USA-Swimming Convention

Dallas, Texas

Sept. 12 to Sept. 16, 2017

Submitted by: Donald P. Spellman

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**Tuesday - Sept. 12**

Diversity & Inclusion Chairs Workshop (4:10 to 6PM)

I joined Nick Ford and Tanja Sedecky at this meeting with many of my friends from D&I over the past few years. Situational role play and discussion was done with staff from USA-Swimming. Methods and best practices for Diversity and Inclusion events in our LSC’s and Zones was also addressed.

**Wednesday - Sept. 13**

Senior Development Committee (8 to 10AM)

National Team and National Championship meet structure items were discussed. These included time standards for Sectionals and Futures meets. Also working tose meets around a schedule to ensure that Juniors is competitive with NCSA and well attended. There was also discussion on the increasing relay participation at JNAT Meets.

The “Butterfly Revolution” led by the task force from Senior Development talked about upcoming video demonstrations and events (including one here following this meeting).

Early Lunch with Coaching Representatives from the Western and Eastern Zones. (10:45AM to noon)

Meeting with the John Bradley (Central Zone Coaching Chairman) – Zone meet site selection committee. I was asked to serve along with Jeff Arce (of IL.)

Open Water Steering Committee – Open Forum (1 to 2:50PM)

Bill Rose (MVN-CA) discussed the Open Water National Team camp (setting & training).

USA National Team competitions at 2017 French Nationals (Coach Catherine Vogt), 2017 UANIA Championships in Grand Cayman (Coach Tyler Fenwick), and World Championships was discussed in detail. 10K goals (Olympic qualifying distance) at Worlds were met. Focus on development for the 5K and 7.5K domestic races for 18 & Under athletes was seen as a crucial step for continued success in the 10K races.

W.U.G. Open Water races and the Team USA decision not to race was also discussed. Lindsay Mintenko (USA-Swimming National Team staff). Water and air temp. were considered both too high and therefore presented safety problems by our Team USA athletes.

The OW 2020 Strategic Vision was used as guide to evaluate this summer and tweak any planning for next season (including adding possible funds for other FINA World Cup races).

LSC Development Committee – Business Meeting (3:10 to 3:50PM)

I stopped in briefly to this meeting. Main topics were budget segments, LSC’s role in camps & championship meets, and funding issues that LSC’s have had to deal with while growing (and moving up from levels of Leap).

**Thursday - Sept. 14**

Steering Committee – Club Coaches Open Forum (9 to 10AM)

Frank Busch went over our athlete’s achievements at Worlds and WUG this past summer. Coaching staff selection process was based on podium potential and numbers of athletes the coach helped place on the squads. The overall goals for medals were achieved at both competitions.

Lindsay Mintenko discussed Elite Performance Grants (for those with Top 8 World Rankings based on competition periods) and WUG training & travel recap (including the OW athletes decision to not compete and the increased competitiveness of the other countries that attended).

Mitch Dalton gave a presentation on the National Junior Team (training camps and competition at World Junior Championships at IUPUI).

Plans for the Coach Mentoring program, Pro Series Swim Meet schedules, and upcoming training camps at Colorado Springs and Chula Vista were also discussed.

Central Zone – Section 1 Coaches Meeting (10 to 11:40AM)

Planning consisted of changes for bonus events to Spring Sectionals meets and the sites were made for hosting meet in March 2021 (West Fargo, ND) and July 2021 (Univ. of Minnesota).

Meets for 2019 will be March (Rochester, MN.) and July (Univ. of Minn.)

Meets for 2020 will be March (Pleasant Prairie, WI) and July (Brown Deer, WI)

Timeline concerns were addressed (for summer meets).

\*A full report (with minutes) will be available at the Central Zone Swimming website.

Championship Evaluation Committee – Meet Research Results (1 to 1:45PM)

I stopped in to listen to discussion about the size of National and Sectional level meets. Futures meets were also discussed (most were on the small side).

Mighty 2500 LSC Reunion - LSC Development (2 to 2:50PM)

Jen Matthews, Travis Albang, and I attended this meeting and discussed our two year goals and current plans for growing our LSC’s. ISI was one of the more successful LSC’s (as we had grown, sent kids to Diversity & Inclusion events, and moved up on the LEAP scale).

There was also discussion amongst some of the LSC’s about combining with neighboring LSC’s for championship level events, merging with smaller LSC’s, and building / funding new indoor 50m facilities.

Central Zone Meeting #1 (4 to 6PM)

Bid presentations for future Zone meets and assignment of LSC’s to each site took place (Team Iowa will be at the Univ. of Minnesota for 2018).

John Bradley (MN) was re-elected to be Central Zone – Coaching Representative.

**Friday – Sept. 15**

Coaches Meeting (9 to 10:15AM)

Tim Bauer (Tech. Vice Chair / Coach at KATY-TX) ran the meeting.

National meets and Pro Series site concerns were brought up. Frank Busch discussed FINA World Championships and our Nationals in Indy. The size the Futures meets was also discussed. Current plans are to evaluate qualifying times and size of meets after next summer.

Open Water Swimming Seminar (10:20 to 10:50AM)

I came into this meeting following the Coaches Meeting. Denny Ryther (and Open Water Tech. Committee – Alamo Area Aquatics Association) was presenting some training strategies and drills to use in the pool for open water swimming. Some of the key aspects of the races were looked at (feeding stations, turning, drafting, and finishing).

Town Hall Meeting with USA-Swimming CEO and President (3:30 to 4:20PM)

Kurt Oppel and I attended this Q & A session. Much of the time was devoted to pending legislation and the CEO’s vision for the organization.

Central Zone – Meeting #2 (4:30 to 5PM)

My daughter Grace and I had to leave this meeting early due to go the airport. We had a funeral to attend the following morning (my wife’s grandfather) in Iowa.

I want to thank the rest of the Iowa Swimming Inc. delegation for voting and attending the rest of the Convention meetings and the House of Delegates in my absence. It is my opinion that the Board of Directors governance reform package (Block G) was a significant improvement for the direction of USA-Swimming.