

Committee Name:	Open Water	Session #:	1	Report #:	1
Committee Chair:	Lynn Hazlewood	Vice Chair:	Rob Copeland		
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time of meeting:	Sunday, Nov 4, 8:00 PM EST		

Action Items:

1. No motions passed.
2. Lynn will check to make sure USMS is using the same webinar company (gotomeeting.com) and set the Safety Subcommittee up for a 30-day trial period in November.
3. Committee members should turn in their subcommittee choices by November 5.

Number of committee members present: 16

Absent: 6

Number of other delegates present: 0

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Lynn Hazlewood (Chair), Rob Copeland (Vice Chair), Malcolm Cooper, Dave Diehl, Donn Livoni, Chris Lundie, Don Mehl, Sue Nutty, Dave Oplinger, Bill Roach, Heather Rodriguez, Heather Stevenson, John Traynor, Joanne Wainwright, Karin Wegner, Jim Wheeler

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. EST

1. Call to order and attendance
2. **Report from the Chair**—Lynn Hazlewood—The National Office is developing an OW logo and an OW National Championships logo. Samples should be available in the near future for review by the Open Water Logo Ad-hoc Task Group, which includes leadership of Open Water & Long Distance Committees. A subcommittee sign-up sheet was sent to committee members and is due Monday, November 5. There was a discussion regarding committee members and a need for concrete contributions from members of sub-committees rather than the chair doing the bulk of the work. The 2011-2012 committee decided during the convention meeting to put a priority on the Safety Education Project, Clinics and National Service Award projects because they all involve some funding.
3. **Safety Subcommittee report**—Jim Wheeler—reported that webinar PowerPoint presentation went out at Convention and was sent out for comments. Did not receive many comments. Will send out again for comments. Would like a timeline from Lynn when she would like this project completed. The tentative schedule would be to run a test webinar in November and repeat it for a wider audience in January, February and March 2013. Discussion took place about the company USMS is using for webinar services and the 30-day trial period. Lynn will check to make sure USMS is using the same company. Jim would like a core of people to get the ball rolling. The primary goal is to make safety a priority in OW events. Jim agrees with OWC Safety Subcommittee interfacing through the Long Distance Committee Liaisons for expertise reviews and oversight support of the six 2013 OW National Championship event Safety/Medical Plans. John Traynor mentioned the four basic elements envisioned for the OW NC safety expertise interface with the OW NC event Host and Liaison: 1) document reviews 2) teleconference calls, 3) safety education webinar(s), and 4) onsite event observation & assist. Details will be developed/shared later. The question of who are we trying to educate was asked by Bill Roach. The webinars are geared towards event directors and safety, but will be multi-prong to include swimmers and event officials (e.g., referees, safety coordinators). Communication will involve 1) discussion forum for OW safety, 2) clinics developed to address swimmer safety and 3) YouTube videos created that will address specific aspects of OW events, such as circling buoys correctly, etc.
4. **Communications Subcommittee**—need to develop ways to communicate with OW community (e-mail news bulletins, editorial calendar, forum). Discussed whether to use USMS forum or other forum, such as yahoo, etc., due to advantages and disadvantages of both types of forums.
5. **Event Officials Subcommittee**—Bill Roach (chair). Bill would like volunteers on the committee and feedback on manuals. There is a need to integrate information/materials from one committee to another committee (example: long distance and open water).
6. **Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee**—Involves the development of materials to be used for education in OW swimming. There are two old manuals that need to be updated (Open Water Manual and Clinics Manual). Rob Copeland brought up the need for the OW committee discussion forum and Lynn Hazlewood commented that she is in the process of setting one up for our committee. The USMS Guide to Operations contains OW operations; Lynn indicated that we have been building this document and that the OW manual is being modularized so each major topic has its own section in the OWGTO.

7. **Swimmer Training Subcommittee**—Project for this committee is to distribute \$500 grants to event hosts who sponsor clinics associated with championship events (USMS National and Zone) and to promote the inclusion of offering clinics nationwide. The goal is to encourage OW swimming and educate swimmers in this area. This subcommittee may also work with the Coaches Committee. John Traynor commented on the status of the response and current interest from the eight USMS Zone Chairs and what they might plan to do in 2013.
8. **Recognition and Awards Subcommittee**—Three projects: 1) National Service Award 2) OW Ranking System, and 3) Challenge system for fitness swimmers. We must apply to Awards and Recognition by July 1, 2013 to present the service award at the 2013 Convention. This subcommittee will come up with criteria for this service award and will be working on the challenge system and point system once the open water event results database is available.
9. **Legislation & Rules Subcommittee**—Bob Bruce (chair). Lynn would like our committee to start writing our own code and being pro-active in creating our own proposals. Lynn would like us to look at legislation to insure that the outcome of policies benefits open water development and USMS. Malcolm Cooper said he would be on this subcommittee.
10. **Innovation Subcommittee**—We need people to brainstorm ways to make our product more interesting and exciting to swimmers and sponsors. We need people on this committee to “look outside of the box.” Lynn mentioned that Rob Butcher said sponsors are looking for opportunities to promote USMS OW swimming. Karin Wegner volunteered to be on this committee.
11. Next Meeting—scheduled for December 9 at 8 p.m. EDT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM EST
