

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee		
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Vice Chair:	Jim Kennedy
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time:	6/10/2018 - 8:00 PM EST

Number of committee members present:	12	Absent:	5	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present: Bob Bruce (Chair), Denise Brown, Mia Erickson Stevens, Lynn Hazlewood, Bob Kolonkowski, Peter Lee, Karen LeFebre, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Ally Sega, Marie Vellucci, Joanne Wainwright. Ex-Officio/Associate Members: Jay Eckert, Casey Keiber, David Miner				

#### Motions Passed:

1. MSA May 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes
2. MSA to recommend 303.3.2, 303.3.3B, 303.7.2C, 303.7.2E, 303.7.3D, 303.11.1, 303.11.2, and 303.11.3 as written to the LDC for approval.

#### Action Items

1. Sub-committee members will continue to communicate, working on their various projects.
2. Karen LeFebre to send draft of event management document to Bob Bruce.
3. Bob will look into the possibility of certification cards for USMS-certified OW officials.
4. Bob will appoint new OW Development & Promotion Subcommittee leadership.

#### Opening:

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm EST
2. Attendance was taken and a quorum was determined.
3. The minutes of the May 13, 2018 were approved by the OWC. Motion: Joanne Wainwright 2nd: Sue Nutty MSA

#### Reports:

1. Report from the Chair: Bob dolefully announced the loss of a swimmer on Saturday, May 26, 2018 during the Jim McDonnell 2 mile National Championship swim in Reston, VA. He extended his condolences to family members, the event host, and other persons associated with the event.
2. Report from USMS Vice President Donn Livoni: No report
3. Report from USMS Open Water Compliance Coordinator David Miner reported that we currently have 50 sanctioned races, 2 pending races; 51 certified safety directors and 31 certified referees. He offered the suggestion of a providing a certification card for these individuals. Bob stated that he would look into what happens with USMS pool officials.

#### Subcommittees:

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: Doug Sayles. Jim Kennedy, Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood, Mark Johnston, Karen LeFebre, Will Reeves. Report: No Report. Action Item to Bob: Reorganization of committee leadership needed.
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee. Purpose: To review, revise, format, and communicate the contents of the OWGTO. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood. Report: Peter Lee reported that he is creating an emergency management document outlining steps to be taken by the event director, referee, and safety director at an open water swim to provide clarity as to their specific roles and responsibilities in the event of a major emergency at an event.
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). Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves, Joanne Wainwright. Report and action: Bob asked for additional pulls from the seven articles highlighted in red. No pulls were added. Sue Nutty moved to recommend all seven proposals as written (303.3.2, 303.3.3B, 303.7.2C, 303.7.2E, 303.7.3D, 303.11.1, 303.11.2, and 303.11.3) to the LDC for approval. 2nd: J. Wainwright MSA

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 Compliance Coordinator. Chair: Bob Kolonkowski. Members: Jim Kennedy, Peter Lee. Bob Kolonkowski outlined 11 factors that may contribute positively or negatively to the safety of an OW event: 1) Venue: Hosts (local Parks & Rec, etc.) Are they cooperative? 2) Water Safety Staff - Is there enough staff and are they professionally trained? 3) Water Quality - may vary depending upon conditions, 4) Water Temperature, 5) Air Temperature, 6) Number of Entrants - may or may not be limited, 7) Medical staff, 8) Communication with entrants and staff 9) Course maps, 10) Safety of the course, and 11) Accountability of entrants. He commented that most of these topics are listed in the OWGTO but will vary depending upon the specific event.
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: TBD Members: Jenny Hodges, Karen LeFebre, Bob Bruce. Report: Karen reported that she will be getting together with committee members to review and update the Event Management document draft. Karen will send a copy of her latest draft of Bob by Wednesday, June 14, 2018. - Action Item
6. Officials Subcommittee. Purpose: To evaluate current practices in officiating USMS open water events and to develop materials to improve this. Chair: TBD. Members: Peter Lee, Marie Vellucci. Report: Bob Bruce got a draft of information from Rob Copeland and hopes to have a draft document ready by the next meeting.
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: Mia Stevens, Ally Segal, Joanne Wainwright. Report: Sue Nutty reported that there are two nominations, and the deadline is July 1, 2018.
8. Open Water Swim Training Subcommittee. Purpose: To develop guidelines and materials for coaches to prepare swimmers for open water swims. Chair: Mark Johnston. Members: Jim Kennedy, Mia Stevens, Sue Nutty, Will Reeves, Marie Vellucci. Report: No report.

Around-the-Table: 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.

Comments:

- Addition of obstacle course race as third swim in an event,
- Maryland Swim for Life - fundraising swim
- Incorporating 2.4 mile swim to bring in triathletes, number of groups swimming in the ocean at Jones Beach State Park and Robert Moses State Park, \$20 annual fee to swim at a lake.
- College club swimmers being introduced to OW swimming.

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, July 15, 2018 - 8:00pm EDT
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm EDT Motion: Joanne 2nd: Sue