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To: Minnesota Swimming House of Delegates
From: Jack Swanson – Athlete Committee Vice Chair
Re: House of Delegates Report

Date: Sunday, April 19th, 2015

It is amazing that a year has come and gone and that my tenure on the Board of Directors of Minnesota Swimming as the Athlete Committee Vice Chair is coming to an end. I am currently undecided on my college plans, so I will likely not be seeking reelection. I will support my successor in continuing to provide a crucial athlete voice within Minnesota Swimming as Patrick, Lauren, and I have done this past year. I look forward to continuing to be involved in Minnesota Swimming as I move into the next chapter of my life.

I cannot even begin to express my thanks to all of the current Board of Directors members, particularly Jim Hanton, Patrick Hunter, and Lauren Harris. They have been incredibly supportive of the crucial athlete voice. I'd also like to thank the incredible Minnesota Swimming staff, particularly Bob Crunstedt, Cassy Shapley, Sandra Hibbard, and Sheryl McGuire. I am extremely grateful that they have dedicated their day-to-day lives to making Minnesota Swimming and USA Swimming outstanding. Finally, I'd like to thank Van Donkersgoed, who has been a mentor for me since his time on Aquajets, and has more recently mentored me as a member of the Board. Van encouraged me to run for the Board of Directors last March, which has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I'd like to highlight what I have been committed to throughout my term as Athlete Committee Vice Chair:

Athlete Committee

Rejuvenating the Athlete Committee has been extremely rewarding for me. When I began my term as Athlete Committee Vice Chair, the Athlete Committee had three members, all of whom were members of the Board of Directors. Now, we have twenty-one members, including the three committee officers, and are still accepting new members! We have met six times, both via conference call and in person in the last year.

The Athlete Committee is a group of bright young athletes who are committed to making our sport better – I am extremely grateful for the support from these individuals. I sincerely hope that my successor continues to promote the growth of the Athlete Committee, as it is an excellent resource.

Open Water

One of the ideas the Athlete Committee has been very interested in implementing is the scheduling of open water swim meets. I proposed a



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resolution at the MSI Board meeting in January, which created an Open Water Task Force to discuss the implementation of open water meets. The task force recommends the following dates for meets for the summer of 2015:

- Tuesday, June 30th, 2015 – OW meet open to all athletes (regardless of ability)
- Tuesday, August 11th, 2015 – OW State Championship meet (participated in prior open water competition or National B time in event 400 or longer, 200 or longer for 9-10)

Jim Hanton, the task force members, and I have discussed potential hosts for these meets. We would also like to see an open water clinic take place at some point. We are also discussing dual sanctions of open water meets with USMS and USA Triathlon. If any clubs are interested in hosting these events, it would be great if they could get in touch with me or Jim Hanton.

Social Media

Two Minnesota Swimming Athletes social media pages are up and running - one on Twitter, and the other on Facebook. I have been responsible for the Twitter page, "MN Swimming Athletes," or @mnswimathletes. Lauren has been responsible for Facebook. As of April 17th, we have 170 followers. Our goal is to have 200 followers within the first six months of going "live" with Twitter, and it has been two months since we launched Twitter, so we are well on our way to achieving our goal!

The Future

I am completely confident that my successor will continue Minnesota's tradition of excellent athlete representation. We have had many outstanding athlete representatives who have gone above and beyond in their service, which I hope my successor does as well. I recommend McKenna Togstad from West Express as the next Athlete Committee Vice Chair. She has been an incredibly Athlete Committee member, and I am completely confident that she will be committed to providing a crucial athlete voice to the Board of Directors.

I'd like to wrap up by thanking the members of the House of Delegates for allowing me to serve Minnesota Swimming as the Athlete Committee Vice Chair. Thank you for your support and for your confidence in me! Thank you to each and every one of you, and I look forward to continuing to working with you in whatever capacity that I am able to in the future!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Swanson
Athlete Committee Vice Chair
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