

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, Jan. 6, 8:00 PM EST	

Action Items:

1. Minutes from Dec. 9 meeting approved. Motion: Rob Copeland 2nd: John Traynor
2. Motion made to approve that the Open Water Task Force (OWTF) will have the power to speak for the OWC in between regular meetings of the OWC. Motion: Bob Bruce 2nd: John Traynor
3. Motion made to the USMS Sanction Open Water Task Force (SOWTF) to recommend that propeller guards have full cages. Motion: Jim Wheeler 2nd: John Traynor.
4. Bill Roach will send his documents to the OWC for review prior to the February meeting.
5. Lynn Hazelwood will send a FAQ to the SOWTF on how insurance costs may affect OW clinics.

Number of committee members present: 16	Absent: 5	Number of other delegates present: 1
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Lynn Hazlewood (Chair), Bob Bruce, Rob Butcher, Glenda Carroll, Rob Copeland (Vice-Chair), Nadine Day, Dave Diehl, Donn Livoni, Chris Lundie, Sue Nutty, Bill Roach, Heather Rodriguez, Heather Stevenson, John Traynor, Joanne Wainwright, Jim Wheeler. Also present: Patty Miller.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. EST

1. Call to order and attendance
2. **Presentation by Patty Miller, USMS Legal Counsel** - Patty Miller discussed pending litigation involving an open water event. Patty informed that OWC that any questions regarding the incident should be directed to Rob Butcher or Patty Miller. She also expressed the importance of committee members to refrain from publishing specific information regarding the incident. She also emphasized that it is acceptable to discuss enhancing our open water product.
3. **Open Water Task Force** - Lynn has appointed a sub-committee called OWTF (Open Water Task Force), a consulting group that includes members from both Open Water and Long Distance committees. This group will handle issues that require immediate or relatively quick resolution and will be empowered to act for the OWC. The group will prepare responses to recommendations and directives from the Board of Directors and will work with the OWC subcommittees in their work in support of open water event safety, management and oversight. Members include: Lynn Hazelwood (Chair), Rob Copeland, Donn Lavoni, John Traynor, Jim Wheeler, Bob Bruce, Bill Roach, and Karen Reeder. The committee **MSA**— The Open Water Task Force (OWTF) will have the power to speak for the OWC in between regular meetings of the OWC. Note: Colleen Driscoll was added after the meeting.
4. **Propeller guard sanction requirements.** Rob Copeland stated a ruling for 2013 OW events in which any motorized watercraft with a stern mount or outboard motor must have a propeller guard. There was a lengthy discussion regarding propeller guards. Topics included types of guards such as cage type vs. ring propeller guards, simple circumferential guards which cover only the outside plane of the propeller movement or a basket-type guard which provides more extensive overall coverage for swimmers. There was a discussion of safety and costs related to the type of guard ranging from \$300 for the simple guards to \$500 for the more complex designs. There was a discussion of advantages/disadvantages of Swim Guard vs. Swim Guard Pro. Lynn cited statistics from the United States Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics in which there were propeller related 58 accidents in 2011. It was mentioned that the U.S. Coast Guard has made a recommendation that all outboard motors should have propeller guards. The OWTF will make recommendations for the specifications for propeller guards.
5. **Insurance-related sanction fees** - Nadine Day and Rob Butcher shared information concerning a cost-sharing proposal of the \$1800 insurance fees for open water swims in 2013. In a meeting with the OWTF, the following two-tier fee structure was proposed: 1) Solo swims and long swims (Maui Channel, Tampa Bay Marathon, etc.) with escorted swims using propeller driven motorized escort craft - \$1800 to the LMSC; 2) Other sanctioned events - Event host-\$400, LMSC-\$600, and USMS- \$800.
6. **OWC Task Document** - Lynn Hazelwood addressed the Task Document she sent out prior to the meeting. She developed the document with the intent of bringing more integration between the OWC and the LMSCs. This led to a discussion in which Bill Roach mentioned the documents he sent out after the December meeting. He specifically addressed the document related to certifying safety directors. He suggested we train “trainers” at the national convention, and the trainers go around the country and conduct training seminars for safety directors and event referees.

He would like to see a certification for a Safety Director at OW events. The discussion later focused on the importance of implementing OW training and certification programs for event referees, safety directors, and event hosts. In an associated topic of the webinar company, Lynn expressed the importance of having one in place to run test webinars and webinars for the officials training. Lynn asked Bill if he would be interested in setting up a webinar for the safety director since Jim is doing a webinar for event hosts. Lynn also requested that Bill send out his documents again and label them according to order and type of document. The OWC will be discussing his documents at the next meeting. Lynn asked Bill to make sure his documents are in agreement with the other safety documents that have been published thus far. Bill agreed to send his policies manual as the first document.

7. **Clinic Grant Program** - John Traynor commented on the information he provided on the discussion forum regarding the Clinic Grant Program. As of January 5, 2013, 8 OW events have expressed interest in applying for 2013 USMS \$500 open water swimmer training clinic grants (we are budgeted for 6). There are 5 prospective 2013 USMS Zone OW Championships from the following zones: Breadbasket, Colonies, Dixie, Great Lakes, and Northwest) and 3 are OW National Championship event hosts: Lee County Gulf Coast Masters Swim Team - Miromar Lakes, FL (5K), Swim Las Vegas - Lake Mead, NV (10K), and Mission Viejo, CA - Pacific Ocean, Dana Point, CA (2.4-Miles). The clinics must be held in association with a zone or national championships in order to be eligible for grant money. Lynn wondered how insurance fees are going to effect clinics and thought perhaps they may have to be conducted in a classroom or a pool. She will send this as a FAQ to the OWTF regarding sanctioned clinics and how the insurance fees will affect clinics.
8. **Next Meeting**—scheduled for February 17 at 8 p.m. EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM EST