

Committee Name: Finance Committee

Session #1

Report #13

Committee Chair: Jeanne Ensign

Vice Chair: Laszlo Eger

Minutes recorded by: Laszlo Eger

Date of meeting: Sep. 11, 2013

Motions Passed – FC voted unanimously to remove #4037 Fees - Club Collections Processing of \$7,000 from 2014 Budget, while requesting National Office to maintain the current service letter for Clubs in 2014 and then to come back with proposals for the future early in 2014.

Number of committee members present: 14

Absent: 4

Number of others present: 11

Committee members present: Jeanne Ensign (Chair), Laszlo Eger (Vice-Chair), Thomas Boak, David Burgio, Joan Campbell, Ralph Davis (Treasurer, ex-officio), Elyce Dilworth, Phil Dodson, Betsy Durant, Harry Greenfield, Lucy Johnson, Susan Kuhlman (CFO, ex-officio), Sarah Welch, Laura Winslow

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm PDT.

1. FC Members introduced themselves.
2. Since 2012 Convention, the FC approved the following over budget items for 2013:
 - a. 12/19/12: \$191,000 to cover increased cost of the liability insurance premium.
 - b. 3/5/13: \$20,000 for the Open Water Committee to administer an OW Insurance Surcharge Relief Rebate Program.
 - c. 5/8/13: \$3,000 to send Mel Goldstein to the FINA Masters Technical Congress in Barcelona.
 - d. 6/2/13: \$5,700 for an insurance risk assessment by an outside firm.
3. Audit – Elyce Dilworth confirmed that with regard to the 2012 audit, USMS received an “unmodified” opinion from Kerkering, Barberio & Co. (K&B).
4. The committee discussed the following questions/issues regarding 2014 Budget and 5-year Plan:
 - a. USAS Industry Initiative (line 5720) of \$25K. After brief discussion and explanation by Rob B., FC continues to support. Gives ‘adult swimming’ a voice at the table, along with USAS, Speedo, et al.
 - b. Susan K. explained the proposed Club collections processing fees of \$7,000 which would affect 26 clubs. FC felt that the notice of this sent out in mid-August does not give the concerned clubs enough time to properly weigh and react. Tom Boak made a motion to pull this amount from the 2014 budget, while requesting the National Office maintain the current level of service at no cost to the Clubs concerned, and to present a plan in early 2014 for the future. The motion was seconded by Lucy J. and, after discussion, unanimously approved by the FC.
 - c. The travel of National Office staff to Nationals was questioned, the Chair and others confirmed, again, that it is not the role of the FC to micromanage the National Office and that the Executive Director has the authority to decide - within budgeted limits.
 - d. There was extensive discussion on the reasonableness of the projected 3% increase in membership for 2014, past and proposed National Office staffing levels, and the broader issue of a cost/benefit analysis, comparing past and projected expense levels with achieved and anticipated benefits of this spending to USMS.
 - i. The Chair proposed working on development of metrics/standards of measurements to evaluate/monitor effectiveness of programs.
 - ii. Rob B. emphasized that all this spending is in line with the Strategic Plan that has been adopted and that we are all working with. He indicated that significant milestones have been reached – and are detailed in the Strategic Plan Update he handed out. He will also detail to HOD in his speech on Thursday.
 - iii. It was learned that the BOD has approved an annual dues increase of \$2/member for years 2015-2019. FC will discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. PDT.
