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|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Committee Name:</b>      | Open Water Committee |                    |                          |
| <b>Committee Chair:</b>     | Bob Bruce            | <b>Vice Chair:</b> | To Be Determined         |
| <b>Minutes recorded by:</b> | Joanne Wainwright    | <b>Date/time:</b>  | 12/10/2017 - 8:00 PM EST |

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|--|------------------|---|
| <b>Number of committee members present:</b> 17   | <b>Absent:</b> 1 | <b>Number of other delegates present:</b> 4 |
| <b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Bob Bruce (Chair), Sherry Brooks, Denise Brown, Mia Erickson Stevens, Lynn Hazlewood, Jenny Hodges Mark Johnston, James Kennedy, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Karen LeFebre, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Doug Sayles, Ally Sega, Joanne Wainwright, Allison Ware. <b>Ex-Officio/Associate Members:</b> Jay Eckert, Casey Keiber, Donn Livoni, David Miner. |                  |   |

### Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. EST
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.

### Action Items:

1. Bob Bruce to create spreadsheet of sub-committee members and communicate with members.
2. Sub-committee members to communicate prior to the January 14, 2018 meeting.

### Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce discussed the main thrust of 2018 which is to promote the development of open water swimming per rule 507.1.9. The committee will move forward with 2017 goals and measurements to set and approve goals for 2018 at the next meeting. Bob reviewed the schedule of meetings slated for 2018 and asked members to put them on a calendar.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Don Livoni, the liaison between the OWC and the BOD, welcomed committee members and reminded everyone that they must be registered with USMS for 2018 to be an active member. He reported that Dawson Hughes has been communicating with the CEO of USA Swimming working to strengthen the partnership between USA and USMS. Donn informed the committee that staff at National Office will be minimal during the holidays.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator—David Miner reported that four repeat events have been sanctioned for 2018, and there are 86 total certified safety directors.

**Subcommittees:** Bob solicited sub-committee choices from committee members. He will compile and email a spreadsheet listing final sub-committees. He would like sub-committee members to: 1. Get together through e-mail (preferably using the OW forum for communication). 2. Look at the purpose of the sub-committee. 3. Set goals for the committee. 4. Determine leadership. 5. Discuss topics to cover and work on with a timeline. See Action Item:.

1. Open Water Development & Promotion Subcommittee. Purpose: To generate real, actionable ways to develop and promote open water swimming. This is the central purpose in the committee definition. Chair & Members: TBD
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee. Purpose: To review, revise, format, and communicate the contents of the OWGTO. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: TBD
3. Rules & Legislation Subcommittee. Purpose: Working as a joint subcommittee with members from both OWC & LDC, examining & vetting rules proposals and bringing these proposals for consideration

to the OWC then the LDC (although proposing rules to the USMS HOD is an LDC function, we have chosen in recent years to have this group work across both committees for thoroughness). You have one assignment for the next meeting...to review (and comment on as necessary) part 3 of the 2018 USMS rulebook, which will be available on the OWC Forum shortly. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: TBD

4. Safety Education Subcommittee. Purpose: To review any new or ongoing business to the OWC relating to safety, and to review the documents and process of safety planning with the Open Water Safety Advisor. Chair & Members: TBD
5. Event Management Subcommittee. Purpose: To prepare material for seamless presentation of events and to develop the training a course on event development & management for Event Hosts/Event Directors (first piloted in presentation in 2015). Chair & Members: TBD
6. Officials Subcommittee. Purpose: To evaluate current practices in officiating USMS open water events and to develop materials to improve this. Chair & Members: TBD
7. Awards Subcommittee. Purpose: To manage the process for selecting our annual Open Water Service Award, and perhaps exploring the honoring of USMS open water "pioneers". Chair: Sue Nutty. Members: TBD
8. Open Water Swim Training Subcommittee. Purpose: To develop guidelines and materials for coaches to prepare swimmers for open water swims. I hear that the Coaches Committee is considering adding such material to the Coaching Certification program, so we may have an opportunity to work jointly with this committee. Chair & Members: TBD
9. Other? - IT Related - creating IT backup for our committee. Donn Livoni is going to be helping Bob Bruce with this area. A goal is to improve OW presence and accessible on the USMS website.

#### **New/Other Business:**

1. Bob Kolonkowski discussed the development of an OW swim in memory of Terry Laughlin, the founder of Total Immersion, who passed away on October 20, 2017. The date for the swim is TBD but may fall close to the Fire Island National Championships on July 7, 2018.
2. Referee Training and Test - Peter Lee asked about the status of this training, a USMS requirement for 2018 per 303.8.3. Bob reported that it is in draft form and will be discussed with David Miner and Laura Hamill prior to finalization. He hopes to have the training module ready by the end of December.

**Around-the-Table:** Regarding the following question, Bob stressed the importance our our commitment at the LMSC level. "Although you are serving on a national committee, your greatest task and bully pulpit strength lies in developing and promoting USMS open water swimming at the local and LMSC level. What are you doing NOW at the local or LMSC level to spread the word about USMS open water swimming in general and to encourage USMS open water swimming specifically for 2018?"

#### **Close:**

1. Next meeting: Sunday, January 14, 2018 - 8:00pm EDT
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:4p.m. Motion: Joanne Wainwright 2nd: Sue Nutty