

MESI Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2020
7:30 pm
Via Zoom

Present: Kristy Barry, Maddie Buck, Marcel DaPonte, Trevor Edmunds, Holly Hatch, Stacy Kennard, Matt Montgomery, Betsy Perron, Taylor Rogers, Mike Schmidt, Jim Willis, TJ Willis, Carrie Wood-Peabody

Joined @ 8pm: Keli Gillespie, Jay Morissette, Zack Mullin, John Smith, Nicole Viele,

Absent: Brim Peabody

Guest: Mary Ellen Tynan

Meeting called to order at 7:35PM

Mission Statement and vision read by Jim Willis.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Mike Schmidt to approve consent agenda with January Secretary report pulled by Taylor..

Motion passes unanimously.

Items in yellow on the Secretary's report:

Discussion regarding "Board can set dates for Senior All-Star Events"

Secretary will correct 1/6/2020 minutes to reflect the following:

Senior Report: The Senior Committee will be allowed to set dates for Senior All Star events.

Discussion regarding .5 vote for abstention. Shared offices get one vote not ½ each.

Delay discussion until Zack and John enter the meeting – vote should be one vote for and no abstention.

Motion by Marcel Da Ponte, second Taylor Rogers to approve 2/20 minutes.

Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

\$168,568.06 in the bank. New checking & savings accounts, CD, and Mastercard are in place. Credit card balance not figured in to this number. Negotiated better rates on Savings (0.95) and secured an additional promotional rate (1.25%) for that account through July and renegotiated the CD (1.3%) for an improved interest rate as well. Credit card will have rewards. The Treasurer and Finance chairs hold the credit cards; Mary Ellen Tynan and Taylor Rogers also have the credit card number. We also do have a debit card.

Fundraising

Only 2 teams have found sponsors as of 3/2/20. We have netted \$296 as of today. Coaches, please encourage teams to get sponsors; teams receive 20% of their member's donations. Holly very disappointed in the response and asked for input. Mary Ellen reminded the Board that previously everyone said they were bought in to 100% participation. Marcel asked if we could require at least one sponsorship from each team. Taylor said the hope was in incentivizing teams would be motivated. Jim said his team would be sponsoring at least a few events. Other teams should be able to do that. Betsy asked if we could have spontaneous sponsorship during the meet? Holly also said we could do a text to donate during the meet.

Jay, Keli, Zack, Nicole and John join the meeting.

Agreed to extend the deadline and promote at Winter Champs Trials in the program and with announcements. Create excitement! Jay asked if any information had been sent out. Mary Ellen reported she sent to all coaches, swimmers, members of Maine Swimming who had email address (though a lot don't).

Budget Process

Putting packets together for each committee.

Taylor Rogers requested that Mary Ellen Tynan add her name to the attendance list for the most recent finance committee meeting.

Athletes' Committee – TJ Willis

Athletes coordinated an event to serve lunch at Preble St on February 20th. Eight people came. It was very rewarding.

Leadership Summit will be combined with Swimposium. Athletes applied for the grant and received \$1500 for the event. Plan is to have Anthony Ervin participate in the Leadership Summit along with Swimposium. Still need to get a leadership speaker.

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A spring clean-up day is in the works.

Working to have a submission for the USA Swimming Bright Ideas Contest

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Only one applicant to date for Athlete Rep; John Smith to forward another. If more than 2 people apply, candidates will post videos again this year before the voting is opened up.

Safe Sport – Matt Montgomery

Three teams have fulfilled SSRP, 2 have started so really no progress.,

. There will be a workshop in Chicago in May with some changes to MAAPP expected; we will find out the deadline for SSRP compliance at that time. There will be a table at Winter Champs to promote Safe Sport, though it won't be manned at all times due to the fact that most committee members will be on deck. Zoe Siegel has re-registered and may be a good candidate for a SS Committee member.

DEI – Zack Mullin

Zack is going to the meeting in Chicago in May and will bring back more info.

Return to discussion about the .5 abstention

Coach Committee Jay Morissette

Jay sat in on the recent TPC meeting and is trying to get a dialog going among the coaches re: meets. So far no conclusions have been reached.

Office – Mary Ellen Tynan

Registration: 778 year round + 35 flex+ 17 outreach + 81 season 1 = 911 total

At this time last year, we had 925 registered, though end of January 2019, more registrations are expected. Biggest difference is Season 1 is down 24. Mary Ellen reported that after loading results of the YMCA State Meet, she found about 150 swimmers who once were registered with MESI, but no longer are, but are still competing in the YMCA league. Would be good to find out why they stopped swimming USA.

Swimposium – Jim Willis

:Jim has heard from Abby at Bates to help coordinate the event. Jim will forward to Mary Ellen. Anthony Ervin wants a deposit for the Swimposium. . Ideally, he would participate in the Leadership Summit from 9-9:30, then coach 2 smaller swim clinic groups of 12&U and 13 & O.

Current hotel quote from Marriott is \$350/night, but hopefully we can get a better rate; will also check at Hilton. Mary Ellen asked TJ to start thining about criteria for Summit.

TPC Calendar Suggestions – Marcel Da Ponte

The currently proposed schedule:

DI in October, 1 day, shorter events

DII in November/December, 2 days, longer events

Regional Trials/Finals Meet in January probably North and South

Senior Open meet, around the same time as current Winter Champs Trials date

Senior Champs around weekend of current Trials Meet

Age Group meet around the same time as the current Winter Champs.

Discussion:

Are 3 regional meets realistic? Perhaps 2 would be better? Could do North and South, but who would host in the North?

Do we have the numbers in MESI to run a Senior meet? WE probably don't. There is interest from three NES in attending, though perhaps should not rely on their participation for deciding whether or not to schedule this meet. TPC would like to put forth proposal as is and see where it lands.

Jay asked if the TPC Committee does not feel that Winter Champs works in the current formt. Marcel stated the concern is are we moving forward on time progressions or are we stagnating? TPC would like Champs cuts to be more uniform. If we put more challenging qualifying times out there, athletes will rise to the occasion. Are we improving? Jay states that until we get more professional swim coaches in Maine we are going to remain stagnant. Right now we have about 6 or so professional coaches. For most of the coaches this is a part-time gig after their full-time job. It's not that full-time are better than part-time, they do more time into the profession though.

Marcel believes we need to put time standards out there that are slightly more challenging. Athletes will rise to the occasion.

Jim says cut times are pretty straight forward but there are many even with easy cut times, we will not have more than 8 people in some events (i.e. 11-12 200 fly). Jim wants to know right here if there are enough people here who want to make significant changes to the Winter Champs format and if people here don't want it to change then HOD won't vote that way. Jim says there are only 4 Mighty 2500 LSC's have Senior Championships.

Jim states most people don't want to lose the Winter Trials Meet
The TPC will put the proposal forward and see what happens.

Proposal will include time standards. John Smith reported NES teams reported looking for having an Open meet with standards at 13 -14 AA times. If you don't have 13014 AA cut you are at the Age Group Meet. Before we were talking about having times based on performance and now we are talking about basing them on motivational standards. What are we doing?

Jim Willis would like to have a coaches' meeting to discuss the proposal and then go to HOD with a consensus. If this won't pass through the coaches it will not pass at HOD. Don't want fighting done at HOD.

Marcel will get standards done and get Coaches' Meeting together. Coaches meeting to be Tuesday, March 24th.

Colby Update – Jim Willis

Pool will open this summer but for the first year, the facility will only be available to the Colby community. They want to make sure everything is working. They still have no one to run the facility and they have no idea how much they will charge. Jim has already emailed to check on Bowdoin's availability for champs 2021.

Outreach

Travel policy: How can we help outreach athletes get to more meets? Money seems to be the biggest obstacle. Mary Ellen suggested to Zack that DEI discuss and come back with a proposal for the next BOD meeting. Holly suggested that going into the budget process, this would be an opportune time for this discussion.

Winter Champs Trials

Entries due later that night (3/2) with the exception of the teams that participated in the Greeley meet on 3/1. An extension has been granted to these teams until noon on 3/3. Lower entries than usual as of the time of the meeting.

Champs

Still need a safety monitor. John Smith volunteered to do this if needed but it would not be ideal for a coach to fill this role. Carrie Wood-Peabody said that she could help for some sessions on Saturday and Sunday. We are also still in need of an announcer and someone to help run the timing system. This will count as a work assignment if we get the volunteer application by the 10th.

Reminder - 10&U can only swim in one session per day.

Meet Director Certification

Jim suggested adding an exam and maybe an apprenticeship. Taylor reported at the last Governance Committee meeting it was discussed under whose purview this falls. Governance is willing and able to take this on. Agreed that Governance committee will update the meet director certification process if that is okay with the rest of the board of directors. All were in agreement.

Meet Committee – Jim Willis

Meet Committee was created to take on the jobs that another committee was not doing. The committee is not functioning currently. Taylor suggested we keep it under TPC and it is up to the TPC to determine if they would like to establish a functioning meet committee. Marcel DaPonte will direct the TPC to decide how they would like to implement a meet committee.

Strategic Planning Update – Taylor Rogers

Taylor Rogers will reach out to responsible parties on the governance committee to see what process is being made on a strategic plan.

HOD – Jim Willis

Nomination slate is being prepared.

House of Delegates meeting will likely not start earlier than 2:30.

Evaluations regarding YMCA and USAS involvement in MESI meets would be useful. Would like to gather information from Y Swimmers and teams that are no longer part of MESI.

The banquet and Clinic are coming together. We will post invitations after Champs information will be available during Champs.

The clinic will cost \$50 and there will be Outreach assistance.

Questions: Will there be a t-shirt or swag for the 14 and under Clinic?

Other Business

The Coaches' Representative election will be held at Champs. Any coach can vote at the table and a representative will follow up to remind coaches on deck to vote.

TJ would like us to submit bios and photos for the governance page. Suggestion - take photos at Champs.

We will defer to USA swimming regarding guidance for the Coronavirus.

Reminder - please complete the Board of Directors self-assessment!

Athletes need to apply now if they would like to participate on the athlete committee for the upcoming year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Perron, MESI Secretary. 3/22/2020