

## Missouri Valley Swimming, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

April 8, 2016, Roeland Park, KS

Board Members in Attendance: Clarence Aitken, Seasonal Representative; Scott Bliss, Executive Director; Cassie Campbell, Member At Large; Natalie Haag, General Chair; Amy Hoppenrath; Administrative Vice Chair; Tom Kleiboeker, Coaches' Representative; James Kuhlman, Member at Large; Patrick Norman, Program Operations Chair; Eric Reid, Technical Planning Chair; Dulcy Sellon, Secretary; Mark Sutton, Treasurer; Erik Wiechman, Member at Large

Natalie Haag called the meeting to order at 4:30 and asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. She stated that the agenda consisted of the minutes from the last Board meeting which had been posted on the website and the officers reports which had been emailed to all Board members. (Officer reports are available on the MV website under News, Missouri Valley Annual Meeting.) James made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Amy seconded the motion and all vote aye.

### Old Business

Patrick presented the MV Travel Fund/Athlete Support Policy. He stated that the section on coach travel funding had been removed. The policy provides financial support for a portion of meet travel expenses to MV registered teams when MVS registered swimmers from that team qualify for Junior National, National or Olympic Trials. Eligibility criteria for the qualifying athletes is spelled out in the policy. Officials may receive travel funds for participation in National Level meets that are necessary for completion of N3 certification. Patrick stated that the policy contains three due dates for travel fund applications and also pointed out that travel funds would be available for swimmers participating in the Open Water National Championships. Patrick made the motion to accept the travel fund policy. Amy seconded the motion and all vote aye.

The Board discussed the three strategic Initiatives which had resulted from the Board's February planning workshop. The first initiative was to enhance communication by ensuring ongoing and complete Board communication, ensuring complete communication with clubs and also with LSC Membership. Several ways to enhance the current communication process via website and email were suggested. These included providing a mechanism to elicit a response from an email recipient so that the sender would know the email had been received and read; providing email addresses such as [treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer@gmail.com) which could be assigned to new officers as they took Board positions. Amy suggested that calendar notifications be established also so that officers would be notified of meetings or announcements. Patrick stated that this year teams and coaches had received the information they needed in a timely manner.

The second initiative was to improve Senior/Age Group athlete performance. Tom Kleiboeker stated that he had devised a potential format for the training camps that the initiative had proposed. The committee hoped to have the camps' dates and locations available by the end of May. Central High School would be the likely location for the camps. The camps would probably be in December, 2016 and May 2017. The committee would seek input from the coaches on this. Natalie asked if a budget line for it would be needed. Tom thought pool rent would be needed and once the plans are more complete, the full cost for the camps could be established.

This initiative also sought to have coaches participate in club visits and to increase the percentage of MV swimmers achieving IMX scores. Tom stated he had visited Carmel Swim Club in Indiana. The club would be willing to provide their training and organizational insights and resources to MV. Tom also stated that the committee is encouraging coaches to have their swimmers participate in IMX events at meets.

The third initiative was to improve governance and the committee had five goals. The first was to devise Board training materials. Committee members stated that new Board members would be encouraged to take the USA Swimming online Board training course and that a check list of information for Board members would be devised. Position descriptions for Board members would be drawn from the By-Laws and from current Board members. The Executive Director position description devised by the committee and by Scott was provided to the Board and the committee sought feed-back from the Board. For the fourth goal, to increase swimmer participation in governance, the committee secured three swimmers for Board membership and is compiling additional athlete volunteer lists. The fifth goal, to finalize MV's Mission and Vision statement will continue to be worked on.

The MV Swimposium will be held October 7-9. The Age Group committee is working on the schedule for the weekend. David Benzel, a life coach, has already been secured to present information to parents and swimmers. Scott stated that an athlete would also come to work with the swimmers. USA Swimming will provide part of the funding for the Swimposium.

Natalie provided information for the boundary change request from Berzerker swimming, formerly known as the Jasper County Killer Whales. The club wishes to have Jasper, Newton and McDonald counties along the Missouri boarder moved into the Arkansas LSC. Berzerker already registers its swimmers with Arkansas but by having the counties included in Arkansas, they would be able to host the Arkansas championship meet and use funds from the meet to contribute to the Arkansas travel fund which their swimmers use. The move would cost the MV LSC about \$3000 a year. Scott suggested that a potential compromise might be to have the club continue to have MV sanction its meets, including the championship meet, but allow Arkansas to keep the championship meet fees. The Board decided to present the request for the transfer

of the three counties to Arkansas to the House of Delegates for a vote without stating a preference.

Tom Kleiboeker presented the Nominating committee's slate of candidates that will be offered to the House of Delegates. The slate has General Chair, Natalie Haag; Admin Vice Chair, Amy Hoppenrath; Program Development, CJ Roberts; Secretary, Dulcy Sellon; Treasurer, to be determined; At Large Representative, Greg Huskey; Coaches Representative, Gardner Howland; Athlete Representatives, Ashton Pearson and Sophia Brauer. The committee also secured some volunteers for other appointed committee positions. Andrew Schmidt would be willing to serve as the Safety Chair, Rob Putnam as Inclusion and Diversity Chair with Ingenue Cobbinah as a committee member. Other volunteers will be secured for the Board of Review and other standing committees. Natalie asked if other committees or task forces need to be set up. Scott suggested that a Swimposium Task Force be set up. Clarence asked for a Summer League Committee. Patrick asked that a meet evaluation committee be established. Amy requested an Awards and Recognition task force.

#### New Business

Scott reported that there were no conflicts in the meet bid process and the schedule could be sent to the House of Delegates for approval.

The Board discussed who should be sent to the USA Swimming Convention in Atlanta in September. It was agreed that all voting delegates should attend and Amy will seek an at large member invitation to secure another vote at the House of Delegates. The Board also decided that the Diversity and Inclusion Chair should be encouraged to attend as well as the new Board of Review members for training. Amy pointed out that the athlete representative on the Zone Board of Review, Nathan Graver, who is no longer an athlete needs to be replaced. The athlete representatives will be encouraged to attend the Convention.

#### Discussion Items

Mark Sutton stated that MV charges a very low registration fee; most of the LSC's income derives from splash/meet fees. USA Swimming is raising its registration fees by \$2 a year for the next 10 years. Mark made the motion to increase MV's registration fees for full year athletes and nonathletes to \$62 for the 2017 registration year. Summer athlete registration fees would not increase. Tom seconded the motion and all voted aye. Mark stated that he would review the budget and asked for Board input if changes are desired. Scott said he would supply information on the Swimposium costs when they became available. The Board discussed the meet enhancement funding given to clubs hosting championship meets. The Board decided to simplify the budget distribution process by combining the awards and enhancement budget lines into one line.

Natalie raised the issue of club assignments to the short course district meets and specifically whether MV should have only two district championships rather than three. She was assured that three meets are needed. The Board agreed that team assignments to the District sites needs to be put on a rotational basis so that the same team does not have to make a long trip to the meet every year.

Amy asked if MV would be sending swimmers to the June 16 Diversity camp in Omaha? Scott stated that applications for the meet would be taken until April 30. Two swimmers would be able to attend and Rob Putnam as Diversity Chair would also be attending.

Natalie requested input on a possible date for the Board's summer meeting. The Board agreed to hold the meeting July 28 in Lawrence.

Patrick made the motion to adjourn the meeting and James seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcy Sellon, MV Secretary