

**Midwestern Swimming
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM. Present were: Jeanie Neal, Jack Jackson, Mary Losee, Holly Beeman, Peggy Speer, Betty Kooy, Jackie Berry, Bruce Schomburg, Tom Beck, Al Johnson, Gretchen Lindner, Patrick Rowan and Paul Kemp.

Added to the agenda under New Business: Meet Evaluation Form - Bruce

Minutes: The name, Becky Berry, was corrected to read, Jackie Berry. **Minutes approved** as corrected.

Treasurer's and Finance Chair's Reports: Deferred until Treasurer or Finance Chair join conference call. (never did)

Committee Reports:

Administrative Vice-Chair, Senior Vice-Chair, Safety Chair, Senior and Junior Athlete Representative: – No reports.

Technical Chair: Bruce Schomburg proposed that the end-of-season meets be progressive: DII, DI, and then Sectionals. Coaches seem to be concerned about the long season for the swimmers. The current dates, particularly the Sectional dates, don't work well for MW. We have discussed with Randy Julian the possibility of changing Sections. Randy suggested that MW go to Region VIII (Section 2) with a proposal of changing the date to the second weekend in March. It may work better for all LSCs involved. Discussion followed about how best to go about approaching the coaches at the Section meeting to get them to buy into the change. **Motion** was made to give Bruce permission to pursue a proposal to change the sectional date. **Seconded. Approved.** Discussion: Betty suggested that Bruce poll coaches in MW and the other involved LSCs to get all on board with the proposal. Mary K. suggested getting a hold of LSC coaches' representatives for help. Questions were asked concerning the dates of the other Sectionals within the Central Zone – and they are later (2nd and 3rd weekends in March). Questions were asked concerning the impact on the MW DI and DII meets. DI could possibly be the weekend after state and DII would be the weekend before state or on that weekend. This could include the handful of kids in high school who can swim odd events at DI and then go to Sectionals. Recommendation was made that DII be before state. This is premature. Moving of the sectional to after DI's would only impact the Spring schedule. Volunteers were asked for to help Bruce. Jack suggested that we should have the senior chair and athlete rep help. Mary L. said that would be Brian or Kelly or Jensen. She will send e-mails to them. Tom Beck stated that it sounds good, but the drawback is that the top kids will be in the middle of a taper and that DI weekend can be too fatiguing with prelim-finals. Bruce stated that the progressive approach makes the most sense. Mary L. asked that Betty send the coaches e-mail addresses to Bruce. Bruce will poll the coaches to make sure they are on board. Jeanie asked that when we poll coaches we get more than a, yeah or nay. This will be a great opportunity for feedback on what they like or don't like and why.

Old Business:

Age Group Vice- Chair's Report: Patrick Rowan reported that MW finished 5th at All Stars, one up from last year. The performances were fairly good and there was no major drama except for one small plumbing issue at the hotel. The food was good and so was the apparel, except for a couple of suits that weren't aqua blades. There was some bad weather and a few issues at the meet as far as parents coming on deck. But, all in all it was a positive experience for our swimmers. Jack asked who is NM? Patrick replied that OZ pulled out and New Mexico has taken its place. There are just six teams and they just didn't like the format and scoring just the top two. They thought it was tougher on a small LSC or they didn't like the trip or the cost; Patrick wasn't sure. Betty mentioned that meet management said that only a couple of teams sent kids. Jack mentioned that we sent seventy-five swimmers and twenty-five scored. Do we need to reevaluate how we choose this team? Patrick said that it couldn't hurt. Mary L. said that other than looking at scoring, look at best times. Betty interjected that there was a pretty hefty percent of best times at the meet. Discussion of All Star contingencies will be added to New Business.

Coaches Representative: Mary L. said that Lynn Weaver wanted to discuss the concept of 'coaching assistants', but he was not present so there was no report. The written report on changes to Zone Head Coach and All Star Head Coach was discussed. Bruce asked questions regarding Senior Coach nominations. Teams list their coaches differently. Some clubs have one coach who does it all. The nomination criteria need to be fleshed out. Mary L. said that we will go back to Lynn for the March board meeting, but for right now the voting aspect is cut and dried. Bruce suggested that each club gets two votes, one for each level. Patrick questioned that if there were two votes per club, would that be for both All Stars and Zones as well? Mary L. said that that nothing was in the proposal but we need to look at. It will encourage every team to vote.

Executive Secretary/Registration Chair's Report: Betty reported that there are 24 clubs, 1481 athletes, 83 coaches, 84 officials and 68 other non athletes registered. Registration is going well with only two clubs not electronically registering. Background checks are coming and open registration is between February 19 & March 21st. Between April 2-13 all coaches in MW need to have background checks if they have not already done so. At the end of April notes will be sent to every coach in the LSC re coach certifications. Al and Betty did reports to clubs over the weekend. Both a complete list and an abbreviated list to take to meets were sent to each club. We are working on DI and DII meets along with the long course meets. High school forms for observed swims have been sent and posted. All Stars checks have been written and good records have been kept. Mary L. asked Betty whether we could put the link to the background check up on the web site. Betty replied that probably not because of the dates. We need to use what is sent from USA Swimming and go through the USAS web site. Question was asked about the number of clubs last year vs. this year. Betty said that one less year round club is registered this year. She expects a half dozen seasonal club members, but if swimmers must be year round to compete at the Zone level or higher, she isn't sure what the clubs will do regarding seasonal membership.. The number of officials is down.

Nominating Committee: Paul is not in attendance so Mary L. will appoint an ad hoc nominating committee.

New Business:

All Star & Zone Standards: Mary L. brought up that All Star and Zone standards should be reevaluated. Patrick asked that Betty or Jack give him input and direction. Patrick asked for any great ideas to be thrown out on the floor. There were no other comments from the board. Betty will e-mail some background and thoughts. Bruce asked about what were the real concerns of the Board. Mary L. replied that we are trying to make sure we cover all the athletes and this topic should be readdressed every couple of years. Numbers are down. We need to keep looking at it and progressing. Patrick said that he definitely wants the e-mails with suggestions as the more ideas the better.

Meet Evaluation Form: Bruce is working on a championship survey for athletes and coaches. A rough draft is coming from committee members, Jack, Tom, Gretchen and Bruce. They are trying to hit the high points of the meet to gather solid information. The committee hopes to have the survey ready by spring. Jack commented on the proposed survey. He asked that the category Swimmer be changed to Athlete. Betty said that putting a number from 1-5 from worst to least might be better. Mary L. suggested using, poor, fair, good & excellent. Jack asked whether we could go to comment, only. Jeanie said that numbers plus comments would be good. Strengths and weaknesses are good, too. We need all the information we can get. Working through a survey makes you think about your opinion. Gretchen commented that the survey should be one page only, and include comments on officiating. Jack said that we need to get a good way for people to be able to comment. Betty said she would see about including something about officiating. These can be for short course, long course and even be mailed back. **Motion** to approve the design of the evaluation form. **Seconded. Passed.**

Re design of the Board of Review: Mary L. commented that she and Peggy have had some discussion about what to do with the Board of Review, but won't be ready until next BOD meeting. Thoughts include setting up an investigative panel to decide ahead of time whether it even needs to go to the Board of Review.

Paul joined conference and said he did not get the e-mails. Mary L. will check that out.

Officials' Chair Report: Paul said that the shirts and name tags will be ordered soon. There will be a clinic in Grand Island next week.

Motion to adjourn. **Seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. Next meeting date is to be announced.

Submitted by Secretary, Gretchen Lindner