

Missouri Valley Swimming, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

April 8, 2017, Roeland Park, KS

Board Members in Attendance: Scott Bliss, Executive Director; David Carpenter, Immediate Past General Chair and Officials Committee Chair; Ingenue Cobbinah, Diversity and Inclusion Chair; Natalie Haag, General Chair; Amy Hoppenrath; Administrative Vice Chair; Gardner Howland, Senior Chair; James Kuhlman, Member at Large; Curtis Myers, Officials Committee; Alison Pick, Coaches Representative; Katie Price, Age Group Chair; Wendy Savley, Treasurer; Andrew Schmidt, Safety Chair; Dulcy Sellon, Secretary; Mark Sutton, Treasurer; Erik Wiechman, Member at Large

Natalie Haag called the meeting to order at 10 AM. She stated that the athlete meeting preceding this Board meeting had gone well and she was encouraged to see many athletes attending and offering ideas to the committee. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January Board of Directors Meeting held by phone. The motion was made to amend the minutes to show that Andrew Schmidt was present; that Mark Sutton's statement that MV budgeted about \$70,000 for travel reimbursement would be broken out to show that \$13,500 had been budgeted for the All Star meet, \$35,000 for the Zone meet and \$20,000 for Senior travel; and that Mark Sutton would present his research into MV's short term and long term investments at the 2017 fall meeting rather than the 2017 spring meeting. The motion to amend was seconded and approved. The motion to approve the minutes as amended to reflect these changes was made, seconded and all voted aye.

Mark Sutton presented the financial committee's report. He stated that Splash fees were running slightly ahead of budget. More distributions by Wendy will occur in the second half of the fiscal year. Income and expenses are on budget. Alison Pick made the motion to accept the financial report. Amy seconded the motion and all voted aye. Mark also discussed the registration fee increase for the 2018 registration year. USA Swimming will increase their registration fee by \$2 for 2018 and in order to keep the MV fee in line with this increase the Board will present a resolution to the House of Delegates to increase the MV registration fee for full year athletes and non-athletes to \$64 for registration year 2018. The season 2 athlete registration fee will be \$40; the organization and full year club fee will be \$150; and the seasonal club fee will be \$80. The fee structure will be evaluated each year to assess USA Swimming changes.

Scott Bliss, Executive Director, stated that registrations were up 10% this year. He also pointed out that USA Swimming has just recently launched a new website and asked that when anyone finds a link from the MV website to the new USAS website that does not work, to let him know

so that the link can be corrected. He also was encouraged by the increased participation and activity of the MV athletes in governance work.

Natalie reported for the athlete board representatives had both ACT testing and Prom activities this weekend but the athletes reported that they had set up Twitter for athlete use and were working on Instagram. The athletes also plan to have a meeting at the Championship meet and would like to have an awards banquet at the fall meeting. Natalie stated that the athlete committee members would be voting members at the House of Delegates meeting and she encouraged coaches from teams without an athlete committee member to encourage their swimmers to participate. Ashton Pearson for the Committee had stated that they are encouraging swimmers from 13 to 18 to participate. Scott stated that he is the administrator for the athlete's Twitter account. Board members were encouraged that the athletes' social media activity was being overseen by Scott.

Old Business

Travel Fund Policy

The Board discussed the MV Travel Fund policy. MV has a travel fund policy in place. The Board focused on whether travel fund dollars should be allocated for college swimmers attending national meets and whether MV wished to continue spending for travel to the All Star meet. Natalie suggested that the coaches consider to whom funds should be allocated. Mark stated that if coaches or teams devised a program that would benefit MV swimmers, they should bring their plan forward so that the Board could determine if the program should receive funding and/or how to fund it. Members discussed the benefits of providing money to college swimmers for travel such as maintaining a strong relationship with teams that provide good competitive pools for MV meets and supporting swimmers who have been developed by MV and are now competing at a college level. The Board decided to table the issue and have Gardner discuss the issue with the MU coach and come back to the Board with ideas from him.

The Board next discussed the age group and senior travel fund allocations. During the past couple years, a lot of money was spent for swimmers attending the All Star meet as a MV travel meet. Mark stated that this fiscal year \$13,500 has been budgeted for it but that only \$9,000 had been spent. Board members suggested that ways to lessen the meet costs could involve equipping team members with MV equipment rather than items selected for each meet and by having swimmers receive equipment once even if they were selected for subsequent All Star or Zone meets. Coaches on the Board also discussed whether there were benefits to swimmers attending the All Star meet given the time of year it is held. They felt that there were other opportunities for high level completion or camps that would benefit their swimmers. A consensus on enhancing the status of attending the Zone meet emerged. Katie stated that the

All Star meet is not currently on the 2018 meet schedule. Amy made the motion that MV not attend the All Star meet and allow the coaches to reallocate All Star funds to offer opportunities to improve swimmers' performance. All voted aye.

LEAP II

Natalie reported that scheduling a session for MV and OZ to work together on LEAP II had proven difficult. She asked if the Board was willing to allow a small group from MV to work with OZ on LEAP II. Scott said that he would be willing to be a member of the small group. Amy stated that she had been able to have the LEAP II deadline for us moved to the fall. Natalie stated that a coach would be needed for this small group work also. Amy made the motion to have a small group from MV work with OZ on the LEAP II requirements. The motion was seconded and all voted aye.

New Business

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee's report presented the following slate of officers : Treasurer, Wendy Savley; Finance Chair, Mark Sutton; Junior Coach Representative Mike Meloy; Technical Planning Chair, Bob Shearer; Officials Committee Chair, Curtis Myers; Senior Chair, Gardner Howland; Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Ingenue Cobbinah; Athlete Representative, Cameron Murphy; Athlete Representative Courtney Myers; Members at Large, Erik Wiechman and James Kuhlman. The slate of candidates will be presented to the House of Delegates for election.

Proposed Meet Changes

The Board determined that no changes were needed for the MV Championship qualification standards for long course meters. Four issues were raised by the large number of swimmers competing in the MV 2017 short course yards championship meet. The meet had 876 swimmers competing which was an increase of more than 100 swimmers from the previous year. The Board looked at the number of swimmers in the meet who were automatic qualifiers, swimmers who had placed first or second in the District Championship meets; the total number of bonus splashes; relay only swimmers; and the time standards for the meet. Various suggestions were offered for reducing the number of swimmers, including, making the meet a 14 and under competition; eliminating automatic qualifications; and, setting a time standard for bonus swims. The Board appointed the Senior Chair, Age Group Chair and Technical Planning Chair to a committee designated to develop a recommendation for the House of Delegates.

Proposed Fee Changes

Natalie provided the Board with a proposed resolution for MV's fee structure. The 2018 registration fees for athletes and non-athletes would be raised to \$64 and the seasonal athlete registration fees, and club fees would be set as stated above. The Resolution further set out that sanction fees would be \$15 per meet; and that with the exception of MV Championships, Region VIII Sectional and Central Zone meets any sanctioned MV meet will have entry fee limits of \$4.50 per event and \$7.00 per relay team; with the exception of Sectional and Zone Championship meets, any MV sanctioned meet will have a deck entry fee limit of \$9.00 per event and \$14.00 per relay event; and for MV Championship, Region VIII Sectional and Central Zone Meets sanctioned by MV in addition to event entry fees, the host team may charge a reasonable facility charge per swimmer.

Board discussion centered on whether to allow teams to add a facility charge for any meet and the amount that should be allowed for the facility charge per swimmer. The Board determined that allowing a facility fee was necessary to cover the increasing cost of maintaining quality competition facilities and that teams should decide on the swimmer surcharge for the non-championship meets but that this information must be included in the meet bid information. The resolution was amended to include this change. The surcharges for the Championship meets would be \$5 per swimmer for the Winter Qualifier and LCM District Championship and, \$10 per swimmer for the Winter Classic, SCY District Championship, SCY Championship and LCM Championship. The resolution was amended to include this change. The Board also revised the resolution to provide a date for the implementation of the resolution. The resolution as amended, with dates and fees, will be presented to the House of Delegates for approval.

Meet Schedule Approval

The Board next considered the proposed meet schedule. Wichita Swim Club had bid for the LCM Championship meet. TSA had been awarded the meet and then withdrawn the bid so the meet had been awarded to WSC. CSC had expressed an interest in hosting at the time of TSA's withdrawal. A motion was made to accept the WSC bid because this followed the MV practice of accepting bids in order submitted. The Board made the statement that the House of Delegates had the ability to make the award differently. A host for the LCM District east championship was still needed. Without another bid there would be only one LCM District Championship meet in Wichita. The Board discussed changing the start date for allowing the surcharge of \$5 per swimmer to April 8 in the hope of attracting a meet host. The motion to make an amendment to the Resolution was passed. Without another bid there will be only the WSC hosted District LCM Championship meet for 2017. A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the SCY meet schedule. In discussion before the vote, the Board decided that clubs would be given 30 days to let Scott know the surcharge amount they wished to have posted for their bid on the meet schedule.

Appointment of Athlete Committee Members

The Board was given the names of the athlete committee members. The Senior Representatives to the Board of Directors are Ashton Pearson and Sophia Brauer and the athlete representative to the Central Zone Board of Review is Tarrin Fisher. The following athletes comprise the athlete committee: Hannah Evans, BSD; Tait Harey, CNS; Hannah Gardner, MM; Emma Hagan , COOL; Lena Coon, CSC; Kadisyn Kircher, EKC; Abbie Schattgen, JCAY; Courtney Myers, NLU; Zeke Metz, TSA; Cameron Murphy, TST; Lexie Shelton, WAS; Jillian McKernan, WNYN; Alec Lebeda, WSC.

USA Swimming Convention Attendees

MV will have six voting members at the USAS Convention. They will be the General Chair, Administrative Vice Chair, Age Group Chair, Senior Chair, Senior Athlete Representative and the senior Coach Representative. All those planning to attend the convention should let Scott know so reservations and registrations can be made.

Committee Membership and Annual Review of MV Policies

Natalie reminded all Board members that MV committees must include 20% athlete members. She also had the Board review the policies for Records Retention, Whistleblowers, Conflict of Interest and Travel Fund. These policies will be reviewed annually and posted. She requested that the Conflict of Interest policy be signed by all members.

Officer and Committee Reports

Ingenue Cobbinah , Diversity and Inclusion Chair, asked if MV would be sending a team to the Central Zone Multicultural meet in Columbus, Ohio, June 10-11. Scott said that a sign up note for the meet for swimmers and a coach would be posted and that the meet had a MV budget of \$1500. She also asked that a tab for multicultural events be added to the website and that the outreach registration fees be included. She also plans to start the process to arrange for a mini-camp at an inner-city pool. MV athletes might be able to earn volunteer credit for help at the camp. Ingenue also asked clubs to donate any past season team t- shirts to use as gifts or prizes at the minicamp. She would like to have clubs submit information on outstanding swimmers to be highlighted on the webpage. Ingenue stated that she would be attending the 15th annual National Black Heritage Championship Meet in North Carolina, May 25-29 to meet other D&I representatives and athletes and bring back new ideas for MV.

Katie Price, Age Group Chair, stated that MV needed a head coach for the Zone meet and that it is necessary to appoint one immediately to make sure all the preparations for the meet are accomplished. She stated that if a head coach is not found she would undertake the position.

Mark Sutton, Finance Chair, asked Scott and Gardner to clarify their policy for submitting clubs' requests for travel reimbursements for national meets.

Andrew Schmidt, Safety Chair, stated that he would like to attend the USAS Operational Risk workshop in Colorado Springs. Mark stated that the budget includes funds for officer workshops. His attendance was approved.

Natalie made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 12:20 pm for ten minutes. The motion was seconded and approved and the meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

The Board of Directors meeting resumed at 12:25 pm. No members had additional issues for discussion. Andrew Schmidt made the motion to adjourn. This was seconded and all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcy Sellon, MV Secretary