

To: Minnesota Swimming Board of Directors
From: Jack H. Swanson, Open Water Committee Chair
Date: June 19th, 2018

Re: June Report to the Board of Directors

The past few weeks have been busy for the Open Water Committee. The Committee met on Thursday, June 14th, 2018 via conference call and discussed planning for the fast-approaching Minnesota Swimming Open Water State Championship Meet. We are working to finalize the meet information for the Minnesota Swimming Open Water State Championship Meet.

A few details regarding the Minnesota Swimming Open Water Championship include:

- Date: Monday, August 6th, 2018
- Location: Shady Oak Lake – Minnetonka, Minnesota
- Events: 10 and under 1K, 11-12 2.5 K, 13 and Over 5K. Boys and girls events will be swam separately.
- Qualifying Time Standards: a Minnesota Swimming B cut in the 200 free for 10 and under swimmers, a Minnesota Swimming B cut in the 400/500 free for 13 and over swimmers.
- Awards: Medals for top 8 athletes, state champion patches for first place athletes, banners for top 3 teams.
- Officials: our goal is to have at least 15 officials. Please contact me at jswanson1519@gmail.com if you are interested in officiating, no experience is necessary. Assigned officials must pass the Open Water Referee Test. Other officials should take either the Open Water Referee or the Open Water Judge Test, but are not required to.
- Registration: will be posted on the Minnesota Swimming website and distributed to teams by July 1st, 2018.

The Minnesota Swimming Open Water Committee requests that all clubs take the following action to help us in promoting the Minnesota Swimming Open Water State Championship Meet:

- *All clubs should post the above information on their team meet schedule.* Remember, athletes can attend this event without a coach present.
- All clubs should email the above information to their members.
- All clubs should contact the Open Water Committee Chair with any questions that they have regarding this championship.

My hope and expectation is that all Minnesota Swimming clubs are represented at this year's Open Water State Championship Meet! Please let me know if you have any Open Water related questions and I will be happy to answer them.

On a personal note, I am now competing as a member of the Rochester Swim Club. I am living in Rochester this summer; I am doing cancer immunology research in the Mayo Clinic Department of Immunology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack H. Swanson

Minnesota Swimming Open Water Committee—Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 14th, 2018 at 8:00 PM
Via Conference Call

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Swanson at 8:05 PM. Attendance was taken.

Committee Members Present: Jack Swanson (Chair), Jim Hanton, Jim Meece, Heidi Miler, Gail Ann Witzel, John Witzel, McKenna Togstad, Sheryl McGuire (Staff Liaison)

Committee Members Absent: Scott Tripps, Erin McCarthy, Brady Boie

II. Review Minnesota Swimming Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Chair Swanson reviewed the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of Minnesota Swimming, and encouraged committee members to keep them in mind during the committee's meeting.

III. 2018 Open Water State Championship Meet

- a. Confirm Date** – the 2018 Minnesota Open Water State Championship Meet will be held on Monday, August 6th, 2018, at Shady Oak Lake in Minnetonka.
- b. Confirm Format** – the meet will follow the same general format as in 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- c. Feedback from Last Year** –
 - Officials were not able to communicate with one another – the officials on the water could not communicate with other officials on the water and the officials on shore. Swanson will secure use of the Minnesota Swimming radios for the August 6th Open Water Championship Meet.
 - Officials were not able to easily identify swimmers. Swanson will confirm uniquely colored caps for each wave with staff.
 - Officials were not able to identify swimmers' numbers. MSI staff member Tracy Meece secured tattoo numbers for the Alexandria Lake Swim and the Open Water State Championship.
 - Use of in-water finish platform, with a video recording of the finish would make the finish safer and easier to judge. Swanson will discuss the feasibility of purchasing an in-water finish platform. Alternatively, the meet hosts could make use of the docks at Shady Oak Lake.
 - Ideally, the course will feature an in-water, straight in finish, and swimmers will not have to swim into the sun for a long stretch.
 - At least two officials should be responsible for each turn – one calling out numbers, one recording.
 - Some officials, particularly the referee, should be in motorboats, not kayaks. Swanson will discuss this with MSI staff and with Tripps.
 - The week before the meet (possibly at the pool state meet?) the meet referee, the meet director, and other meet leadership should meet and discuss the course and logistics.
 - The event should be scored as a true team event. The top three teams will receive banners. The top 8 finishers in each event will continue to receive medals, and the champions will receive patches. Hanton will write a statement in the meet information document describing the team scoring system.

IV. Marketing Open Water Meets

a. Selling Open Water to General Membership

- Swanson will coordinate email blast to be sent to coaches, club presidents, and club contacts. The email will include the location, the distances, and how to enter.
- McGuire will complete paperwork to sanction meet, and will send the committee the meet information document ASAP.
- Notices on scoreboards at the University of Minnesota and Rochester Recreation Center Meets. Assigned to a committee member.
- Social Media Posts by Webmaster Michael Duncan.

b. Open Water Zones

- Collaborate with Age Group Committee and Team Minnesota Head Coach to improve communications regarding Open Water Zones.
- Only 15 Team Minnesota athletes participated in Open Water Zones.

V. Succession Planning

- Swanson expressed a need for new leadership on the committee, and encouraged committee members to reach out with suggestions.
- New hosts are needed for open water meets. One problem here is the lack of financial incentive to host an open water meet. Perhaps an LSC stipend for open water meet hosts. Mentoring will be available.

VI. Anything Else?

- Nothing

VII. Next Meeting – after the Open Water State Meet.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM