

USMS Convention — Kansas City, Missouri 2015

Committee Name:	Open Water	Session #:	1		
Committee Chair:	Lynn Hazlewood	Vice Chair:	Rob Copeland		
Minutes recorded by:	Joanne Wainwright	Date/time of meeting:	October 1, 2015 2:00 PM CST		

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA** minutes of August 16, 2015 OW Joint Management Group meeting.
2. **MSA** to accept and support L41.
3. **MSA** to support L3.

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: 6	Number of other delegates present: 55
Committee members present: Voting Members—Lynn Hazlewood, Rob Copeland, Bob Bruce, Jax Cole, Suzi Green, Sue Nutty, Rendy Lynn Opdycke, Dave Oplinger, Ally Sega, Joanne Wainwright, Jim Wheeler. Ex-Officio— Donn Livoni, Chris McGiffin, Bill Roach.		
Committee Members Absent: Charles Bender, Sandra Frimmerman-Bergquist		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:59 p.m. CST.

1. **Minutes of Joint Open Water Management Group**—Group members present at the convention meeting **MSA** minutes of August 16, 2015 OW Joint Management Group meeting.
2. **Updates to Annual Report**—Lynn Hazlewood reported that during the July 12th, 2015 meeting of the Open Water Committee, the Open Water Task Force Revenue Proposal was approved. The Open Water Committee submitted a document to the Board of Directors pointing out that there were potential negative consequences attached to this proposal and requesting that USMS support initiatives to offset the negatives. During the August 16, 2015 meeting, the Joint Open Water Management Group took the following actions: The Group submitted a justification document to Finance for a \$10,000 budget request to support an OW Education Project. The amount has been designated as a place holder pending more detailed planning to be done post convention; **MSA** that guides for disabled or novice swimmers be required to sign waivers, attend safety staff meetings, attend swimmer briefing and conform to additional or restrictive requirements from the event host; and held a planning session for the 2016 Education Project.
3. **Safety Subcommittee**—Jim Wheeler reported that the safety education subcommittee will host an open water workshop on Friday, October 2, 2015 to provide a framework for organizing and implementing quality open water swims. Donn Livoni, Bill Roach, and Dave Miner attended a USA Swimming Open Water Festival and Clinic in Ft. Myers, FL earlier in the year. Bill Roach and Donn Livoni discussed their experience at this 3-day workshop in which they studied the way USA Swimming trains their pool officials to become open water officials. There was much discussion regarding the organization and implementation of USA Swimming’s OW events and questions from the audience were answered. Bill Roach reported that during the 2015 open water season, 6-7 events included an Independent Safety Monitor. The Open Water Committee hopes to implement the ISM program for all open water events beginning January of 2016. This section of the meeting also included a lengthy discussion with Committee members and the audience about the future health of USMS Open Water Swimming and the proposal by the Open Water Task Force.
4. **OWGTO Subcommittee Report**—Rob Copeland: No outstanding tasks except to transmit the proposal for swimmer guides to the Board of Directors and update the OWGTO.
5. **Rules/Legislation Subcommittee Report**—Bob Bruce discussed several pieces of legislation of concern to open water. L11 comes to the HOD from a recommendation by the Open Water Task Force to examine a business model for open water sanctioning fees. Instead of a “one size fits all” \$1000 fee, the proposal has a graded fee approach for sanctioning events. The second piece of legislation (L41) comes from the Long Distance Committee. This legislation would eliminate the two year cycles for updating rules/legislation and allow rules/legislation to be proposed every year without resorting to proving emergency status. The Open Water Committee did not have a prior opportunity to vote on this proposal. The committee **MSA** to accept and support L41. (Motion: Sue Nutty; 2nd Rob Copeland). There was discussion among members of the Committee and audience regarding this motion prior to the vote. There was also discussion regarding L3 which changes the wording from National record to USMS record. The committee **MSA** to support L3 (Motion: Rob Copeland, 2nd Donn

Livoni). There was also discussion regarding L12 amendment to Section 2 which eliminates the sanction # on forms and also states that entries may not be accepted until a sanction has been granted. Recently, sanctioning of open water events has been delayed until January 1 at the earliest. This does not give early season events sufficient lead time to prepare their event. Lynn Hazlewood reported that Ed Tsuzuki discussed the problem with Rob Butcher and said that the National Office will allow granting of sanctions as early as October after renewal of insurance.

6. **Awards Subcommittee Report**—Sue Nutty reported that the Awards Subcommittee revised the nomination form this year and increased the advertisement of this award to encourage more nominations. She noted that we had more nominations than in 2014. We had four qualified nominees. Unsuccessful nominees will remain on the nomination slate for two additional years.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.