

**Minutes of the April 26, 2015
VSI Board of Directors Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present were: Steve Hennessy, Leanne Hillery, Mary Turner, Terry Randolph, Bill Geiszler, Kevin Hogan, Steven Phillips, Michael Braum, Jill Rhyne, Jessica Simons, TJ Liston, Lisa Liston, Kevin McHaney, Art Anthony, Ted Sallade, Kara Morgan McHaney, Maureen Tolliver, Bob Rustin, Bryan Wallin, David Strider, Scott Baldwin, Peter Maloney, Gordon Hair, Caroline Henry, and Matthew Hopkins.

Steve H. distributed copies of the VSI mission statement and read it to the group. He stated that he would read this prior to this meeting. All discussion should be based on these values.

Lisa moved to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2015 Board of Directors meeting. This was seconded by Bill. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Rustin presented the Treasurer's report. A motion to approve the report was moved and seconded, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

Presentation of the Budget (Finance Committee Report) – Bill G. presented the proposed budget for 2015-16. Jessica asked is the budget assumes that VSI will get Sectionals and Zones. Bill indicated that the proposed budget does account for this. The budget proposal acted as a motion; Lisa seconded. The budget passed.

Update on 2015-2016 Calendar (Tech Planning Report) – Lisa presented the current Meet Schedule for 2015-16. There were two conflicts. The first was the Age Group meet in the spring was bid on by both HOKI and PSDN. The teams discussed the conflict and decided that HOKI would host the Age Group Champs meet and PSDN would host the Senior Champs meet. The second conflict was the Northern District meet was bid on by both PWSC at Freedom Center and RPST at WARF. The Tech Planning Committee voted to give this meet to RPST and asked if they could move it to the Freedom Center.

TAC added three meets to the schedule: Sept. 19-20, 2015 at ODU, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2015 at ODU, and Jan. 2-3, 2016 at ODU.

Lisa also stated that the Technical Planning Committee wanted to ask the Board to renegotiate the rebate fee agreement with Potomac Valley. The Committee feels that Potomac Valley should be asked to pay at least the same splash fees VSI teams pay. Lisa made a motion that the VSI Board renegotiate the rebate fee agreement with Potomac Valley and have agreement take effect as of September 1, 2015. TJ seconded. Discussion ensued.

Terry stated that VSI has had a long standing agreement with Potomac Valley (PVS) that was mutually beneficial to both teams. It allows VSI and PV to use each other's facilities and both paying sanctioning fees and splash fees to each for their use. We cannot tell facility operators who to schedule space to

and we cannot help it if PVS teams beat our teams in scheduling the facilities. She feels that the current agreement is fine as it is.

As a point of information, Bill G. explained that in the past there was a \$20.00 sanction fee and a \$.65 per splash fee. Currently, Potomac Valley pays \$100.00 sanction fee and no splash fees. The original compromise benefitted VSI, but now this benefit has flipped to Potomac Valley (PVS).

Mary stated that this is a situation where it is necessary to play nice with our neighbors. Steve added that playing fair goes both ways. We currently find ourselves in a different situation and renegotiation is needed.

Ted stated that in the past the agreement was reciprocal. However, VSI no longer uses PVS facilities and PV is encroaching further into VSI territory. They are needing to use more facilities in our area in order to accommodate a growing number of swimmers and meets.

TJ stated that VSI can no longer abide by the lack of reciprocation. PVS needs to allow border teams to swim in their meets. VSI is being discriminated against by not being allowed to participate in PVS meets. There needs to be an option to do this. Art agreed that we need to push back. We need to talk to PVS about opening their meets to VSI swimmers and VSI to permit PV swimmers in meets as well. Lisa stated that all of VSI meets are open to PVS if they wish to attend.

Bill suggested that the sanctioning fees could be increased. Missy Hayden from QDD stated that increasing fees will not hurt PVS teams. They have a lot of money. She also added that PVS is not hurting for venues. The Northern VSI team are. She also did not think that PVS would be open to allowing VSI swimmers to participate in meets. Currently, it is impossible for VSI teams to host meets in Northern Virginia. PVS has all of the facilities booked for practices and meets.

Terry stated that collecting rebate fees would be too painful for us and that it would be much easier to raise the sanction fee to \$500.00.

Steve called the question. Kevin H. offered a friendly amendment to "Open negotiations with PVS to develop a new agreement on rebate fees that would be reciprocally favorable to both VSI and PVS. Meet, including championship meets, should be sanctioned so that VSI swimmers can participate.

Lisa offered a new motion: The VSI Board will renegotiate the rebate fee agreement with PVS. The terms will be decided later as talks move forward. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Division Reports

Steve asked if there were any questions on the reports submitted via email.

Registration/Membership - Mary asked for discussion on if VSI should continue to host Coaches Certification Clinics. In the past, we have hosted two: one in August and one during Swimposium in the fall. She needed to know now so that dates could be set and publicity could begin. Terry stated that USAS recommends that LSCs do this. Mary made a motion that the clinics continue and that one or

possibly be offered in the fall. Jessica seconded and made a friendly amendment to offer two clinics. Art stated that he enjoyed doing the clinics and would be happy to do them again. The motion passed.

[Mary and Art will set the dates and times of the coaches clinics.]

Age Group – Scott reported that Age Group Committee passed a motion to allow 11-12 year olds to swim the 1650 if they have a 13-14 qualifying time. The Committee will also develop a policy and procedure for establishing qualifying times which will be posted on the VSI website.

Senior – Ted reported that the Senior Committee examined award processes. There is currently one award given to both males and females in the 15-18 age range. In order to open up the awards, the Committee voted to open up the awards to 15-16 males and females. One award will be given to both 15-16 males and females and one award will be given to 17-18 males and females.

The Committee will also set up a formal nominating process for Coach of the Year. The Committee will consist of nine members: 2 members each from the Age Group and Senior Committees, 2 Coaches representatives, and the Records Chair.

The Senior Committee heard a presentation from QDD on why they want to move to PV. A motion was made to allow QDD to move to PV. There was no second. The Committee passed a motion to ask the VSI Board to put forth legislation or litigation to force USAS to protect the VSI Board.

Ted also reported that information on Senior Champs will be out in late fall.

Awards Banquet – Lisa reported that 861 people attended the awards banquet at Kings Dominion on April 25. The event went great. People seemed to enjoy it despite the rainy weather. Amanda Beard was a great speaker. She felt that more people will come as it becomes established. She credited Jessica, Mary, and Kara for their hard work. Mary recognized Lisa for doing most of the work. The Board showed its appreciation for all their efforts in getting this event off the ground. Lisa estimated that \$15,000 was spent and this amount will probably increase next year.

Coaches – TJ reported that the Coaches Committee would like to see 2-3 meet referees come through the training process throughout the region. He also stated that currently there is only one Disability Swimmer of the Year awarded per year. There should be awards given to both male and female swimmers. TJ made a motion to approve the awarding of a male and female Disability Swimmer of the Year. Kevin M. seconded. The motion passed.

Athletes – Kara reported that USAS has legalized mixed relay events. The Athletes would like to have mixed relay events integrated into Age Group and Senior Champs meets. It would open up relays to small teams and large teams with lots of swimmers. This would apply to swimmers who do not already have a designated relay. Kara made a motion to include mixed relays in Age Group and Senior Champs meets. Maureen seconded. Discussion ensued.

Kevin M. stated that if the athletes want it we should find the time to include it. Ted stated that the Age Group and Senior Committees would have to approve any format changes, but if a team wanted to

include them in a regular season meet, they could put them in the meet invitation. Steve asked if Age Group and Senior committees would be willing to look into the possibility of adding mixed relays to the meet format for championship meets and investigate to see if it is possible to do in terms of time. Both Ted and Scott indicated that they would be willing to do this.

[Steve asked the Age Group and Senior Committees to investigate the possibility of adding mixed relays and the amount of time that would be needed to incorporate them into the meet format. The resulting report will be due at a later time.]

Kara also said the Athletes talked about the Awards Banquet and what could be done to improve it. Lisa asked if they had considered who they would like to see as speakers. Kara stated that their top three choices were Colin Jones, Natalie Coughlin, and Elizabeth Beisel.

She also said they liked the t-shirts, but would like to have shirts or towels in the future.

Bill asked if the Athletes thought the event was successful. Kara stated that they felt it was great except for the weather. Also, they ran out of food, but the food was good. She also suggested changing to schedule to have awards before the speaker.

A QDD representative asked if the Athletes had considered the proposal for QDD to move to PVS. Kara replied that they had discussed it and they agreed that swimmers benefit from swimming with friends, but the Committee was not aware of all the details. They currently have a one-sided view that would not allow them to make an informed decision.

Old Business

Legislative Panel – Kevin H. presented the changes to the Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures that would be brought before the House of Delegates (HOD) for approval. He proceeded by presenting proposed amendments to the VSI Procedures that required BOD action.

He began with Housekeeping changes made to both the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures. These changes reconciled language and position titles to bring consistency throughout the documents. The proposal served as a motion. TJ seconded. The motion passed.

The amendment to the procedure for Outreach Athlete Reimbursement Decision Appeal Process was presented next. The proposal served as a motion. Mary seconded. The motion passed.

Mary proposed to table the approval of the amendment to the Annual Swimmer Recognition procedure until it was possible to obtain all of the information from the Awards Banquet and reconcile the year. The proposal to table was seconded.

[Mary will have a proposal ready in the fall.]

QDD Request to Move to PVS – Travis Blake of QDD addressed the Board to provide additional information to support their proposal to move to PVS. He provided a history of the team and the issues

they currently face such as the lack of lane space and a rapid loss of membership brought on by PVS encroachment. After the presentation, discussion ensued.

Art asked if going to PVS would make lane space/pool time more feasible. Travis indicated that QDD has its own facility, so this is no longer an issue. He continued by stating that QDD is doing everything they can to keep the team going. They have no ill will toward VSI. They just want to survive. They understand VSIs concerns, but the team is getting so few swimmers that the team will not be able to continue on an extended timeframe.

David asked if QDD had talked to the PVS Board. Travis indicated that they had and PVS has issues as well.

Steve stated that a vote would be taken during the HOD meeting. If the HOD approves, QDD will be allowed to approach PVS about a transfer. PVS must approve as well.

Bill asked if Steve had spoken to any other Northern Virginia teams. Steve referred to a letter he received which discussed PVS encroachment and disapproval of VSI's handling of reciprocal agreements. VSI needs to fight for the northern teams and protect the boundaries. He stated is we allow QDD to go, other teams may feel the need to leave as well. No one has come forward and stated that this was a bad move. The clubs need to decide. However, the issue needs to be resolved soon, because QDD cannot wait. They will be at a desperate place soon.

New Business

Summer Awards Team Assignments – Lisa reported that last year there were three meets. The northern teams travelled to Christiansburg. There is a rotating schedule so that everyone gets the opportunity to travel to the various meets.

Terry felt this was unfair to require teams to travel to meets. The meets need to be located in areas that are geographically aligned so that no teams need to travel an excessive distance to attend.

Kevin H. noted that this conversation dovetailed well with previous discussion of northern teams. VSI needs to look at how it can reinvigorate the Northern District and the entire LSC. There need to be options in the Northern District that make sense for them.

[Steve asked Lisa to have the Technical Planning Committee to form a task force to look into the options.]

The meeting broke at 1:55pm for the House of Delegates meeting. The BOD reconvened at 4:42pm to discuss the final three agenda items.

Appeal of Fine (Tide Swim Team) – Steve reported that he had received a letter from Tide Swim Team asking for an appeal of the \$100.00 fine they received for an illegal entry at Region Champs. In the letter, they admitted to making the error and although they already paid the fine, asked for an appeal of the fine. TJ asked if Tide had a history of this type of violation. Mary indicated that they did not. TJ

suggested that the fine be dropped. Art thought that even though they made a mistake, the fine should stand. Bill noted that in the past when mistakes were made without malice, fine have been dropped to \$25.00. Bill made a motion that the fine be dropped to \$25.00. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with one vote against.

Champs Meet Progression – Tabled

Meet Announcement Review Process – Terry reported that in the current process the Chairs of the Senior Committee, the Age Group Committee, the Officials Committee, as well as the Registration Chair, and the Admin Vice Chair all read meet invitations to look for problems. The necessary changes are then reported to the Technical Planning Chair. Terry stated that these individuals be given to option to designate a person from their committees to act as the reviewer in this process. She proposed that key people be allowed to delegate the review of meet announcements to a member of their committees in order to make this process more efficient.

Terry made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Jessica seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements

Bill announced that Karen Sizemore (RAYS) was added as a new member to the Finance Committee. She is from the Northern Region.

Jessica would like to have guidance and clarification from USAS on the types of disabilities that are accepted in disability meets. The specific question is the eligibility of physical vs. cognitive disabilities. David agreed that this information would be helpful to the Disability Committee going forward in awarding the Disability Swimmer of the Year.

Lisa noted that she would schedule Kings Dominion again for the banquet on the same weekend as this year. Details will be available later.

There was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery/Secretary