

**Minutes of Wisconsin Master Swim Committee Annual Meeting
October 3, 2009
Pabst Farms YMCA, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 P. M. by Chairperson Dick Pitman.

Fifteen members were present: John Bauman, Ray Diederich, Elyce Dilworth, Suzi Green, Eric Jernberg, Steve Justinger, Stacey Kiefer, Jerry Lourigan, Dick Pitman, Tim Potter, Brian Ruark, Fred Russell, Trina Schaetz, Jeanne Seidler, and Julie Van Cleave. Missing were: Nancy Krampitz, Ingrid Stine, and Sue Zblewski.

Suzi read the minutes from the last meeting. The report was MSA.

John gave the Registrar's report. Right now, we have 527 members. If this isn't a record, it is very close. There were 213 one-event registrations from the MOWS swim. The report was MSA. John also said that he will only mail registration forms to the people who did not register online last year.

Eric did not have a report for Sanctions. Instead, he reviewed the process of obtaining a sanction, which is to either get the form from him or to download it, and then send it and \$25.00 in to him. Eric also collects documentation of pool measurements. Right now, this information isn't all in one place, and Eric will try to get it all together.

There was no report from the Officials chair because Sue was absent.

Stacey gave the Fitness report. She was pleased with the number of participants in the annual Wisconsin Water Warriors, and the information for this year is already published. She can get forms to people if they need them. She reported that a team from Portage is going to do their own competition to try to get more swimmers involved in Masters Swimming. The consensus was that this would be a good way to draw swimmers into Masters. She also reported that Carthage Masters did the One-Hour swim in January as a team. She suggested promoting the One-Hour swim to the lap swimmers at our pools as a way to increase Masters awareness. One person could collect (and send in) forms for everyone. Jeanne suggested 5 year instead of 10 year age groups for the Wisconsin Water Warrior event. Involving even a few triathletes would lead to more triathletes joining Masters. She also reported that there are two new pools being built in the Kenosha area, and they may need help in setting up swimming programs.

Dick reported that we had eight attendees at the convention this year. All eight were present at the meeting. All eight were also delegates at the convention, giving Wisconsin eight votes! Dick also talked about outreach programs. At the convention, there was a lot of talk about recruiting from colleges and high schools. At the very least, information could be left with a team representative.

Jerry said that he went to a risk assessment workshop at the convention. He learned that Masters as a group has a very low incidence rate. Sadly, Wisconsin has had 3 or 4 deaths this year of athletes either participating in or training for triathlons. A lively discussion ensued about water safety. We discussed (in no particular order) insurance, underlying health issues, overestimation of swimming skills, the start of open water swims, possible minimum time standards to enter an event, and educating people about water safety. USMS now has a Safety Chair. The USMS Open Water/Long Distance Committee has split into two entities, and we are hoping to get direction from the national level on how to safely conduct open water events. Stacey mentioned that there are a couple of people in the Milwaukee area that hold open water clinics. We should ask potential meet directors what we could do to make them more comfortable holding an open water event.

There was no Newsletter report since Nancy was absent. She still wants submissions of articles and photos for the newsletter. Since Nancy does not have access to broadband internet service, she would like pictures downsized before submission. We hope to put submission guidelines (or a link to them) in a newsletter so everyone knows what to do and when to do it. As a group, we would also like to commend Nancy on what a good job she is doing on our newsletter. The Wisconsin newsletter was in the top seven nationally for "virtual" newsletters.

The next thing we discussed was the meet schedule for the coming year. What we have so far will appear at the end of this document. We have conflicting dates on a couple, and seemingly opposition to holding some meets in some places. Trina volunteered to look into high school groups whose members need volunteer hours. We could use some of those kids for timers. We also discussed changing the format of the State Championship meet. Right now, it really isn't any different from any other meet, except that it lasts two days. We considered purchasing medals instead of ribbons, and doing some kind of recognition for people who had set records. Stacey said she would check with Kiefer to see if we could get a discount on medals, caps, water bottles, or some other items for "goody bags". Jeanne will do the entries for the State Championship Meet. The tentative meet schedule was approved.

Jeanne suggested, and I think everyone agrees, that we should meet more often than once per year.

USMS sent Ray some guidelines on how to redo the website, and he has made some improvements. He would like additional (and up to date) photos. Jeanne mentioned that Club Assistant could set up websites. They are also able to manage documents. That seems like a good idea since our documents are all over the place and not up to date. We decided to table this discussion and appoint a task force to look into it. Jeanne and Ray comprise the task force.

USMS fees are going up by \$2 this year. It was MSA that we raise all of our fees \$2 to cover this increase.

We also discussed communication, or lack thereof. I had emailed all WMSC members a week ago reminding them about this meeting. My plan was to do this kind of reminder before meets and other important deadlines. Jeanne thought a meet reminder was a good idea. Apparently, though, the secretary is not allowed to use Club Assistant to do this task. John will need to be the "send out" person if there is a mailing to be done. It was pointed out that if anyone is interested in coaching materials, they can sign up on the USMS site for the coach newsletter.

Dick briefly discussed the 2009 MOWS (open water swim). The weather was good, there were no problems, and we made money. WMAC bid for and was awarded the National Championship Open Water Swim (1-3 miles) for 2011. Madison Area Masters will need help for the 2010 and 2011 MOWS swims. We are expecting 500 next year, and perhaps as many as 600 in 2011. There was some thought about limiting the number of entrants. We wondered if there could be a "volunteer sign-up" spot on the registration page on Club Assistant. We will be looking into this.

WMSC is trying to figure out a succession plan. We all thought it was a good idea if officers and chairs wrote brief job descriptions. That way, a potential volunteer would have an idea if a position was something that he or she could do. Nancy will be collecting those. There are guidelines in the bylaws for these various positions. Dick wants someone to replace him as the Coaches Chair. Fred Russell was volunteered, and it was MSA that WMSC would pay his full USMS membership for 2010 because of his new position. USMS has unveiled their LMSC guidelines, and WMSC knows that we need to have a vice-chair and an assistant registrar for starters. Trina volunteered and was quickly nominated for assistant registrar.

Our LMSC lost a few members this year, and there was some confusion about what would be an appropriate memorial for such members. It was moved that WMSC donate to the USMS Endowment Fund \$50 for a deceased active member, and \$25 for a deceased previously active member. This motion was seconded and approved.

We discussed the convention in Dallas next year. Previously we had sent 6 members to locations where flying was necessary. We sent 8 members to Chicago since transportation was cheap. John moved and Jeanne seconded that we send 8 members to Dallas next year. This was approved.

Our next order of business was election of officers. Julie Van Cleave was nominated as the Open Water Chair. Trina was nominated as the Assistant Registrar. Fred was nominated as the Coaches Chair. With those exceptions, everyone else was voted back into office. The officers are:

Chairperson-Dick Pitman
Treasurer-Ingrid Stine
Registrar-John Bauman
Assistant Registrar-Trina Schaetz
Secretary-Suzi Green
Sanctions-Eric Jernberg
Top Ten-Jeanne Seidler
Records-John Bauman
Webmaster-Ray Diederich
Newsletter-Nancy Krampitz
Safety-Jerry Lourigan
Fitness-Stacey Kiefer
Coaches-Fred Russell
Open Water-Julie Van Cleave
Officials-Sue Zblewski

The tentative meet schedule is as follows:

December 5, at West Bend SCM
January 17, at either Oshkosh or Oconomowoc (the other will be some other time)
February 14, at Madison East YMCA
April 10-11, State Championship Meet at Schroeder
March ?, at Baraboo
February or March?, Wauwatosa?

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Suzi Green
Secretary, WMSC