

**Minutes of the June 7, 2015
VSI Board of Directors Teleconference**

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

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

A motion to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2015 Board of Directors meeting as amended was moved and seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Rustin was not able to send out the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting, so he presented it verbally. Bob indicated that he would send it out in the morning. He continued by reporting on a problem with VSI's checking account. The account was hacked and the VSI account number was used to route legitimate checks from other companies into the VSI account. These deposited checks were not shown on our account. Sun Trust has flagged all of the problems and reversed the cost, so VSI has not been charged for any fees incurred from this issue. Sun Trust is in the process of changing the account number and the funds will be transferred on Monday. There have been no problems with other VSI accounts. TJ asked if the Board will have access to bank statements to review prior to closing the old account. Bob said this would be possible. Steve suggested that the statements would be made available only by specific request. TJ also asked that the Audit Committee review the information as well. Bob and Steve agreed that this would be possible. Bob moved to accept the report. Mary seconded. The report was approved with the condition that the actual report be distributed following the meeting.

Division Reports

Rules & Legislation – Kevin Hogan presented two proposed rule changes for approval. The first was a change to the Fees and Surcharges procedure. Kevin H. moved that the changes be approved. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

The second was an updated version of the Entry Fee Reimbursement Program for Outreach Athletes procedure. Kevin H. moved to accept the proposed changes, Jessica seconded, and the motion passed.

Senior – Ted reported that he and Scott Baldwin had discussed the scheduling of the 2016 Age Group and Senior Champs meets. As the schedule currently stands, LC Zones is the weekend following Age Groups. The turnaround is too fast to accommodate all of the administrative work that must take place. This has been done in the past under similar circumstances. However, this change would have an impact on Senior Champs and other national meets that senior swimmers may wish to attend.

Steve asked Jessica and Maureen if flipping the meets would solve the problem with Zones. They indicated that it helps with the Age Group swimmers, but it poses a problem for seniors 13-14 and 15-18

in terms of outfitting, lodging, etc. Discussion ensued concerning possible scheduling changes that could take place. Lisa stated that we need to make the decision that will impact the fewest number of athletes.

Ted stated that the Age Group and Senior Committees will discuss the issue and have a decision prior to the August BOD meeting. Steve added that the committees should work with Lisa on the schedule and to work on it as a committee but also discuss it outside the board setting. Ted stated that a decision could be made by July 1.

Old Business

VSI-PVS Border Issues – Steve issued a report prior to the meeting covering his activities to date. He asked if there were any questions. Lisa asked if there was any discussion of the fee structure. Steve stated that he mentioned it as a major concern, but the current priority was providing local competition for teams in the Northern District. Lisa also asked if anyone had talked with the Freedom Center about hosting the North Region meet in the spring. Steve stated that there was a problem with the scheduling right now. Prince William and NCAP had swapped dates so that Prince William could host District Champs, however, they did not get the bid for the meet. Steve will work with the Freedom Center to make sure they know the Prince William does not have a meet and with NCAP to swap back to their original meet date. If this works out, a date for the regional meet will open up.

[Steve will report back to Lisa about the Freedom Center's availability so that she can make the necessary notifications.]

Future Summer Awards Team Assignments – Steve introduced this topics by referencing the ongoing email discussion concerned with trying to set up a Summer Awards meet in the Northern District so these teams will not have to consistently travel long distances to awards meets. Teams have already been assigned for this year, so discussion centered on what could be done in the future. Steve asked Lisa if adding an additional meet in the Northern or South West district was feasible or if locations could be swapped so that the same teams would not have to travel all the time. Lisa indicated that meets located in the North or South West would be small so it would be necessary to change the format to make them work financially. She also stated that no bids for awards meets have come from the North, so until some are received, we should not be concerned about it. Jim Frye stated that he knew of two northern teams (Rappahannock and Tsunami) that were interested in submitting a bid to host a meet together. Steve asked Jim to communicate with the teams and if they are interested, submit a bid now for hosting Summer Awards next year.

Championship Meet Progression – Prior to the meeting, Terry submitted a report outlining a concern that all championship meets in the LSC were not being run the same way in all districts. This past year not all district and regional meets offered finals in all events, but others did. In one instance, a district and a regional meet were combined. If these types of things occur, swimmers at these meets are not provided the same opportunities as those at other meets. We are not offering a level playing field for all of the swimmers. The reason this is an issue is because the LSC assigns teams to attend specific meets. They are given the option to choose which meet they will attend. If we are assigning meets, we need to

make sure everyone has the same opportunities. Currently, the procedures state that meets in our championship progression shall be conducted as identically as possible in terms of event order, whether timed finals or prelim and finals, etc. If this is no longer the case, the procedure need to be changed to reflect what we are actually doing.

Lisa stated that there is no way to have a completely fair playing field due to the varied quality, size, etc. in facilities throughout the LSC. Discussion ensued. TJ stated that the Age Group Committee decided that each region could determine the format of its meets. He also stated that we would not be able to solve this tonight. Steve agreed with this assessment, but the loss of progression it is a concern that has been voiced by both parents and athletes. He suggested forming a task force comprised for coaches, athletes, officials, and parents to review the issue. TJ felt this would undermine the authority of the Age Group Committee and should not be done. Steve took a poll of all of the committee chairs to see if they had heard any complaints about the current progression. All indicated that they had received no complaints. One reported hearing positive remarks.

Ted asked what was being done to assist the Northern District. Steve stated that the main priority is to set up local competition. Ted asked what was being done about champs meets in this district. Steve stated that this area was having district champs and summer awards meets until the last couple of years when there were no bids. Lisa stated that she has heard complaints from a couple of teams, but overall, she has not heard anything from others.

Steve stated that if we are not going to review what we currently do then we need to change our policies/procedures to match what we actually are doing. Kevin H. reviewed the existing procedure and confirmed that we are not currently following it. He concurred that if something different is being done, the procedure needs to be updated to reflect what is actually happening.

[Since there was consensus that the current practice was the right things, Steve asked Lisa to have the Technical Planning Committee review the procedure word for word and indicate the changes needed to reflect the current practice.]

Zone Team Fees – Bill presented a proposal from the Finance Committee to increase funding for the LC Zone Team from \$40,000 to \$42,500 to cover entry fees. Discussion ensued. Jessica did not agree with the increase in funding. The athletes should pay all entry fees. Lisa felt that families should pay a minimum of \$350.00. Scott asked Maureen about the cost for an out of state Zones meet. Maureen said that it would be a great deal more expensive. The lodging, scheduling, travel, meet fees, etc. would all be more expensive. Discussion ensued. Bill clarified that the proposed funds would cover entry fees for all athletes and other expenses for 100 swimmers. Steve indicated that the proposal to increase funding by \$2,500 to cover Zones entry fees was presented as a motion. David seconded. The motion passed (1 opposed).

Zone Application – Maureen announced that the Zone Team application needed to get out now. It should be sent to all coaches and posted on the VSI website. Scott asked the application could be sent to all registered athletes. Mary indicated that this was not possible because we do not have email addresses for all swimmers. Scott suggested using SWIMS to find those we can. All bases should be

covered. Steve said to send it to coaches, team presidents, contacts and post to the website in order to get the widest distribution possible.

[Mary will send out the link to the application.]

Zone Team Staffing – Steve stated that the Zone Team Staffing application is on the VSI website. The head coach and the assistants should be identified by the beginning of the year. This would provide plenty of time for recruitment and planning.

Strategic Planning – In his General Chair’s Report, Steve outlined a process for strategic planning with the assistance of the USA Swimming Consultant Services. He supplied a list of possible dates and needs to know what dates are best in order to get on the schedule. Please respond to Steve by Wednesday, if he does not get responses from everyone, he will make a decision based on the available information.

Recognition of Outstanding Service – Steve needs input on nominations for outstanding service awards by this week. Application for nominations will be made available.

Announcements

Convention – Mary asked if attendance at Convention could be discussed. Steve stated that the General Chair, Admin Vice-Chair, Age Group Rep, Senior Rep, Coaches Rep, and Senior Athlete Rep are all required to go. He asked that others that have a need or desire to go need to submit a request to attend. Also, if required attendees cannot go, let Steve know so that he can send a proxy.

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

The general meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The Executive Board met in a closed session until 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Hillery/Secretary