

Midwestern Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 9, 2017
Via Conference Call

DISTRIBUTION: posted to Midwestern Swimming website, mws swim.org, and via email

CALL TO ORDER: Carol Olson, Midwestern Swimming Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 PM. Those present: Carol Olson, Mike Witt, Jay Thiltgen, Jeff Nelson, Jason Hiley, Betsy Purcell, , Erik Wiken, Kenna Wilkie, Louie Balogh, Dan Brailita, Shelby Mullendore, Brinker Harding, Carol Bilunas, Betty Kooy, Starre Haney, Sean Froemming, Stefanie Martinez, Eric Samson, Kat Keller, Sam Bach

Those Absent: Scot Sorensen, Dannie Dilsaver, Bruce Schomburg, Nicholas Dice

AGENDA PREVIEW: Meeting expected to follow agenda.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Carol Olson read the following to the Board of Directors:

“Is any member aware of any conflict of interest, that is, of a personal interest or direct or indirect pecuniary interest, in any matter being considered by this meeting which should now be reported of disclosed or addressed under the Midwestern Swimming Conflict of Interest Policy?”

If a Board member determines there to be a conflict of interest at any point during the course of the meeting when a specific subject is being discussed and/or action is being taken, a declaration of a conflict of interest should be made at that time.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on November 28, were reviewed. A motion to approve the November 28 minutes was made by Starre Haney. Second by Brinker Harding. A vote was conducted with all in favor. The November 28 minutes are APPROVED.

CONSENT AGENDA

Carol Olson introduced the consent agenda for approval. Three items are included in the agenda.

- A) Executive Secretary Report
- B) Registration Report
- C) Safety Report

Motion made by Betsy Purcell to accept the agenda. Second by Dan Brailita. A vote was had with all in favor. The consent agenda is APPROVED.

OLD BUSINESS

The discussion of technical swim suits was revisited. Jay Thiltgen suggested reaching out to coaches and swimmers at the zone meet with a list of questions regarding a tech suit policy. Jay indicated tech suit manufactures may be able to provide some guidance or advice. An informal survey of coaches may be helpful in gaining a sense of the prevailing sentiment. Jay indicated that such a policy may be

best if monitored by individual clubs. Dan Brailita brought up a recent swimswam.com poll which posed the question, "Should there be bans on tech suits in younger age groups?" 56.2% of respondents indicated "Yes, there should be a ban." Dan noted the nearly even split in responses was not the interesting aspect of the poll, but rather the comments posted along with the poll are the most intriguing. The issue is not as simple as it seems. Betty Kooy will forward a link to the poll for board members to read. Carol Olson reaffirmed the difficulty in managing a tech suit ban. Starre made the point that the age groups are unbalanced, due to the fact that some families are simply unable to afford tech suit purchases. Dan brought up the example of some Pacific Coast swim clubs that utilize a graduated or privileged system, by which swimmers earn the ability to use tech suits. One example of an earned system allows a swimmer to use a suit at a zone meet. Betty voiced concern over the ability to police any suit regulations. Starre said she has not had a response from the colleague she contacted in California. Brinker finds it difficult to establish an age at which tech suits should be regulated. Jay made the suggestion to ban tech suits for 10 and under swimmers, and allow 11 and overs to use tech suits at championship style meets. Eric Samson voiced concern over who would decide which meets warrant tech suit usage. Eric also made the argument that if a swimmer is trying to qualify or make a cut, why limit the use of a tech suit? Eric also expressed concern over a blanket policy, wondering who can enforce such legislation? Louie Balogh indicated that his 10 and under swimmers generally do not use tech suits. Louie reminded the group that he has coached several top 10 swimmers and that our LSC swimmers compete with other LSC swimmers for those positions, especially at zones. In Louie's opinion, the use of tech suits is not out of hand and most of his swimmers know or ask when tech suit usage is appropriate. Carol wondered if MW Swimming should encourage clubs to monitor and dictate when tech suit usage is appropriate. Jay made the observation that tech suit rules would not be enforceable, so any policies should be left up to individual clubs. The consensus at this point of the discussion was that any legislation to ban the use of tech suits would not work, and the idea should be shelved for now.

NEW BUSINESS

Jason Hiley was asked to review the MW Swimming Finances. 2016 ended up with a \$24,500 profit, but this is misleading. The cash basis of our organization will show significant changes in balances as monies flow in and out. Athlete registration fees sometimes come in before or after the year for which they are intended, but in general the system worked better in 2016 than it has previously. Splash fee revenue increased in 2016. While 2016 ended up with more income than budgeted, Jason expects 2017 to be closer to budget. Starre inquired about All Star Meet income. Betty said the monies came in early January, 2017. For the 2016 All-Star Meet, monies came in 2015. Carol Bilunas asked for clarity on the Diversity Camp allocation. Jason stated the actual vs budgeted expenses were not very accurate, due to the fact that this had not been a specific budget item, previously. For 2017 the diversity camp budget will be \$8750.

Sean Froemming was asked to review the All-Star Meet. Plans are complete for the hotel, bus service, and itinerary. The menu has been established and special meal requests are being processed. Betty will send release waivers for the swimmers requiring early departure from the meet.

Jay Thiltgen, Senior Chair, gave an update. He reminded the group of the upcoming Midwest Swimming Championship Meet and the Central Zone Diversity Meet. MW Swimming has the smallest representation at the Diversity Meet. Jay indicates the desire for the team to represent the diversity in our LSC. 16 kids are budgeted for this Diversity Meet. Swimmers need to apply for the meet. Historically, this is a fun meet and reflects the makeup of our LSC. Jay and Carol both indicated the wish to have 16 athletes participate. Betty indicates an online application will be available and money is available in the budget to support these swimmers.

Carol Olson will be meeting with Dawn Bowen to discuss the invitation to lead document, before the April 1 deadline for the Nomination Committee.

Erik Wiken, Technical Chair, was asked to lead the discussion on modification of the 6 Event Policy in the bylaws. The goal of such modification is to allow pentathlon style meets. "No more than three events per day" is the current USA Swimming policy, which allows prelims and finals in three events. Eric suggests that the policy should be changed to allow 6 swims per day. This change would create opportunities for different meet styles, while maintaining the USA Swimming limit of 6 swims. Proposals to USA Swimming at the national level require support at the LSC. Betty noted this proposal as a logical extension of the current policy. Erik needs LSC support to advance this legislation to the national level. Dan Brailita made a motion to recommend Erik's proposal be sent to USA Swimming for Legislation. Betsy Purcell seconded the motion. A vote was had with all members in favor of accepting this 6 Event Policy recommendation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION

Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 8:30 PM

Regional Coaches Clinic, Friday – Sunday, April 21-23, 2017, Omaha Marriot

House of Delegates Meeting, Saturday, April 29, 2017, Location TBD

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Brinker Harding made the motion to adjourn. Second by Starre Haney. Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Jeff Nelson, Secretary

**Midwestern Swimming strives to maximize opportunities
for growth and success through competitive swimming.**
