

Montana Swimming  
Executive Board Meeting  
December 15, 2014  
WebEx/conference call  
Approved -January 19, 2015

**Present:**

Tony Popp - President  
Curt Jacobson - Admin Vice Chair  
Richard Allen - Finance Vice Chair  
Tami Peters - Secretary  
Lisa Keyes - Age Group Vice Chair  
Rosanne Flann - Safety Coordinator  
Sami DuVal - Sr. Athlete Rep  
Alyssa Boese - Jr. Athlete Rep

**Absent**

David Berkoff - Program Development Co-Vice Chair  
Kyle Potter - Program Development Co-Vice Chair  
Craig Smith - Treasurer  
Kirby Beierle - Technical Planning Chair  
Jacob Byrne - Coach Representative  
Shelly Sobek - Safe Sport Coordinator  
Andrea Schmidt - Sr. Athlete Rep.  
Patrick Brennan - Jr. Athlete Rep

**Business**

1. President Tony Popp called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM
2. Approval of November 24,2014 minutes: Motion by Curt, 2nd by Richard, passed.
3. **Athlete Reps reports/updates:**
  - a. Sami has been busy with recruiting trips this fall and now High School swimming. Hasn't been to any meets yet this season. (Only meet she had planned on was the canceled senior meet in Butte in November.) BY team has just been to a meet in Gillette and did well there.
  - b. Alyssa also is currently full swing into High School swimming. No concerns to report.
4. **Safety:**
  - a. Tony has received several calls this week regarding running starts from the deck. Both athlete reps present report their team does not currently practice these.
  - b. Rosanne checked with USA Swimming and found there is currently no ruling regarding running deck starts. In the Coaches training however, it absolutely is not allowed. Apparently several coaches have been released in USA Swimming for practicing running starts.

- c. Tony will write a synopsis of these reports on running starts and post it to the MT Swimming website.

5. **Official Recruitment:**

- a. Tony encourages all teams to be actively recruiting officials. USA Swimming recommends healthy organizations (both LSCs and teams) should have 1 official for every 10 swimmers. MT LSC falls quite short on this stated level of participation; increased number of officials in the LSC would be very helpful for LEAP.
- b. Curt has been doing some officials clinics in Missoula and has begun training several new parents to be officials. He covers the training video, leads discussion stemming from the video, shows how to log into and register with OTS, and hands out necessary paperwork and other helpful documents. Tony has offered training help to both the Whitefish and Polson teams. Tami has lead one clinic in Bozeman this fall and plans to do a couple more this season. **Be sure to contact Merle if you host a training clinic as both the trainee and the LSC receives credit for training clinics.**
- c. Discussion on how we might help/encourage teams with few to no involved officials. Suggestion that we begin announcing (similar to calling for timers) at meets that official training is available throughout the meet . Also discussed the many benefits and incentives for officiating: required credentials can be financially reimbursed, tax write offs for expenses for attending meets, camaraderie, hospitality graces, being engaged in the operations of the meet throughout the weekend, freeing up spectator space.

6. **Mixer Meet:**

- a. Bid information is currently on the web site. There have not been bids submitted so far, but Tony forgot to send out an email to teams and coaches. He will do that tomorrow.
- b. Questions raised: Who should decide on host if more than one bid is submitted for mixer meets? Should it be athletes? Executive board? Technical planning chair? Conducted at the HOD meeting (which cannot happen for this spring due to timing)?
- c. For the April 2015 Mixer Meet, due to time restraints, bids for the meet need to be submitted asap and the Executive Board will award the meet in January, 2015.
- d. **Discussion for future mixers:** After the invite has been made public and bids have been received, athlete reps and coaches should discuss the options and decide on a recommendation from their perspective. This recommendation, along with reasons and justification for their choice, shall be submitted to the executive board. Every effort should be made to accommodate the recommendation of the coaches and athletes, however this needs to be balanced with fiscal responsibility in funding the meets.
- e. **Fall 2015 Mixer Meet:** In planning for a fall mixer, the dates for the meet will be discussed during February's meeting and made public by March 1, 2015. Bids should be due to Tony by May 1st giving coaches and athletes about 2 weeks for discussion before the May HOD meeting. Coaches and athletes will present their

recommendations at the May HOD meeting, followed with discussion, then vote on the host and location.

- f. Tony encouraged athlete reps to spend some time exploring what they would like to see included in these meets. The focus is on a fun, engaging meet environment where swimmers of many ages across the state can get to know each other. We want to make sure we produce the flavor of atmosphere in these meets that the athletes want.

7. **Strategic Planning Session:**

- a. Set for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Helena with Arlene McDonald from USA Swimming.
- b. Jorgenson Hotel costs ~\$250 for a meeting. Food is extra (~\$100-\$150 for HOD meetings). Tony will contact the Helena team about other options of places to meet.
- c. **MT LSC 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."
  - i. Tony wants all board members to become very familiar our mission statement; maybe even memorized. The statement itself, and the quality of job we feel we are doing to carry it out, will be covered thoroughly during the strategic planning session.
- d. **Pre-strategic Planning:** To be covered in the next few conference calls; we need to list our LSC's strengths, weaknesses, assets, liabilities, opportunities, even possible threats. This pre-planning will help us make the most of our time with Arlene.

8. **Update on Butte YMCA Pool:** Tony asked for any recent updates on the Butte pool.

- a. Tony has spoken with both the Health Department and the YMCA since the last conference call and will continue to maintain the contact.
- b. Discussion on a contingency plan for SC State Meet 2015 - When would there need to be a commitment that the pool is ready to host a state meet? Two weeks seems to be a minimum amount of time to allow a new host team to prepare for the meet. The statement on the ready condition of the Butte pool should come from both the Health Department and the Butte YMCA.
- c. Water level needs to be raised for the state meet, both in the warm-up pool (so there is enough depth to swim) and in the competition pool (so blocks are at regulation height).
- d. Board feels that the Butte pool is still the best place to hold SC State, provided the pool is in proper condition to provide for top quality competition.

9. **Next conference call meeting:** Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:00 PM.

10. Merry Christmas everyone! Tony adjourned the meeting at 8:57 PM

Submitted by Tami Peters - Secretary