

Committee Name:	Open Water Committee	Vice Chair:	Karen LeFebre
Committee Chair:	Bob Bruce	Date/time:	5/19/2019 - 8:00 PM EDT
Minutes recorded by:	Bob Bruce		

Number of committee members present:	Absent:	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Bob Bruce, Chair; Karen Lefebvre, VC; Denise Brown; Becky Cleavenger; Kim Elsbach; Rory Grigull; Lynn Hazlewood; Jenny Hodges; Mark Johnston; Bob Kolonkoski; Joe Linford; Andrew Magazine; Helen Naylor; Will Reeves. Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, Donn Livoni, David Miner.		

Call-in Information:

1. Date: Sunday, May 19, 2019
2. Time: 8:00pm EDT – 7:00pm CDT – 6:00pm MDT – 5:00pm PDT – 4:00pm ADT
3. Call-in Numbers
 - a) Toll call-in number (preferred, use this if possible): 518-530-1840
 - b) Toll-free call-in number (costs USMS, for callers without free long distance): 855-212-0212
4. Meeting ID: 642-003-782 (code for guests to use)
5. Host Code: 9403 (code for acting Chair to use)

Action Items:

Agenda:

Opening:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 EDT.
2. Attendance and determination of quorum: quorum was reached with 16 voting members present.
3. Approval of previous minutes: the minutes of the April 14, 2019, OWC meeting were approved.

Executive Reports:

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. Done during subcommittee reports.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni. Donn reported on the work of the UMS Open Water Strategic Task Force; topics included ongoing work on sanctioning, OEVT fee, partnership with USA-Triathlon for several events this year, and insurance. He answered several clarifying questions.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Safety Coordinator—David Miner. David reported that 49 events have been sanctioned this year (including 11 dual-sanctioned events with USA-Swimming) and noted that 38 Safety Directors and 60 Referees have achieved USMS certification. He answered questions about certification window (currently three years) and actual certificates (none yet).

Remaining OWC Meetings for 2019 (included here as an ongoing reminder): I expect 100% attendance because every voice matters on this committee. Recognizing that we are all busy adults with full and sometimes-chaotic lives, I'll allow one no-fault absence.

- Sun 16 Jun
- Sun 21 Jul
- Sun 18 Aug (if necessary)
- Thu 12 Sep at Convention

OWC goals & measurements for 2019: “The OWC goal is to promote the development of and participation in USMS open water swimming, and to support quality open water swimming experiences for adults in line with the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategy of USMS. The measurement of this goal will be the quantity of

events, swims, & splashes, the quality of those experiences, and other metrics that will help us measure our progress to accomplish these goals.”

Subcommittee Reports:

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: Chair: Will Reeves. Members: Denise Brown, Lynn Hazlewood, Jim Kennedy, Karen LeFebre, Joe Linford, Andrew Magazine. Report: Will Reeves gave a large report which stimulated much discussion. Communications: subcommittee favors a forum on the USMS website that included LMSC Chairs, LMSC Open Water/Long Distance Chairs, and OWC members (possibly LDC members too). Development: subcommittee favors information about open water practices to be included on the website, and publication and promotion of what groups are having open water practices in their local area. Club Finder: It was noted that clubs can add additional places to swim (i.e. open water practices) on the USMS website as well as LMSC & their own websites.
2. Open Water Guide to Operations (OWGTO) Subcommittee. Purpose: To review, revise, format, and communicate the contents of the OWGTO. Chair: Bob Bruce. Members: Becky Cleavinger, Lynn Hazlewood, Eric Hektner. Report: none, due to lack of time.
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: Becky Cleavinger, Lynn Hazlewood, Will Reeves. Report: none, due to lack of time.
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: Bob Kolonkowski. Members: Kim Elsbach, Rory Grigull, Jim Kennedy, Peter Lee. Report: Bob Kolonkowski emailed materials to teach member of the OWC for review.
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: Karen LeFebre. Members: Jenny Hodges, Joe Linford, Helen Naylor. Report: Karen LeFebre reported that the subcommittee has compiled a large draft for review.
6. Officials Subcommittee. Purpose: To evaluate current practices in officiating USMS open water events and to develop materials to improve this. Chair: TBD. Members: Rory Grigull, Peter Lee, Helen Naylor, Will Reeves. Also Jim Davidson from the LDC. Report: none, due to lack of time.
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: Jenny Hodges. Members: Bob Kolonkowski, Will Reeves. Report: Jenny Hodges has solicited LMSC Chairs & Open Water Chairs for nominees for the Open Water Service Award.
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: Mark Johnston. Members: Denise Brown, Kim Elsbach, Jim Davidson, Andrew Magazine, Helen Naylor, Kate Stephensen. Report: Report: Mark Johnston reported that he had set up a Google page for his subcommittee to review and annotate open water training material developed by various groups.

New/Other Business: None

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 2019?

Close:

1. Next meeting: Sunday, June 16, 2019 - 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm EDT.

Full OWC (Voting Members = 18; Quorum is Voting Members= 9; Ex Officio Members = 5)

Present	First Name	Last Name	LMSC	Email
Voting Members				
Y	Bob	Bruce	Oregon	coachbobbruce@gmail.com
Y	Karen	LeFebre	Pacific	karen@bigskyendurancesports.com
N	Kate	Andrup Stephensen	Virginia	kands606@gmail.com
Y	Denise	Brown	Michigan	dbrown@fillinghome.org
Y	Becky	Cleavenger	Pacific	beckycleavenger@yahoo.com
Y	Kimberly	Elsbach	Pacific	kdelsbach@ucdavis.edu
Y	Rory	Grigull	Florida Gold Coast	rory@paqswim.com
Y	Lynn	Hazlewood	Potomac Valley	lynhzlwd@icloud.com
Y	Eric	Hektner	Pacific	e.hektner@gmail.com
Y	Jenny	Hodges	So. Dakota	nifferannehodges@yahoo.com
Y	Mark	Johnston	Montana	coach@flowswimmers.com
N	James	Kennedy	Pacific	jbkzoomer@aol.com
Y	Bob	Kolonkowski	Metro	rpk248@netzero.com
Y	Peter	Lee	Potomac Valley	peter.lee@treasury.gov
Y	Joe	Linford	Utah	joeblinford@gmail.com
Y	Andrew	Magazine	Kentucky	andrewmagazine@yahoo.com
Y	Helen	Naylor	Southeastern	helen.naylor@vanderbilt.edu
Y	Will	Reeves	Utah	swimwill@gmail.com
Ex-Officio/Associate Members				
N	Bill	Brenner	NO	bbrenner@usmastersswimming.org
Y	Jay	Eckert	NO	jeckert@usmastersswimming.org
Y	David	Miner	NO	openwateradvisor@usmastersswimming.org
N	Ali	Hall	LDC Chair	mi.consult.ahall@gmail.com
Y	Donn	Livoni	Board	glenhollyfarm.livoni@gmail.com