

Montana Swimming Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2020 -- Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Matt Yovich, general chair; Jay Friend, administrative vice chair; Kristen Wyatt, program development co-chair; Jessica Knote, co-coach representative; Caty Flikkema, co-coach representative; Stephanie Boysen, program operations chair; Susan Huckeby, secretary; Hannah Jourdonnais, senior athlete representative; Bella Seagrave, senior athlete representative; O'Shay Birdinground, junior athlete representative; and Bremer Deaton, junior athlete representative. Also attending the meeting was Craig Smith, treasurer.

General chair Matt Yovich called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Meeting agenda:

- Plan for the May HOD meeting
- Appoint an interim finance vice chair
- Plan back to pool efforts and evaluate/modify the summer meet schedule in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Evaluate/develop support for clubs and coaches in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

May HOD Meeting:

The meeting was planned for Friday, May 15 to begin after the conclusion of the Bozeman May Classic swim meet that day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Bozeman swim meet was canceled. USA Swimming has ruled LSCs may hold virtual HOD meetings at this time.

M/S/P: The MT swimming spring HOD meeting will be held Sunday May 17 at 7:00 pm as a virtual meeting.

- The spring HOD meeting notice will be posted on the website.
- Items to be discussed include the male and female athlete of the year, male and female sportspersons of the year, Phillips 66 volunteer of the year, short course meet bids, bids to host Short Course State and the junior B-C Championships, and naming committee chairs. Officers and committee chairs should submit written reports to Susan prior to the meeting to be posted on the website. Bids to host the two championship meets are due to Matt by May 1. Short course meet dates should be submitted to Sean prior to the meeting. Written nominations for the sportspersons of the year and the volunteer of the year are preferred so they can be posted on the website for review by everyone prior to the meeting. Athlete of the year awards are calculated based on Hy-tek power points and nominations should be sent to Susan prior to the meeting.
- Matt will provide the details on how to attend the ZOOM meeting.
- Matt will write the agenda and send it to the executive committee to review before posting it on the website.

Appoint an Interim Finance Vice Chair:

The previous finance vice chair, Mike O'Neil resigned from the board in January as his family moved out of state. The committee needs to appoint an interim finance vice chair to fill the remainder of Mike's term in office.

M/S/P: Tracy Flikkema, BMA, was appointed the interim Montana Swimming finance vice chair. Matt and Craig will reach out to Tracy about the position duties.

Back to Pool Efforts and Summer Meet Schedule:

Western Zone Meets: The Western Zone board met with the general chairs in the Western Zone to discuss the 2020 senior zones and age group zones meets. Concerns were expressed over athlete safety, lack of participants, and lack of funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Western Zone board voted to postpone both zone meets this year. Both meets will be held in 2021 by the current hosts in the same locations.

Concern was expressed about recognizing the Montana Swimming athletes who qualified for the zone meets this year. Steph will look into ways to recognize the athletes by possibly providing them a jacket, t-shirt or bag tag. She will email the coaches to ask which athletes have qualified to date. She will put together a proposal with costs to present to the executive committee.

USA Swimming summer meets: Matt reported USA Swimming is moving away from hosting large swim meets this summer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is unsure if futures and the Speedo championship meet will be held. USA Swimming is discussing hosting 14-15 sectional meets in August around the county all on the same weekend within driving distance of the participants so no one needs to fly to swim meets. USA-S is targeting these sectional meets to have 350-600 senior level athletes. The meets would serve as a welcome back to swimming event.

USA-S is encouraging age group meets to be a celebration for the return to swimming. Meets should be fun, light, and celebratory.

Meet sanctions: USA Swimming has canceled all sanctioned events across the country through May 31.

USA-S Zoom Meeting Licenses: USA-S is offering member clubs a free 90 day enterprise license for Zoom meetings. Access requests should be sent to Paula D'Amico at pdamico@usaswimming.org.

There are enhanced virtual learning opportunities on the USA-S website including information about know your by-laws and what programs and services can be offered in the LSC.

MT Summer Meet Schedule: Jay reported if teams are back in the water by May 1 MAC is planning to still host the Firecracker meet in June but may move the meet date a week later. If teams are not back in the water until June 1, the meet may be held in July or August. MAC is planning to practice through August without a break.

Montana Swimming Long Course State: Montana Swimming may want to change LC State to a non-qualifying meet and allow all swimmers to attend. It could possibly be called the Montana Open. If social distancing requirements call for fewer athletes to be on deck and in the water the meet could be broken into age groups. Mixed age group crescendo relays could be offered. There could be added benefits of having all age groups swim together at the meet especially if it was focused more on fun.

Virtual Meets: USA Swimming posted information about virtual meets. Clubs could host fun non-sanctioned virtual meets as a way to introduce competition. Sanctioned virtual meets could also be held. Concerns were expressed over the number of officials needed, equipment (such as no starting blocks at a pool) and timing requirements.

Return to Swimming 30-60-90 Day Plan: Matt sent out information to the group about return to swimming plans from other LSCs including one from Southern California. Montana Swimming needs to develop a 30-60-90 day plan to return to swimming as the state is opened up for business in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first 30 days would be a return to practice. Days 31-60 would include a return to competition using fun non-sanctioned meets and virtual meets. There could be some sanctioned competition. Days 61-90 would include a return to normal competition. Sample social distancing and spacing plans should also be developed.

MT Swimming 30-60-90 Day Return to Swimming Plan Committee: The committee will include Jay Friend, Bremer Deaton, and Susan Huckeby.

- The group will develop a 30-60-90 day plan for Montana Swimming and present it to the executive committee for discussion and approval.
- The group will also develop sample social distancing and spacing plans for clubs.

Evaluate and Develop Support for Clubs and Coaches in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic:

Matt sent out a link to a Google document with plans developed by other LSCs to assist clubs financially during the COVID-19 pandemic (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_jxypylUG8Zq3LXP7bSfug7t-qdm6WO4y8vMlq1K3BI/edit#gid=0) USA Swimming has stated because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an emergency situation and LSCs should assist clubs financially if possible. USA Swimming has reserve and disaster relief funds that clubs may be able to access but LSCs must provide relief first to clubs before USA-S funding can be tapped. Montana Swimming can use funds from the operating reserve fund to assist clubs. The group discussed various ideas to provide assistance. Questions were raised about spending funds in the operating reserve and how to replenish any funds used from the operating reserve. Would a proposal need to be made to alter the requirements for the operating reserve to allow Montana Swimming to provide financial assistance to clubs at this time? The operating reserve fund has a current balance of \$145,759.

Clubs are concerned with having fewer swimmers when teams are allowed to resume practice. Coaches are concerned with being laid off from their jobs. Already there are Montana coaches who have been furloughed. Teams are concerned they will need more coaches on deck to comply with social distancing guidelines and teams may not have funds to pay coaches. How can Montana Swimming address the financial needs of its member clubs?

Sean Marshall had submitted a proposed financial aid plan for clubs to Matt prior to the meeting. He proposed a registration refund to clubs of \$30 per year round swimmer registered from 2018-2020. This would not assist clubs such as Hardin which have primarily all outreach swimmers and would not include flex or seasonal swimmers. It was noted Hardin doesn't practice over the summer so they would have fewer costs now than other teams. The group was concerned over the cost if the refund spanned three years of registration which would amount to about \$90,000. Others expressed concern that the LSC needed to act now and not wait as clubs were hurting financially.

Caty stated a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) would likely pass Congress soon and clubs could apply for assistance. Funding for the first round of PPP offered earlier this month had already been depleted. She and Jessica will send out an e-mail to coaches to encourage their clubs to

work with their banks to apply for the funding. Some clubs mentioned they applied for the first round of PPP and the CARES Act but didn't receive funding.

The group also discussed providing grants to clubs needing additional financial assistance. How should the grant program be structured, how much money total and per club could be offered, how would the grant program be administered, and what type of application would be needed were discussed. Mentors should be available to assist clubs if needed in developing the financial reports to apply for grants. There should be a limit on the amount of funding a club may receive. Montana Swimming should not encourage irresponsible spending by clubs. The grants shouldn't bail out clubs for poor financial decisions. This is not free money to clubs as Montana Swimming will need to replenish the operating reserve fund. If a grant program is offered for clubs, how long should Montana Swimming offer the grants? Should there be a specific time period when clubs can apply for grants such as May-June?

The group decided a committee should be formed to develop and administer the grants. The committee should also develop a list of other financial resources available to clubs.

Montana Swimming Grant Funding:

M/S/P: In response to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic:

1) Montana Swimming will offer a one-time grant to currently registered Montana Swimming member clubs of \$30 per year round athlete registered between September 1, 2019 and March 15, 2020.

2) In addition to the one time athlete registration grant payments listed above, Montana Swimming will develop a needs based grant system for member clubs dealing with financial set backs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Montana Swimming COVID-19 Response Grant Committee: Committee members include Caty Flikkema, Kristen Wyatt, Matt Yovich, Susan Huckleby, and O'Shay Birdinground. In addition, Craig Smith, MT Swimming Treasurer, and Tracy Flikkema, MT Swimming Finance Vice Chair, are ex-officio members of the committee.

Montana Swimming COVID-19 Response Grant Committee Directives:

- Develop a grant application, application requirements, timeline, and grant funding limits. Report to the MT Swimming executive committee.
- Receive and evaluate grant applications. Make recommendations to the MT Swimming executive committee regarding grant applications.
- Develop a list of alternative financial resources available to clubs.

Craig will work with Steph to determine the number of year round athletes registered to each club between September 1, 2019 and March 15, 2020 and mail the grant checks to the teams by Thursday April 23. He will send a report to the grant committee.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Huckleby, Montana Swimming Secretary

Attachments:

- Southern California 30-60-90 RTP Task Force report, April 11, 2020
- Western Zone Discussion COVID-19 and Impact PowerPoint Slides 4-17-2020

Sean Marshall Grant Proposal:

Proposal: To financially help Montana Clubs during this time of need and to ensure that all teams will be able to operate to their full capacity (pool rent, coach's pay, etc) when able to return to the pool.

Each team paid Montana Swimming \$92 per Year Round Registration. \$62 of that \$92 goes to USA Swimming and the remaining \$30 then goes to Montana Swimming.

We propose that each Montana Swimming Team be reimbursed \$30 per athlete for their to-date total registration numbers as of March 15th from the years: 2018, 2019, and 2020.

The total reimbursement amount would be the sum of the total registrations for those 3 years multiplied by \$30 (registration fee).

Flex Membership athletes will not be included in this number.

This proposal would be a fair representation across the board for all Montana Swimming Teams as it's based off of each team's registration numbers and not a general amount across the board equaled dispersed.