

## Open Water Committee Meeting Sunday, February 13, 2011

**Call to Order:** 8:03 PM Eastern

**Attendance:** Present—Lynn Hazlewood, Glenda Carroll, Michael Collins, Malcolm Cooper, Dave Diehl, Heather Hagadorn, Jon Harnett, Lauri Hug, Karen Kaussner, Frank Marcinkowski, Fred Pigott, John Traynor, Jim Wheeler. Absent—Lisa Bennett, Marcia Cleveland, Mark Gill, Katherine Longwell, Rick Walker.

### Action Items:

1. **MSA** the minutes for the January 9, 2011 meeting.
2. **MSA** to send the Sanction Guidelines to the Long Distance committee for approval of distribution and implementation of the guidelines as defined in Article 101 of the OW GTO.
3. The committee agreed to review the status, fee structure and Implementation of the One Event Registration and prepare a proposal for the HOD in September.

### Minutes:

1. The minutes for the 1/9/2011 meeting were approved as amended and will be forwarded to the USMS Secretary for posting (Glenda Carroll motion, Fred Pigott second).
2. Email Lists: The chair announced that all OW email lists (ow@usms.org, owclinics@usms.org) will now automatically reply to sender. Previously, the lists replied to the whole list, but this caused some confusion when interfacing with the LD committee.
3. Sanction Guidelines—Dave Diehl asked the BOD to review the Sanction Guidelines during their recent mid-year meeting. The BOD did not go into detailed discussion at that time. The BOD will review the document and provide feedback. Given that a) the committee has waited for three months to move forward with sanction guidelines; b) the sanction guidelines define an implementation of already published sanction code (Article 203); and c) the Long Distance committee has authority over administration of Open Water swimming (Article 301.1.1), the committee **MSA** to send the Sanction Guidelines to the Long Distance committee for approval to distribute and implement the guidelines as defined in Article 101 of the OW GTO (Jim Wheeler motion, Michael Collins second).
4. Safety Guidelines—Dave Diehl asked the BOD to review the Safety Guidelines during their recent mid-year meeting. The BOD did not go into detailed discussion at that time. The BOD will review the document and provide feedback. They asked that the guidelines not be distributed to the public at this time.
5. Open Water Safety Conference—Members of the Open Water committee intending to attend the conference are Lynn Hazlewood, Glenda Carroll, Jim Wheeler, Laurie Hug, Frank Marcinkowski and John Traynor. Jim Wheeler commented that it is good that USMS is taking the lead, because we have a more high risk group of people.
6. One Event Registration—The BOD would like the "Open Water committee to review the current One Event Fees for open water events and provide a recommendation (which could be change nothing) to the HOD in September (*Email from Jeff Moxie, January 30, 2011*). The chair suggested that we consider the whole issue of the OEVT and its value for USMS. After a preliminary discussion of the potential benefits of the OEVT for event development, membership development and income development, the committee agreed to review the status, fee structure and Implementation of the One Event Registration.

7. Open Water Clinics—The chair reported that the Finance committee approved release of the funds for a limited clinic plan. We will run a test clinic to prove the viability of the plan and follow up with two additional clinics. Jim Wheeler pointed out that Northern California was not listed as a potential clinic site and it will be added to the list. Other committee members commented that the verbiage in the clinic plan document seemed to imply that the clinics were only for elite swimmers. This is not the intention and marketing copy will be written to ensure that swimmers at all levels will be welcome.
8. Clinics Coordination—During the discussion of the open water clinics, the committee noted that there are a number of elements in USMS currently operating clinics independently of each other. It may be useful to have some sort of coordination of the clinic efforts to avoid duplication and overlap and provide a means of promoting USMS clinics as part of an integrated program. The chair agreed to provide Dave Diehl a statement that he can take to the EC.
9. National Ranking System—John Traynor reported on progress on the national ranking system. The objective is to have a top ten rank for open water that will promote open water swimming and encourage swimmers to join USMS. The committee discussed basic principles that are under consideration for the ranking system. It should be noted that some of these may be adjusted as development proceeds.
  - a) The 2011 open water season will be used for data collection and experimentation. Unofficial rank achieved in competition will be published after the season is complete. Publication, even if unofficial, may encourage event directors to participate in the data collection process.
  - b) Only USMS full members will be eligible for rank.
  - c) The ranking season will run from January 1 through December 31 each year.
  - d) Ranking will come from USMS sanctioned events only.
  - e) The system will be initially based on the current All-Star Team selection process (Article 307.12). This method includes points assignment methods, age group determination when a swimmer ages up during the year, and allowance for ties. There will not be a minimum number of events required to achieve rank and all sanctioned open water events will be included. The committee had a lengthy discussion about how to resolve or account for the disparity in the availability of open water events and competitors across the country. This is an issue that may be resolved once data collection is complete and other calculation methods tested.
  - f) The question of including participation points as well as competition points was discussed, but not resolved.
  - g) The question of handling different scoring divisions remains to be addressed.
10. Event Results DB—Definition of data collection for the Event Results Database will be worked on for the next meeting. The data and its format will be dependent on what is needed for the ranking system, national records, all-Americans, all-Stars and data needed for the national championships results collection process. Data for national championships has been collected each year for at least a decade or more. The new collection requirements should be created as an extension of the existing process so national championship hosts do not have to work with two systems.
11. Swimming Saves Lives Fund—The Chair noted that requests for grants from the Swimming Saves Lives Fund are due by June 1 and asked for any suggestions for proposals committee members may want us to consider.

12. Michael requested that email addresses for task leaders be included on the agenda in the future, so that we can send them messages during the meeting. A method will be worked out for facilitating communication.

13. Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2011, 8:00 PM EST.

**Adjournment:** 9:30 PM Eastern