

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Open Water Committee	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Karen LeFebre
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Bob Bruce	<b>Date/time:</b>	6/16/2019 - 8:00 PM EDT
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Bob Bruce		

**Number of committee members present: 12      Absent: 6      Number of other delegates present: 2**  
**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Bob Bruce, Chair; Karen LeFebre, VC; Denise Brown, Becky Cleavenger, Kim Elsbach, Lynn Hazelwood, Eric Hektner, Jenny Hodges, Mark Johnston, Bob Kolonkowski, Helen Naylor, Will Reeves. Ex-Officio: Jay Eckert, David Minor.**

### **Call-in Information:**

1. Date: Sunday, June 16, 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 8:02pm EDT.
2. Attendance and determination of quorum: quorum was reached with 12 voting members present.
3. Approval of previous minutes: the minutes of the May 19, 2019, OWC meeting were approved.

#### **Executive Reports:**

1. Report from the Chair—Bob Bruce. Report included in subcommittee reports below.
2. Report from USMS Vice President—Donn Livoni. No Report.
3. Report from USMS Open Water Safety Coordinator—David Miner. David has sanctioned 54 events for 2019. David asked us to consider how we recertify open water safety directors and referees after their three-year certification expires; some safety directors will need to be recertified in 2020 and referees in 2021.

**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 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 discussed methods of communicating with LMSC general & open water chairs (email vs forum), using Club Finder on the USMS website to list/discover who is hosting open water practices, and exploring the possibility of an open water practice calendar.
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: Bob reported that he is working on a new outline for open water information on the website, and will share that information draft with the subcommittee soon.
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: Bob reported that the Long Distance Committee seemed to be nearing the end of their rules work for this annual cycle, with one proposal still to be evaluated.
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 K. talked about the benefits of personal swim buoys for safety, noting that they are particularly helpful for safety during practice swims.
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 reported that this subcommittee has drafted a large document, now under review. She also reported that Southern Pacific LSC has voted to separate USA-Swimming and USMS athletes in dual-sanctioned events, which is not required under the NGB agreement but which might make sense in rough water swims.
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: No report
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 has solicited nominations for our Service Award through messages to LMSC general chairs & open water chairs, posting on the USMS website, and reviewing previous nominations. We discussed the possibility of naming this award in honor of the late Bill Roach, former USMS Open Water Safety Coordinator. Bob B. will open a thread on the OWC Forum to add information and discuss this.
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: Mark submitted a written report and will update the substantial work of this subcommittee with a draft document at our next meeting.

**New/Other Business:** None this time, but expect significant material from the Open Water Strategic Task Force at the July 21 OWC meeting, after the material is reviewed by the USMS Board of Directors at their upcoming summer meeting.

**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 21, 2019 - 8:00pm EDT, etc.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm EDT.

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

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