

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Northwest Zone

Committee Chair: Jill Wright

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: March 4, 2024, 6 pm MST

Actions taken: MSA to approve Sawtooth Masters' bid to host the 2024 NW Zone Open Water Championship

Number of committee members present: 15

Absent: 1

Guests: N/A

Attendees: AK: unrepresented, IW: Robert Heath, Paige Buehler, Dave Cabrey, Mike Hamm, MT: Jeanne Ensign, OR: Tim Waud, Christina Fox, Joy Ward, Bob Bruce, PN: Sally Dillon, Kathy Casey, SR: Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright, UT: Bruce Schroeder, Jerry Treiman

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 Mountain time.

A. General Business

1. Actions between meetings: The minutes of the December 10, 2023 meeting were approved via email.
2. Chair report: Jill referred to her report that appeared in the Zone Chatter newsletter.
3. Financial report: Ken Winterberger reported via email. The only expense since the last meeting was the \$50 annual fee for web hosting. It was posted March 1 and was paid to Matt Miller. Current balance in the zone's account is \$8569.92.
4. Webmaster report: Dave Cabrey updates the website as soon as he receives new information. Jill noted an error in the "year" associated with the Chatter newsletters.
5. Records report: Steve Darnell reported via email that all NW Zone record files are up to date, with information through 3/3/24. He will update the Zone SCM records soon after the March 9/10 meet in Oregon City. LMSC record keepers are reminded to update their own LMSC records after each meet and to notify Steve when new Zone records have been set.
6. Zone Chatter report: Christina Fox apologized for the late request for newsletter info. She was thanked for producing another excellent Chatter!
7. Secretary report: Sally noted that the December minutes are posted on the USMS website. Wearing another "hat", she reported that she has ordered new 2nd place ribbons, as approved at the last meeting. She is waiting on the final paperwork and noted that the price per ribbon increased by 2¢ per.
8 NW Zone At Large Director report: Paige returned from the USMS BOD meeting earlier today. It was held in Houston, and she noted that the contract to meet at that location ends at the end of this year.
 - The national office staff is working hard to find ways to meet the USMS Mission by increasing the reach to adults in various age groups, stages of their life, etc.
 - Product updates – Grown Up Swimming – Brian Robbins is the "head grownup" and is on track hiring meet managers in new meet locations (18-21 leagues anticipated this year). Three California locations are being pushed and Austin, TX. College Club Swimming – considering a few changes to structure and looking at ways to track membership crossover to USMS. Bridge membership has been difficult to manage. A combined meet was held in Rhode Island where CCS and USMS raced together (by time). An idea to skip the bridge membership to allow CCS members to compete in USMS meets is being considered. Paige thinks both organizations are insured with the same provider. USMS members would also be able to swim in the events they host, allowing USMS to get back on college campuses.
 - 2024 Annual Meeting will be completely virtual. 2025 will be completely in person.
 - Volunteer Relay coincides with the USM National Coaching Clinic. The two events will start together and then separate into tracks. Coaches can attend Relay events, but Relay attendees cannot attend coaches events. Relay theme in 2024 is "Community Development".
 - Task Forces are looking at what the Records and Tabulation and History and Archives committees are doing and how that might be done differently. Paige said H&A had well thought out suggestions. The Elections Committee has revamped their guidelines and compressed the timeline. Changes were

approved at a previous meeting. Nominations will be due May 1 instead of March 1 and all forms will be online.

- Paige noted that this is her final year as an AL Director. She encouraged interested individuals to contact her about the time commitments and other information. Jeanne and others complimented Paige on a fine job as our director!

- The finance committee wants to end the paper copy of Swimmer Magazine. Printing and mailing costs are expensive (\$150K annually). Goal is for a break-even USMS budget, and this is a significant expense. A straw poll was taken and only one person present preferred a digital version.

9. NW Zone Championship events: There have been no bids for the SCY Zone meet and no one present indicated a meet in their LMSC that would like to be the host. Sawtooth Masters submitted a bid to host the 2024 OW Zone Championship. The bid document was distributed before the meeting. The June 29, 2024 event would be held at Broadside Harbor in Caldwell, ID. This is a water-ski area, and the event has existed for at least 12 years. Water quality is good, and the temperature should be in the mid-70's. It was MSA to approve Sawtooth Masters' bid to host the 2024 NW Zone Open Water Championship. The LCM ZC meet will be held a week later in Federal Way, WA (7/6&7). Puget Sound Masters is expected to submit a bid for the SCM ZC meet before the next meeting. That meet will be in Federal Way in November.

B. New Business

1. Connecting our zone volunteers: Membership chairs and webmasters were connected since the last meeting. Jill noted that she mentored the meet director for a meet recently held in Boise. Sally suggested that the Sanctions chairs should be a good resource for meet directors. She also offered to help connect other LMSC positions as needed.

2. Zone funds: Jill encouraged the smaller LMSCs to utilize the zone's funds to increase attendance at Volunteer Relay and/or convention. The number of LMSC eligible participants at the Relay is the same as the number of delegates each LMSC has for the annual meeting. USMS pays for the hotel and the LMSC pays for transportation and the \$250 registration fees. The Zone fund can assist the attendance of LMSC members at these events and it can also be used to help pay expenses for ALTS and coaching clinics. The application form is on the zone website. Jill suggested applications be submitted by May 31st for the fall event so they can be approved at the June meeting. Jeanne said the national office has funding for additional attendees at Relay for the smaller LMSCs.

3. Zone gathering in person: Jill noted that the USMS Annual Meeting is September 13-15 this year. Since it is completely virtual, she asked if anyone had suggestions for when we can get together for an in-person gathering outside of the meeting. Jill noted a few suggestions that had been considered previously, but there wasn't a consensus. Jeanne suggested we focus on arriving a day early in 2025, like we did in 2023. It was also suggested that we use zone funds this year to ensure each LMSC can send their full number of members to Relay.

4. Removal of committee member names from the 2024 USMS Rule Book: Sally brought up her concern that this year's hard copy of the rules does not contain the list of USMS National committee members. She considers the listing of names to be important for historical purposes and noted that she has a complete collection of rule books and has referred to them hundreds of times in her role on the Recognition and Awards committee. It was suggested that likely, USMS President Ed Coates did not think it necessary to make the committee assignments in time for the printing deadline because the new members didn't begin serving on the committee until January. Sally noted that all previous presidents have managed to form the committees in time to be included in the rule book. She assisted Jim Miller with the task when he was president, and she was secretary. The task has always been one of the USMS president's first priorities. It was unclear if others on the call were as concerned as Sally was.

5. Next meeting: Jill asked if the change to a Monday meeting would be a problem and there were no objections. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3.

MSA to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm MST.