stating Feet First Entry, No Diving on the each block at the end of the lane. USMS should also be coming out with a safety video at the time of registration. Jerry will include a reminder about safety in the newsletter.

Secretary Report

No report.

Records Report

John stated he receives the meet results and updates the state records as needed.

Meet Directors Report

No report.

Convention Delegates Report

Dave summed up what was stressed at the convention, stating that each person is an ambassador for the sport of swimming.

Jeanne stated that USMS is creating new strategies, since there is now a new Executive Director. She also stated that there are currently 63,000 registered swimmers in USMS. There are also college club initiatives, new marketing strategies, brand initiatives.

Old Business

1. On-line entries have been going well using Club Assistant. It's possible for clubs to work with Club Assistant to directly receive their portion of the fees.
2. There is a project to collect swimmer stories, especially legacy swimmers for USMS history, along with a WMSE Hall of Fame proposal.
3. Jeanne also thanked board members for attending our local meets.
4. Nominations were made for the Dorothy Donnelly and Kerry O'Brien awards, which will be awarded at the USMS Convention.
5. There is a request for meet directors to send an article to the newsletter editor within 5 days of the meet.
6. Mail-Chimp is a free email service being used to send notices and a link to members. Jeanne is looking into obtaining utilization statistics.

New Business

Fred Russell gave a report on Greensboro's SCY national meet. It was a well run meet with about 1800 swimmers. WMAC, as a regional team had about 34 swimmers, and finished 3rd. There were 6 newbies, several swimmers who live out-of-state who swim for WMAC, and 11 Elmbrook swimmers. The number of Elmbrook swimmers is not the majority of those going to the national meet, contrary to some opinions. We had 6 national championships, Lori Alioto, Andrew Babcock, Bob Corris, Nancy Kranpitz, Sarah Perez, and Trina Schaez. Dean Fochios also set a number of new state freestyle records. Fred also recognized John Bauman and Dave Clark for their help at national meets, and stated he could not handle watching swimmers if John and Dave had not helped with organizing. The day for a coach for WMAC is on deck for 10 hr a day for 4 days straight. In 2017, about 40-45 swimmers are anticipated to swim in Riverside, CA. One other job has been to set up relays, and having to substitute swimmers and reorganize relays when swimmers do not show up.

The annual meeting for 2017 will be held on Sept 23, which follows the USMS convention. The deadline for declaring as a delegate will be June 1, 2017.

Registration for 2017 will give 2 options. New swimmers can either register in Aug for the remainder of 2016 and all of 2017, or wait until Nov 1 to register for 2017. Snail mail can also be used to register. The LMSC fee portion of registration is \$13.

The 2016-2017 short course meet schedule was presented. The Whitefish Bay meet will be held Sunday, Mar 5. Sr. Olympics will be Sunday, Sept 10, to broaden the choice of officials from which to choose. The Badger State games will be a recognized meet held in Wausau in the summer. IL will again hold its state meet in Pleasant Prairie. Dave Clark motioned to accept the meet schedule. James Biles seconded it, and it was approved by the body.

James Biles motioned, and Dave Clark seconded to add coach clinics and officials certification to the policy for reimbursement. The LMSC will now reimburse fees for ALTS, coach clinics, coach certification, and officials certification. The motion was accepted by the body.

Mike Murray motioned, "If there is no prior authorization to attend a clinic, then reimbursement will be reduced to no more than 50% of the fees charged for said clinic." James Biles seconded the motion, and the body accepted the motion.

Mike Murray motioned and James Biles seconded that "candidates for reimbursement must be members of the WI LMSC."

James Biles motioned and Dave Clark seconded to table the proposal to reimburse clinic director's fees. The body voted to table the proposal.

Dave Clark motioned and James Biles seconded to move to the topic of elections. The body approved the motion.

John Bauman moved and Bob Corris seconded the motion to nominate Trina Schaetz as the Registrar.

Dave Clark moved and James Biles seconded to accept by acclamation all nominations for board positions, with the exception of the Registrar. Motion passed. The following members were elected to the Board:

Chair: James Biles

Vice Chair: Jeanne Seidler

Past Chair: Dick Pitman

Secretary: Mary Schneider

Treasurer: Mike Murray

Officials: Susan Wagner

Coaches: Dave Clark

Newsletter: Mary Schneider

Top Ten: Jeanne Seidler

Records: Jeanne Seidler

Sanctions: Jeanne Seidler

Web and Facebook: Mindy Seidler

Open Water and Long Distance: James Biles

Fitness: Melodee Nugent

Safety: Jerry Lourigan

Auditor: Elyce Dilworth

There was a ballot vote for Registrar after both candidates (Jeanne Seidler and Trina Schaetz) presented why they should be elected the Registrar. The ballots were counted, and Trina Schaetz was declared the winner. James Bile moved and Dave Clark seconded to destroy the ballots. Motion passed.

Bob Corris presented a proposal to create an ad hoc committee chair position for USMS national meets. Reimbursement could be consistent with USMS rule 102.3d. James Biles stated the intent of that rule was for a committee to get bids for championship meets and to act as a liaison with meet hosts. Bob stated there is more involvement by a coach for WMAC than just coaching and organizing relays. There was some discussion as to why we need to reimburse a coach position for nationals.

James Biles suggested a committee be formed to change the by-laws to create a national meet coordinator as a board position. Dave Clark stated this could be a similar position to Water Warriors. Trina Schaetz reiterated this was not intended to have one club take over the team going to nationals. James moved, and Dave Clark seconded "to amend the by-laws to create a permanent board position of a national team coordinator." The body accepted the proposal. Bob Corris amended the proposal to state, "to represent the interests of WMSC and its members with respect to and attendance at USMS national championship pool events." Dave Parkins stated the foundation of swimming in WI is to have a group at nationals. There was further discussion, and rule 507.1.1 was brought up. Jeanne stated this rule doesn't apply to the proposal presented. James motioned to call the question, and Dave seconded it. The body approved the amendment. Jeanne stated she would like to see precise duties associated with the proposed position. James moved to table the motion until precise definition and responsibilities and legal process is followed according to the by-laws, until the continuation of the annual meeting in December. Bob amended and Dave seconded an amendment stating, "the description shall be consistent with other standing committees as in WMSC by-laws 103.4g. The motion was accepted. James, Bob, and Dave will be members of the committee to bring the proposal to the December annual meeting continuation meeting.

Dave Clark moved to develop a club development committee, and James Biles seconded the motion. The motion was accepted, but the definitions will be tabled until the December meeting.

Dave Clark moved, James Biles seconded that "The LMSC will pay \$50 of the sanctioning fee for the Senior Olympics meet, a recognized meet, and Senior Olympics will pay \$50." The motion was accepted.

An email will be sent to local meet hosts, information them they are able to set their own meet fees. It was suggested they raise the fees from \$4 to \$5 per event.

There was a reminder that anyone not signing up with a sub-club will be assigned to WMAC. However, if the swimmer wishes to change clubs, there is a 60 day waiting period after the date of the last competition.

At the December meeting, James will propose a once a year newsletter to be printed and mailed to all members. It will include the list of officers and the meet schedule.

The rest of the meeting agenda was tabled to the December meeting.

Dave moved, and James seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was accepted.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Schneider, Secretary