

**U.S. AQUATIC SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MEETING - MINUTES
MAY 6, 2017
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

The following people attended the meeting: Steve McFarland, Laurette Longmire, Bill Smith, Tom Boak, Jim Sheehan, Mike Unger, Tom Gompf, Linda Loehndorf, Patty Miller, Dawson Hughes, Chris Ramsey, Dale Neuburger, Betty Hazle, Greg Eggert, Carol Zaleski, Nadine Day and Mark Weber, USA Swimming's Athlete Committee Chair.

President Steve McFarland called the meeting to order at 9:00am. A quorum was present: USA Swimming (Sheehan), USA Synchro (Loehndorf), US Masters Swimming (Miller), USA Diving (Gompf), USA Water Polo (Smith) and USA FINA Bureau member (Neuburger).

1. MINUTES: The following minutes were approved as distributed:

- September 23, 2016 – Aquatics Coordinating Board
- September 25, 2016 – Board of Trustees
- March 26, 2017 – ACB Conference Call: 2021 Convention Site Selection

MSP Smith

2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Tom Boak distributed a Balance Sheet and USAS Consolidated Financial Statement, both as of December 31, 2016. Year-end 2016 had a \$133,000 net excess which, following some additional outstanding expenses, will probably end near a \$92,000 gain. Financially, USAS is in a good financial position. Tom completed a review of Convention revenue and created a better reporting format for future years.

Earlier conversations had been held discussing the distribution of USAS funds – when is enough enough? Discussion centered on distributing funds back to NGBs, set money aside for UANA development or athlete development or other activities. A review will be completed after the World Championships and suggestions will be presented in September. Roughly \$100K is needed to support the World Championships in any given year.

Bill Smith asked – does USAS have a Mission Statement? – as it will help direct the funding approach taken. Tom shared some of the history of the creation of USAS with FINA and IOC. Maybe a more stated mission statement is needed. Historically, USAS has had a light touch. Steve and Bill agreed that this might be the starting point for a review. Laurette is to locate and share relevant information from prior minutes that can help in updating the USAS Mission Statement. It was agreed that a review is needed, that May 2017, next year's meeting, was too long into the future and perhaps around or at the FINA Junior World Swimming Championships in Indy in August 2017 is best. Mark Weber is to provide the information used in the process recently followed by USA Swimming's Athletes' Committee. Once a meeting is scheduled, consider inviting Ross Wales, USAS and USA Swimming Past President and USAS Legal Counsel, to the meeting.

Steve distributed a draft agreement to all NGBs that outlines the financial commitments USAS has for future conventions and associated penalties. The intent is to formalize the relationship NGBs have with USAS when votes are taken for another year's convention site.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report.

MSP Zaleski

3. FINA & UANA UPDATE

- FINA: Dale shared these points – 1) USA has representation on 19 FINA Committees/Panels; 2) We have great people doing hard work; 3) Swimming, in its 5 disciplines, was the most watched sport worldwide, based upon IOC research, for the last three Olympic Games; 4) Swimming had the highest level of social media interaction of any sport in Rio, based upon IOC research and 5) Track & Field, Gymnastics and Aquatics are the Tier 1 sports in the eyes of the IOC.

Paolo Barelli, ITA, will run for President, as will Dr. Julio Maglione, URU, who received unanimous approval of UANA at the Pan American Games in Toronto in 2015 to seek another term as FINA President. Dr. Maglione was nominated by USAS in Toronto, and it is believed that he has the best opportunity to retain the Olympic program for Aquatics, due to his excellent relationships within the IOC

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has two cases in process, Paolo Barelli vs. FINA, related to activities of Husain al-Musallam and Dale Neuburger.

As it did in 2013, the FINA Ethics Panel will review all nominees to the Bureau for conflict of interest and other potentially disqualifying relationships. Discussion followed about the support that Dr. Maglione has received from the four Continental Associations representing Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Americas.

- FINA World Aquatics Convention & World Swimming Championships – Windsor (CAN), Dec. 2016
 - USAS Booth: Laurette provided an update and shared pictures. She expressed her thanks to those who helped staff the booth.
 - Overall Impressions: The Coaches Certification/Education and Media presentations were compelling. The goal is that certification will be required by FINA, either through FINA or recognized program by major countries, for any coach at any FINA event by 2020. Social Media is an avenue to promote the National Federation. Understanding where FINA is going is enlightening. The Convention allows for the rollout of initiatives that FINA is taking. Another initiative being rolled out is the specifications for pools – introductory to Olympic.
 - Athlete Perspective – Mark Weber: He attended for work but from an athlete's perspective, a lot of information was available and he focused on technology.
 - 2018: Hangzhou, CHN at the time of the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) – 3-8 Dec

- 2017 World Championships – Budapest (HUN), July 14-30
 - FINA General and Technical Congresses
 - Proposals – General Congress: Possibly a conference call in late May/early June to discuss.
 - Delegates – All Congresses: General Congress delegates will be Jim Sheehan (SW) and Colleen Huffman (DV). Masters Congress rotation is to Water Polo with USMS. Most proposals are for Synchro; delegate to change to Synchro.
 - FINA Committee/Commission Nominees – Updates: Swimming is proposing members for FINA Audit and Finance Committees. It was moved, seconded and approved to nominate Frank Tirelli, Audit, and Walter Glover, Finance.

MSP Boak

Coaches Committee Nominees? Dale recommended each discipline submit a nominee. SW submitted Frank Busch, who we approved in Sept 2016. Names, with completed paperwork, should be submitted to Laurette by May 12th. Laurette will issue an email vote to approve all nominees for the Coaches Committee. The FINA deadline for all nominees to all Committees/ Panels is May 22nd.

- Chefs Update:
 - Chef Betty Hazle thanked all for their help in securing rooms at the Marriott Budapest. Marriott will house SW, DV and WP; SY will be at the Ibis Stiles; HD will stay at the Novatel and OW will be at Lake Balaton. Only USA will be staying at the Marriott.
 - Betty asked for a clarification of the USOC staff that accompany each sport – SW = Strength & Conditioning, Nutritionist & Dietitian, Sports Psychology/Sport Performance; WP = Dietitian
 - Betty and Jeri will travel to Budapest for the week of May 15th for the final trip before the World Championships. If any NGB has questions, please get them to Betty or Jeri before departure.
- USAS Luncheon – July 24: The USAS Luncheon will be at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, starting at 12:30pm. It was agreed to remain with the 12:30pm start time. Betty asked for ideas for the FINA VIP gift.
- VIP Credentials: President and General Secretary accreditations are no charge. Extra team officials and VIP accreditations have a charge of 150€ each. Betty is to inquire of the Organizing Committee if the extra accreditations can be paid in advance via wire transfer.
- GMS Deadlines:
 - June 7th: Rooming list must be completed, VIPs entered and nominations complete
 - July 5th: Sport entries complete
- 2017 FINA World Junior Swimming Championships – Indianapolis, IN (USA), 23-28 Aug
 - Mike Unger reported that 80-100 countries, with upwards of 1,000 athletes, are expected to participate.
- UANA Executive: Dale provided the following update:

- Crowdfunding: Website has gone live. Thank you to USAS, USMS and USA Swimming for financial support. Nadine Day noted that the 2nd campaign launched on Thursday, May 4th – Nica Nadadores. There is an application and procedure to follow; encouraging more club level vs. NF level projects.
 - Standardize Championships: UANAs goal is to have really good events. A UANA Cup event (maybe the Maglione Cup?) is in the planning stages. It will be a dual meet format between CCCAN and CONSANAT and held in the US. An invitation will be made to the USA and CAN as well.
 - First Commercial Sponsorship: Astral Pools for \$50K. Plans are to share funds equally with UANA, CCCAN, CONSANAT, UANA Championships (including Dual meet in works).
 - UANA Extraordinary Congress – July 22nd, Budapest: Estimated for a 1 hour meeting to approve changes to the UANA Constitution. USAS delegate rotation is for Swimming and Water Polo.
 - Dale and Errol Clarke (BAR), UANA Secretary/Treasurer, attended the PASO meeting where the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, CHI was discussed.
 - 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, PER from July 22nd – Aug 11th
- 2018 UANA Masters Pan American Championships – Orlando, FL (USA), 25 July-8 Aug
 - Dates have been finalized and need to be reminded of the sport contacts for DV (Jerry Dunn), SY and WP.
 - The entry booklet is due from the Organizing Committee to the UANA Masters Committee on May 31st.
 - Max Ritter Award: Carol Zaleski noted that nominations are always welcome and suggested that individuals who have made great contributions internationally should be considered. Looking outside the US is always good.
 - Sports Medicine Report: Was distributed from Jim Miller prior to the meeting and will be included with these minutes.

4. **MEDIA:** Greg Eggert had distributed an email prior to the meeting listing a large variety of topics, articles and information from the Aquatics family.

5. **CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

- 2017 USAS Convention – Dallas, TX (Sept 11-17)
 - From Steve’s perspective, it is important to connect athletes across the disciplines. Athletes should be encouraged to step out and into opportunities of leadership. Mark Weber noted that a way needs to be found to “bring down” the age of the governance structure, especially internationally. Athletes are between the ages of 8-18 and the international leadership is 60-65+. Athletes can help shape sport and create a more enjoyable experience.

- Athletes are invited to the private Wed evening USAS Reception held in the suite. Nadine shared that Swimming has an Athlete track at convention with a workshop on the Friday of Convention. Plans might include having athletes MC the Banquet.
- Convention Committee / NGB Meeting – Dallas: Steve recapped the meeting:
 - After much discussion it was agreed to retain the committee as a volunteer endeavor. Each NGB, through the staff member attending the meeting, was asked to find volunteers to staff the committee and share names. The intention is to have a broader representation from all NGBs on the Convention Committee, not just SW as in the past. Possible pre-convention meeting to meet with the Committee and have a dialogue about interest, background, etc. with new volunteers shadowing the current committee for the 2017 Convention. Retirement may be in 2018 but some are willing to remain to help in an advisory/training role.
 - Commitment? Each person on today’s committee has provided a description of the duties they perform for the Committee. The job descriptions will be shared. The current committee has been in place for 20+ years. Expectation is not to have future members fulfill that requirement. Asking for a 4 year commitment, could be 3-5 years too. USAS leadership needs to be more attentive in the future to the Convention Committee composition.
- Contracts: In place through 2021. The comment was made that obligations out 5 years are maybe not smart. Steve shared that through a review of USAS minutes the Committee has had contracts in place 4-5 years in advance. This is done to get the best room rate(s) and hold the properties that we desire. USAS Conventions fit in a small number of hotels, maybe 1%, across the country. In general, the “convention business” runs 4-5 years out.

Discussion returned to the Contract that Steve had distributed earlier. Updates would occur annually to Exhibit 1 – Rolling 3-Year Attendance Average – and Exhibit 2 – Projected Attendance & Cancellation Charges. Because of our relationship with Hyatt, issues like 9/11 or 2008 room rate changes from contract signing to actual event (recession / market drop), have not cost us more money. The Committee works with the hotel to get better rates, pricing, etc. for our stays. Initially, Swimming led the discussion of a Convention, like the AAU hosted, and other NGBs followed along as it was a good idea.

More recently, each NGB is having discussions that may impact future Conventions – changes to size of House of Delegates / Board of Governors, governance, education and the like. AV, room rates, meal pricing, etc. are better managed collectively vs. by an individual NGB plus there is benefit of the Aquatic family being together.

Chefs for the World Championships are funded from Convention proceeds. If there is no joint Convention, how does USAS fund Chefs? Should the Chefs role be kept? This conversation ties back to the USAS Mission Statement discussion held earlier.

NGBs are encouraged to review the contract and discuss as needed (legal, BOD, etc.). Any comments or suggested changes should be sent to Steve. Language to be agreed to by September’s USAS meetings.

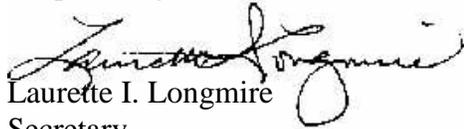
It was moved, seconded and approved in principle to adopt and provide each NGB an annual update of financial and room requirements for a continued joint USAS Convention.

MSP Sheehan

- 2022 Convention: Look for properties but hold on completing a new hotel contract until an NGB Contract, as above, is in place going forward. Ellaine Cox, Convention Chair, is aware of this. This delay may impact rates and locations to be considered.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,


Laurette I. Longmire
Secretary