

**Midwestern Swimming
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2012 8:00pm**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm by Brian Schaezner, General Chair. The meeting was held via telephone conference call. Board members that were present: (There were no non-board members present):

Brian Schaezner, General Chair	Tony Storer, Delegate at Large	Brennon Balogh, Athlete Rep.
Lynn Weaver, Senior Vice-Chair	Betty Kooy, Executive Secretary	Carol Glover, Delegate at Large
Scot Sorensen, Registration Chair	Gretchen Lindner, Delegate at Large	Gary Kuhn, Officials Chair
Bruce Schomberg, Coaches' Rep.	Amy Wahlmeier, Athlete Rep.	Erik Wiken, Age Group Vice-Chair
Mary Losee, Adm. Vice-Chair	Karlie Wahlmeier, Athlete Rep.	Dave Nelson, Delegate at Large
Ryan Thiel, Finance Chair	Louie Balogh, Technical Chair	Dawn Bowen, Secretary

Consent Agenda

Brian asked if there were any reports on the consent agenda that needed to be pulled for discussion. Betty requested the Executive Secretary's Report be pulled. A motion was made by Mary to accept the reports as submitted on the consent agenda. Gary seconded. The consent agenda was accepted.

Approval of the December 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Brian asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting's minutes. Louie noted that his name was left off the attendance list. A motion was made by Mary to approve the minutes with the amendment to add Louie's name. Gary seconded. The amended minutes were accepted.

Executive Secretary's Report

Betty reviewed the policy for uploading times for observed high school meets to SWIMS. There is a \$6 fee for times to be entered in the MWS system for Top 8 and Records. The fee is not charged to load the times to SWIMS. Bruce asked if he needed to turn in the Iowa times to Betty for the upload or if she automatically received them. Betty said that Bruce would need to submit the times. Gary clarified that the observed meets are the conference meets, state meet and any meet that has approved for observation. This year the Elkhorn Invite was observed. Bruce asked if the Iowa District Meet was observed. Betty said that Bruce would need to contact Iowa Swimming. Scot added that even though Council Bluffs was part of MWS, there was separate governing body for the Iowa high school swimming. A motion was made by Mary to accept the Executive Secretary's Report. Carol seconded. The report was accepted.

New Business

Proposed Change to By-Laws (Delegate at Large)

Mary explained that a request was presented to the BOD from a member located in the western part of Nebraska. The member requested that the BOD mandate that every area has equal representation for the Delegate At Large positions on the Board. Mary made a motion to open the proposal for discussion. Scot seconded.

Scot asked what the plan would be if someone did not step up to run for the position. Mary indicated this was a concern she also had and that people should want to be involved and not mandated. Bruce said most of the teams are located in the Omaha/Lincoln metro areas. Betty said that there are other LSC's that have mandated representation for areas. Many board members agreed there is always a scramble to try and fill a nomination slate for the At-Large positions. Betty said in her experience when someone from the western part of the state would run, they would be elected. If people are mandated, they may not take the position seriously. Betty made a motion to call the question. Lynn seconded. Mary said the question on the table is whether the BOD is going to keep the current 5.2 in the Red Book which states the BOD shall have five (5) At-Large Board Members. The HOD or the BOD by resolution may reduce the number, but cannot increase it to more than (5). Any reduction in the number of At-Large Members shall not take effect until the terms of office of the

incumbents expire or become vacant. Scot made a motion to accept 5.2 as it is currently stated in the Red Book. Mary seconded. The motion passed and the proposal was rejected.

Policy and Procedure Manual to be added to the Red Book

Betty explained that the updated Policy and Procedures Manual would replace the policies/procedures section of the Red Book. Betty used information from other LSC's and SWIMS as guidelines and reviewed the last ten years worth of minutes for any policy changes to develop this manual. Betty said that a motion was needed to send the manual to the HOD. Scot made a motion to send the manual to the HOD for consideration. Tony seconded. The motion passed.

Coach Selection Criteria

Louie, Lynn, Erik and Bruce have written the following proposal for the Head Zone and All-Star Coach voting and the Senior and Age Group Coach of Year voting. Both will now be on-line voting.

Applications for the Head Zone Coach will be accepted via the MWS website from coach members between April 1st & April 30th of each year. At least one of the following criteria must be met in order to apply: 1) A Head or Assistant coach at either an All Star or Zone meet, 2) Three years documented coaching experience. After the applications have been received, voting will take place through the MWS website starting May 1st and close on the 21st. Only currently registered coaches will be allowed to vote. The head coach will be announced by June 1st and the selection and assignment of the Assistant Coaches is the responsibility of the Head Zone Coach and must be complete by July 1st. There shall be no more than 2 coaches from any registered club in the LSC. Coaches will be considered coaches of all swimmers from MWS who compete in the Zone meet. All swimmers will conform to the procedures outlined by the staff unless specifically excused by the Age Group Chair.

Applications for the All Star Coach will be accepted via the MWS website from coach members between September 1st & September 30th of each year. At least one of the following criteria must be met in order to apply: 1) A Head or Assistant coach at either an All Star or Zone meet, 2) Three years documented coaching experience. After the applications have been received, voting will take place through the MWS website starting October 1st and close on the 21st. Only currently registered coaches will be allowed to vote. The head coach will be announced by November 1st and the selection and assignment of the Assistant Coaches is the responsibility of the Head Zone Coach and must be complete by December 1st. There shall be no more than 2 coaches from any registered club in the LSC. Coaches will be considered coaches of all swimmers from MWS who compete in the All Star meet. All swimmers will conform to the procedures outlined by the staff unless specifically excused by the Age Group Chair.

Each year, one Senior and Age Group Coach of the Year will be selected by MWS registered coaches. Each award criteria should be based off of the previous year's performance (Sept 1 through Aug 31). The Senior coach's award shall be based on the performance of their senior level swimmers at any USA Swimming sanctioned meet (i.e. any seasonal age group/senior meet, MW championship, sectional or national level meet). The Age Group coach award shall be based on the performance of their 14& Under age level performances at all levels of USA Swimming Sanctioned Meets. Nominations for the Senior and Age Group coach of the year will be accepted by the MWS office via the website after the conclusion of the Long Course season. The last meet will typically be Junior Nationals and nominations will be open for two weeks from the last day of the meet. It is the responsibility of each MWS registered swim club to nominate a Senior coach or Age Group coach and must include a description of their accomplishments from the previous year in order to be placed on the ballot. After the nominations have been received, voting will take place through the MWS website and close on September 21st. Only currently registered coaches will be allowed to vote. The award winners will be announced at the MWS Annual Banquet.

Betty asked if there would be enough time for the awards to be presented at the banquet since voting closes on Sept. 21. Mary said typically the banquet is in October. Mary also asked for a friendly amendment to be added that states for the Zone and All Star Coach to have three years coaching experience OR a head coach position at either a zone or all star meet. Louie asked if Al would be able to set-up the on-line voting for this new process. Bruce reviewed the current process for selecting coaches for the Zones and All Star Meets. He said that he accepts nominations and then contacts the coach to see if he/she is interested. For the Senior and Age Group Coach of the Year, ballots are usually handed out at the Championship Meet, but not all the coaches are usually there. Betty asked if the selection dates for the Zones and All Star coaches was early enough for a coach to make plans. Louie said the date was originally earlier, but changed it since if a coach is submitting their name for the meet, they are also checking their calendar. Mary asked if the email reminder to use the website would go out to every coach member. Betty asked how you would limit who votes and how many times. Louie said the coach would list their name and registration number in the email vote. Brian asked for another friendly amendment to be added, that the email reminder would go out to all registered coaches in the LSC. Mary made a motion to accept the proposal with the two friendly amendments. Carol seconded. This will be incorporated into the new Policies and Procedures Manual. Louie will update the proposal with the friendly amendments and send to Betty, Brian and Dawn.

Observed Swim Fee Confusion

Erik was asked by a parent when the times would be updated on the MWS site from the high school season for the observed meets. The form does need to state that you do not need to pay for the times to count for USA Swimming. Louie indicated that he didn't fill out a form this year as he just recently learned the policy. Betty said there are two forms. One is for an individual to complete and submit payment and the other is for a club to complete and submit payment. If a swimmer wants their times to count on the MWS site, the \$6 fee must be paid. The times are added to SWIMS without a fee. Betty said she will make sure the forms clearly state this. Scot asked what the value of the \$6 was for MWS? Betty said that all swimmers are charged a splash fee of \$6 and that this was a way to collect the fee. Lynn said the confusion comes from the upload to SWIMS without a fee and the upload to MWS with a fee. Betty asked what to do about the Y meets. Scot said that if an athlete is registered for the calendar year, MWS shouldn't make it more difficult for them and add another fee. Betty also asked about the Cornhusker games. Mary said there is not a written proposal before the BOD to discuss this for recommendations, so she recommended an ad-hoc committee review and present at the next BOD. Lynn asked why a written proposal is needed if everyone is on the same page, the BOD could talk instead of having something written out to discuss from. Mary preferred that the discussion item be put in writing. Brian asked if the BOD was asking to eliminate the fee. Betty said yes. Brian said he agreed with Mary that the request should be in written form. He asked Betty to draft a proposal and run it by a couple coaches and then bring to the next BOD. Brian asked Erik about the initial parent inquiry. Erik said that the parent would not have paid if they had known the time would still count without the fee. Betty said that she did the comparison between SWIMS and MWS for Top times. She then contacted clubs to let swimmers know about fee for adding time to MWS to count for Top 8. Some did pay the fee and others did not. Betty said for the high school meet, she has to go through results and pull out the swimmers who are registered with MWS. Carol asked if high school coaches could add the USA number? Betty said they could not. Louie asked what the budgeted revenue was from the fee for the high school observed meets. Brian said \$1,400 was budgeted for this year from the high school meets. The fees paid for the Cornhusker State Games times also add about \$900 to this. Louie asked why the Cornhusker State Games couldn't be sanctioned. Betty said there are non-registered swimmers in the meet. Lynn said families are concerned about fees and we need to stop and eliminate some fee, somewhere. Mary said she was not opposed to eliminating a fee, just needed a proposal in writing. She asked how many swimmers were in the Cornhusker State Games. Betty said about 280. Mary said she was not sure where to pick-up the extras \$2,500 if the fee was eliminated but the Budget Committee could review. Betty said this would have an impact on the 2013 budget and not the current budget. Brian said years ago, the times upload

required more time and it made sense to charge a fee. Now things are much easier with computer uploads. Brian said this would be an action follow-up item for Betty to present at next BOD meeting.

Zones 2012

Erik presented a budget for the 14 & U Zones Meet in Indiana which is about an 11 hour drive. If the decision is made to make this a team travel meet, the cost for just transportation is about \$4,000. The transportation fee to Lawrence for All-Stars was about \$2,400 for comparison. A ballpark figure per swimmer is \$475 which would include transportation, lodging, apparel and coaching fees. If a swimmer added a backpack to this, the fee would be \$530. This is a significant amount for parents to pay in addition to their own travel costs. Erik recommended to keep this meet as a non-travel meet so that individuals could go with parents and have a lower entry fee. The cost per swimmer would be \$105 without a backpack and \$160 with a backpack. The coaches cost for this meet is a little higher since it is an 11 hour drive and the coaches would stop half-way to spend the night. Mary asked if there would be a block of rooms at a hotel for MWS. Erik said there are not a whole lot of hotels available in the area, but he was checking on room block availability. Betty asked if MWS could offer a little more toward the cost so the fee would be below \$100 per swimmer. Erik offered an option for some additional funding could come from money that was budgeted for Athlete Training & Clinics (Budget Line 524). The amount is \$5,000. The original plan was to take a group of athletes to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The training center is now shutdown for 2012. In place of this plan, Erik suggested putting together a clinic right around the Trials featuring one of the Olympic athletes. Brian said he would rather look at putting together a clinic/athlete signing rather than adding funding to the Zones expenses. The clinic would hit a broader base of swimmers since the idea of the budgeted money was to supplement athlete training. Lynn said it would be nice to do a team travel, but it's just a lot of money and likely will have the same number going as last year. Brian added that parents may have a little more opportunity to save costs by individual travel. Ryan stated that it sounded like everyone was in agreement, but he thought there could be combination of the clinic/signing and funding a little more toward Zones. Erik did not want to take too much from Line 524. Betty suggested pulling enough funding to drop the fee for each swimmer by \$10 which would be about \$300 based upon last year's numbers. Brian asked about dropping the fee by \$20, to get the fee to \$85 per swimmer. Several members stated that the \$85 fee would be good. Ryan agreed that it could be done with the budget. Brian said that the Board did not need to vote on this change since it stays within the current budget. Betty said the Zones on-line application site will be converted from the All Stars site by May 15.

Adjournment

Brian asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. A motion was made Lynn and seconded by Carol. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Bowen
MWS Secretary