

Missouri Valley Swimming, Inc.

Board of Directors meeting by phone January 31, 2017

Members in Attendance: Scott Bliss, Executive Director; Natalie Haag, General Chair; Amy Hoppenrath, Administrative Vice Chair; Gardner Howland, Program Operations Chair; Greg Huskey, Member at Large; Alison Pick, Coaches Representative; Ashton Pierson, Athlete Representative; Candace Pearson, Safe Sport Chair; Katie Price-Norman, Program Development Chair; Eric Reid, Technical Planning Chair; Wendy Savley, Treasurer; Dulcy Sellon, Secretary; Mark Sutton, Finance Chair; Eric Weichman, Member at Large

Natalie called the meeting to order at 8 pm and asked if a coaches' report was forthcoming on their preferences for the allocation of MV funds for senior travel or age group travel to the All Star meet and Zones. Gardner Howland stated that he had researched the approaches other LSC used for allocating their travel funds. There is a great variety of funding programs among the LSC's and they do seem to spend a lot on senior travel. An issue considered was whether LSC's reimburse college swimmers' travel costs. Katie stated that the coaches had not discussed their priorities for the division of funds between senior travel and age group travel meets. Katie raised the issue of deciding if the age group team travel to all Stars and Zones would continue. Mark Sutton stated that he had discussed the funding for the immediate past All Star meet with coaches Eric Huntsman and Bob Kenley. MV provided the All Star swimmers with two caps, hoodies and t shirts. \$5,000 was spent for the meet and they planned to do the same for the upcoming Zone meet. The question was raised if it was possible to have a local All Star meet as we had in the past and thus avoid the team travel expense. Katie stated that no teams would attend a local meet and that other All Star meets were not available. Gardner stated that the coaches need to meet and decide their priorities for allocating the funds. Natalie requested that this be done by the April MV meeting. Katie asked that a decision on team travel to the Zone meet be made by April so that families could make plans for the meet if team travel did not occur. Natalie asked the Board if anyone opposed team travel to the Zone meet in 2017. There was no opposition to providing for team travel to the 2017 Zone meet.

Scott asked Gardner how many LSC's reimburse college swimmers for meet travel. He stated that LSC's had a variety of policies for reimbursement for college swimmers. The issue for MV arose because MU was interested in funding for the Olympic Trials. Mark stated that each year we budget funds for travel reimbursement. MV has budgeted \$70,000 for this. Natalie asked if MV was spending the right amount for seniors and age group swimmers and requested that coaches decide this by the April meeting. She asked Alison Pick, Coaches Representative, to have the coaches discuss this before the April meeting and she would get information on the amount of money spent for the two groups to Alison for the coaches discussion.

The Board next discussed the LEAP II program. Amy stated that USAS asked if MV would want to work with Ozark LSC to go through the LEAP program. This would be a ½ day program. Natalie asked if MV wanted to do the LEAP II program. We would receive some financial benefit, about \$1500, for completing it. The LEAP II completion date for us is April, 2017. Mark stated that he would not be able to complete his part by April because that is tax season for him. Amy and Natalie decided to see if getting an extension to the April deadline was possible. Natalie encouraged anyone who had some sections of LEAP II completed to get the material to Scott so that we can show a reason for granting the extension. Natalie also asked that Board members complete the on-line Board member training. Natalie, Amy and Dulcy stated that they had completed this training.

Natalie stated that the Board needed to establish a nominating committee so that a slate of candidates can be circulated in March for House consideration in April. The Program Operations Chair, Financial Vice Chair, Coaches Representative, and Officials Committee Chair positions need candidates. Ashton Pearson will be the athlete representative on the nominating committee. Natalie asked for suggestions for other committee members. Scott stated that the finance vice chair, treasurer, technical planning chair and safety chair are not term limited positions and current holders of those positions can remain if they so desire. Natalie suggested that the committee ask them if they wish to remain in their positions. Scott stated that the Diversity and Inclusion Chair is currently vacant and that it is an appointed position. Natalie recommended that Ingenue Cobbinah be appointed to this position. She is an experienced official and is interested in the work this position undertakes. The Board agreed to this appointment.

Natalie asked the Board if they wished to make a change in the MV by-laws to change the name for the Program Development Chair back to Age Group Chair and the Program Operations Chair back to Senior Chair. All agreed that this change would reduce confusion. Amy stated that she would check with USA Swimming about the procedure for this and will email the Board with the information.

Mark Sutton stated that the Convention expenditures matched the MV budget's allocation. He is planning to do some research into our short term and long term investments and will present that investment strategy information in April. MV's full year athlete registrations were up 8.4 percent so we did receive an Olympic bump. The number of non athlete registrations remained the same as last year.

Natalie asked if MV should increase its registration fee for full year athletes \$2 next registration year to match the USAS \$2 increase. This future increase would be communicated to MV at the House of Delegates meeting in April. Amy stated that USAS is considering several changes to their fee structure and we might want to consider these as we make our fee increase

recommendations. USAS is considering reducing fees for precompetitive swimmers in order to enable clubs to keep their fees low so that coaches do not encourage their swimmers to buy their insurance from AAU and not register with USAS until they compete. A low seasonal fee would affect our registration fee income. Amy suggested that we pay close attention to this and perhaps have a strategic session in May if we need to plan for these changes.

Mark made the motion to increase the MV registration fee \$2 for the 2017 -2018 registration year for full year athletes and non athletes. Amy seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Scott stated that he and Gardner were preparing to send out the meet bid packets for short course 2017-18. He has requested that the MV meeting be held on September 23, the weekend after the USA Swimming Convention, to free up the following weekends for meets. Natalie suggested that Scott send the Board members an email for their vote on the options for the date for the MV fall meeting. With that determination he could then send out the meet bid packet.

Natalie asked members to submit to her any agenda items they wished considered at the April meeting.

The Board offered no further items of business to address and the phone meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dulcy Sellon, MV Secretary