

AMS House of Delegates

November 18, 2009

University Of Pittsburgh

Revised 12/7/09

BOARD & HOD DELEGATES PRESENT

BOARD

AMS GENERAL CHAIR	Paul Seiferth (HD)
AMS ADMIN VICE-CHAIR	Taz Greiner (UN)
AMS TREASURER	Greg Stein (HD)
AMS SECRETARY/OFFICE	Laura Hartman (CVSC)
AMS AGE GROUP VICE-CHAIR	Pete Barry (PRA)
AMS SENIOR VICE CHAIR	Todd Clark (FCKW)
AMS TECH PLANNING CHAIR	Ken Luttinger (WHAT)
AMS SAFETY CHAIR	Bob Mermelstein

CLUBS

ANSC	Diane Churman
BPR	Kristi Thieshen, Lindy Eiben
CVSC	Faith Stauffer, Tara D;Agaro
FCKW	Abbie Pauley, Betty Manuck
GPAC	Greg Kinzler
JCCS	John Lynch, Donna Beyerl
MLAC	Kathy Nappi
MM	Lynne Shine
MOON	Heather Summers
NHA	Erin Moore
OAC	Julie Riley
PTAC	Scott Barker
PTSC	Tara Rose, Kim Kness
SFAC	Cindy Hestad
TPIT	Tainica Jamison
USCS	Chet Dudzinski, Scott Williams
WAAC	Dawn Musiol
WHAT	Tori Zido, Dick Taylor

The meeting was called to order by Paul Seiferth, General Chair, at 7:30 PM

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from September HOD (Posted on AMS Web Site) – correction: Dawn Musiol (WAAC) was omitted from the attendees.
- b. Treasurers Report (Posted on AMS Web Site)
(M) Donna Beyerl moved to approve the consent agenda (S) Todd Clark – Approved by acclimation.

2. ELECTIONS

- a. Donna Beyerl presented the nominations to fill the open positions
 - Review Committee: Evan Block (MLAC) and Abby Myers (Athlete – FCKW)
 - Secretary (to fill remainder of Laura Hartman's term) – Erin Moore (NHA)
 - Nominating Committee: Lynne Shine (MM), Ryan Lowery (Athlete – WHAT), Anne Countouris (WHAT)

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

(M) Greg Stein moved to close the nominations; (S) Donna Beyerl. Nominations closed by acclimation

(M) Greg Stein moved to accept the nominees; (S) Donna Beyerl. Nominees approved by acclimation.

3. **GENERAL CHAIR** (Paul Seiferth)

- a. Paul reported on his experience at the Diversity Summit in Colorado Springs. USA Swimming is putting a great deal of emphasis on Diversity – more appropriately termed “Inclusion”.

Paul believes this is an area of great opportunity in the inner-city of Pittsburgh as well as some of the outlying areas such as Erie, etc. Paul committed Allegheny Mountain Swimming to a 25% increase in outreach efforts, primarily for improving the Learn to Swim initiative.

Paul is seeking volunteers to serve on a Diversity Committee for Allegheny Mountain.

4. **AGE GROUP** (Pete Barry)

- a. Pete presented the Long Course 2010 Meet Schedule (attached).
- b. Pete reported a total of 18,730 splashes by AMS Swimmer in AMS Sanctioned meets for the Long Course 2009 season. This represents roughly a 10% increase in splash counts compared to Long Course 2008, however Pete mentioned that some of the increase may be attributed to the fact that AMS did not host a Senior Circuit meet in 2008.

5. **SENIOR CHAIR** (Todd Clark)

- a. Todd reported that he is working on locations for the 2010 Senior Circuit meets.

6. **COACHES REPRESENTATIVE** (Tom Donati - No Report)

7. **REPORT OF AMS ADMINISTRATOR** (Laura Hartman)

- a. Registration Status: Laura reported that through November 18, AMS has 2639 registered athletes and 260 non-athletes for a total of 2999. This is about 500 fewer registrations than the same time last year. Laura mentioned that she has a number of unprocessed registrations on her desk, but that is typical for this time of year.
- b. Zones: Laura reported that a Coordinator is needed for Short Course Zones, April 1 – 3, 2010 in Webster, NY. She has already arranged for hotels, busses and meals. She is considering working with Metro Swim Shop again for the team gear. The zone coordinator will need to arrange for chaperones, plan and maintain the itinerary for the trip, and communicate with the families and swimmers.

8. **TECH PLANNING** (Ken Luttinger - no report)

9. **SAFETY** (Bob Mermelstein)

- a. Safety Checklists: Bob reported that there are still quite a few clubs that have not yet submitted their Safety Checklists for the 2009 – 2010 Season. Pete Barry suggested that we not register the clubs until we receive their checklist. Laura reported that most of the clubs have submitted their checklist with their club application, but will double check and let Bob know if any have not been submitted. Going forward, she will require the checklist before registering the club.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. 2010 Budget: Greg Stein presented the proposed 2010 budget which has been posted on the AMS Web Site (attached).

Items of note in the 2010 budget vs. 2009:

- \$5.00 increase in registration fees (from \$60.00 to \$65.00) and a \$1.00 increase in splash fees (from \$3.25 to \$4.25 with \$1.75 going to AMS). These increases will go into effect January 1, 2010 are needed to counter deficit predicted for 2009 and to re-build the reserve. Assuming registration and splash counts remain constant (or slightly lower than) 2009, he projects a \$32,031 surplus for 2010 which should help counter some of the “spend down” that has occurred over the last several years and build for the future.
- All funding (National, Sectional & Zones) has been grouped together into one category.
- All travel expenses (convention, officials, national seminars & meetings) have been grouped together into one category.
- Permanent Office expense has been increased to \$30,000.

Discussion:

Bob Mermelstein inquired about the break-down of the \$1.00 splash fee increase and would any of that be going back to the meet hosts, as has been requested repeatedly over the last several years. Greg responded that 100% of the \$1.00 increase in the proposed budget would be going to AMS.

Questions were raised as to why the increase could not be shared between the clubs and AMS.

Pete Barry reported that Age Group is currently evaluating requests by meet hosts to increase the splash fees or add an athlete surcharge to help offset increasing pool rental costs.

Donna Beyerl presented her analysis of increased splash fees vs. athlete surcharges that she had prepared for the Age Group Committee. All of her scenarios allowed for only \$0.25 per splash going back to AMS with any additional increases going to the host clubs.

A question was raised requesting that we increase the recommended \$1.00 increase in splash fee to allow for more money to go to the meet hosts.

Paul Seiferth pointed out that the increased splash fees proposed in the budget we are voting on tonight is a separate issue from increased revenue for host clubs. If that is something that the House would like to address, it can be done as a separate item in New Business.

Paul asked if there were any additional questions on comments related specifically to the budget that has been presented. There was no further discussion. (M) Pete Barry made a motion to approve the 2010 budget as presented; (S) Donna Beyerl. Motion carried by acclamation.

- b. (M) Ken Luttinger made a motion that that AMS increase the splash from \$4.25 to \$5.00 with the additional \$0.75 going to the host clubs; (S) Donna Beyerl.

Discussion

A Question was raised regarding the timing of the increased fees.

(A) Pete Barry amended the motion to implement the increased fee effective with the first long course meet so the change would be fair for those clubs hosting meets prior to January 1, 2010. After further discussion, Pete withdrew his Amendment

John Lynch asked if AMS was having trouble finding clubs to host meets. Pete Barry responded that we were not, and in fact had multiple bidders for almost every meet. John suggested that if we are not having trouble finding hosts at the current splash fee, why would we need to increase the splash fee?

Comments were made that AMS has lower splash fees than most other LSC's.

Donna Beryl commented that the splash fee in AMS was \$3.00 for as long as she could remember, and that the only increase in more than 10 years was two years ago when the fee was raised to \$3.25 with the additional \$0.25 specifically designated to offset the permanent office expense.

Comments were made that meet hosts have not seen an increase in splash fees, while the cost of hosting a meet continues to rise with a result of lower profits for the host clubs.

The House was reminded that swim meets are not supposed to be fundraisers.

Comments were made that clubs count on that income to help offset costs, and to keep fees in check for their membership. While in theory, meets are not supposed to be fundraisers, in reality that is the only reason many clubs host meets. They are a lot of work and not worth the trouble if there is no money to be made.

A question was raised regarding the increase for Distance Meets and Relays. After some discussion, it was decided that there would be no change in splash fees for Distance Meets and Relays.

After no further discussion, the question was called and approved there were three (3) "no" votes.

Summary of Splash Fees Effective January 1, 2010

- Individual Events: \$5.00 (\$1.75 to AMS; \$3.25 to Host Club)
- Relay Events: \$5.00 (\$1.00 to AMS; \$4.00 to Host Club)
- Distance Events (distance meets only): \$5.25 (\$0.75 to AMS; \$4.25 to Host Club)

- c. Chet Dudzinski raised a concern that the 2010 Short Course Zone Meet was being held during Holy Week & Passover. He inquired if any consideration had been given to this fact when the meet dates were selected.

Pete Barry commented that the Eastern Zone was aware of the timing of the meet as it related to the holiday, and that there are limitations to when the meet can be held. The Eastern Zone manual states that the Short Course Zone Championship shall conclude before the first Sunday in April, and in this particular year, that is Easter Sunday. In addition, consideration must also be given to timing of Sectional meets as well as dates available for the meet hosts. Pete

also mentioned that this is not the first time spring Zones has been during holy week and that while the Zone tries to avoid holidays, it is not always possible.

Paul Seiferth commented that the timing of the meet was beyond our control, but that we can make our concerns known to the Eastern Zone. (M) Chet Dudzinski moved that AMS draft a memo to the Eastern Zone, expressing our concerns, and that swimmers and families be notified of the conflict prior to their committing to participate; (S) Greg Stein. Motion carried by acclamation.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Deletion of Funding for Sectional Meets – Pete Barry withdrew his recommendation based on the 2010 budget that was passed tonight.
- b. Proposed changes to the Operating Procedures for Travel Teams – Pete Barry tabled his proposal until January.

12. ADJOURN

(M) Donna Beyerl (S) Greg Stein – Motion carried by acclamation. Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 PM

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 2010
7:30 PM**

****Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Hartman, AMS Secretary*