

Montana Swimming
Executive Board Meeting
November 24, 2014
WebEx/conference call
**** Approved - December 15, 2014 ***

Present:

Tony Popp - President
Curt Jacobson - Admin Vice Chair
Richard Allen - Finance Vice Chair
Craig Smith - Treasurer
Tami Peters - Secretary
Kirby Beierle - Technical Planning Chair
Lisa Keyes - Age Group Vice Chair
Jacob Byrne - Coach Representative
Shelly Sobek - Safe Sport Coordinator
Andrea Schmidt - Sr. Athlete Rep.
Patrick Brennan - Jr. Athlete Rep
Alyssa Boese - Jr. Athlete Rep

Absent

David Berkoff - Program Development Co-Vice Chair
Kyle Potter - Program Development Co-Vice Chair
Rosanne Flann - Safety Coordinator
Sami DuVal - Sr. Athlete Rep

Business

1. President Tony Popp called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM
2. **Mission Statement** - "To be the standard governing body for rural swimming by inspiring and enabling our members to overcome unique obstacles to achieve excellence in swimming and in life."
 - a. Tony read the mission statement and encouraged us to remember we as a board need to keep this mission in mind as we proceed with our work.
 - b. USA Swimming has commended our LSC on our mission statement, and it is likely we will be asked about it and how we feel we are living it out during our strategic planning session with Arlene McDonald.
3. **Approval of October 20, 2014 minutes** - Motion to accept by Richard, seconded by Curt. Passed as amended.
4. **Athlete Reps reports/updates** - Tony would like to have a general update from the athlete reps at the beginning of our meetings; an opportunity for them to give feedback, input, and share concerns.

- a. Andrea - Currently training for Husky and Juniors. Biggest problem right now is finding pool time between usage by both HS teams and club teams.
 - b. Patrick - Preparing for Husky and wishing he was with Coach Berkoff at the Golden Goggles in New York =). Feedback from Pierce Oja - BAC has a new coach that seems to be working out well. Pete Kotson is enjoying college in Salt Lake City.
 - c. Alyssa - Wants to continue working on upping the bonding between older and younger swimmers.
 - d. Discussion on Facebook set up by Haley Jacobson for MT Swimming athletes. Tony encouraged the athlete reps to make an effort to be in contact with the athletes around the state to get their perspectives - mostly regarding struggles they face, timing and design of meets, desired details and activities for the Mixer Meet.
5. **LSC Growth Coordinator Position** - Tony has no new news to share. Still need to get a reply to Bob (Inland Empire) regarding our current questions.
6. **Mixer Meet** - Currently set for April 18-19, 2015.
- a. Need to promote to teams from around the state. Andrea's feedback from her team and coaches: Keep the meet light and don't have it interfere with big meets (Age Group or Senior Sectionals). Andrea brought up that the most positive feedback from last year was meeting new friends and forming friendships. The lowest priority feedback was on the racing.
 - b. Suggestion to write up a summary of the goals and objectives for the Mixer Meet. Curt will send Tony feedback and surveys received after that last Mixer Meet. Tony will compile the details into a description for this year's Mixer to present the board via email for approval in the next week, then publish to all Montana teams asap. Bids for hosting the meet should be in by the end of December/first of January. Decision on a venue and promotion can begin by early January.
 - c. Shelly recalled that Saturday of last year's meet was VERY long and tiring for the youngest participants (10&U). She suggested the morning session be for 11&O only, then have all the 10&U join up for the afternoon. We should be sensitive going forward to the length of day planned for the younger swimmers. Tony will include these suggestions in his promo description.
 - d. Andrea has pulled up the Facebook page for MT Swimming and has created an event there for the Mixer. Currently there are 231 members for the FB page.
7. **Strategic Planning:** Currently set for April 25th, 2015. Helena seems to be a central location for all teams.
- a. Tony will send a pilot survey back to USA Swimming within a few days as this is a new service for USA Swimming and we are one of the first few LSCs to participate.
 - b. Tony will send information for MT board members to look over. Email Tony with preferences for venue and any other pertinent thoughts.

8. Championship Meet Cancellation Policy -

- a. MT Swimming has money allotted for championship meets. If a meet is cancelled for a reason beyond the host teams control, should MT Swimming help out with some of the non-recoupable costs (program printing, apparel design, etc)?
- b. Any decision on a policy like this should be brought up as a proposal at the fall HOD meeting.
- c. MT Swimming is also out ~\$3000 for the awards that were already purchased for the November Senior meet that has been cancelled. MT Swimming really steps up to support the host team and takes on a lot of the risk involve in paying the host team \$2600. Conesus expresses discomfort with the LSC taking on even more liability.
- d. One thought is: If a club is willing to take on the bid, they need to be ready to take on the risk as well. These meets have a lot of potential profit for the benefit of the host team. If MT Swimming steps in to cover even more lost costs, those expenses are ultimately pasted off to all the athletes around the state.
- e. Rescheduling a canceled championship meet gets extremely difficult for coaches in their training schedules with the athletes, high school swimming, rest of the season's schedule. The swimmers lose a tremendous amount when these championships meets are not held on the weekend that has been planned toward all season. Training schedules and other club meets are set according to the set timing (by the HOD) of these championship meets.

9. Update on Butte YMCA Pool-

- a. Chief Executor Officer of the Butte Y has sent a 10-point report to Tony today stating what is being done, what is being fixed, and verbalizing the pool will be ready for Short Course State (March 2015). Tony reviewed the many points detailed in the report. Rumors have surfaced that the pool has been closed intermittently for practices and there are several additional issues facing the Butte Y pool.
- b. Do we want to have a backup for State? MAC has already tentatively blocked the dates with their pool after hearing Butte's pool went down (MAC also bid at HOD). Richard suggested we establish a contact with the Butte health department and work through them as a third party. Tony will follow thru on this contact.
- c. Butte pool also needs to be kept full of water during meets for the blocks to be at regulation height. If the water level drops significantly (as it did last SC State meet), the blocks become too high for USA Swimming regulation.
- d. Discussion about Great Falls or Hardin pools as backup options. Concerns discussed: Great Falls has only 6 lanes and Hardin is limited on deck space for a meet this size.

10. **Next conference call meeting - Monday, December 15th, 2014, 8:00 PM.**

11. Tony adjourned the meeting at 9:09 PM

Submitted by Tami Peters - Secretary