

**Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers
Conference Call
Monday, September 8, 2019**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Sally Dillon at 7:35 pm.

Also present were: board members Doug Jelen, Arni Litt, Linda Chapman, Jim Davidson, Todd Doherty, Steve Peterson, Kathy Casey, Stephanie Hiebert, and Bob DeWard. Absent were Kim Boggs, April Cheadle, and Hugh Moore. Sarah Welch, Dave Baer, Lucianne Pugh, Walt Reid, Wade Praeger, and Maddie Sibilias also attended.

A. Officer Reports

1. **President:** Sally reported that Wade Praeger (LWM) has volunteered to be PNA's Fitness Coordinator and has been appointed to the position.

PNA submitted a bid to host the 2021 Spring National Championship meet. Mike Dunwiddie, Steve Freeborn, Hugh Moore, and Sally Dillon worked together to prepare the bid. In July, they participated in a conference call with the USMS Championship Committee where they answered questions and promoted our bid. Sally received a call from Championship Chair Jim Clemmons a week or so after the call and unfortunately, we lost out on hosting the meet again, this time to Greensboro. Jim said that the two "key reasons" that PNA did not get the bid were

- Location: the SCY meet has been held "in the west" recently – notably Riverside in 2017 and Mesa in 2019
- Greensboro has up to 20 competition lanes and up to 31 warm-up/warm-down lanes

Jim Clemmons said that there has been discussion within the Championship Committee regarding a change to the minimum number of warm-up lanes (which is not good for us). Sally asked about what she considered a conflict: the 2020 LCM meet will be held in Richmond, VA and by selecting Greensboro, they have placed two successive championship meets approximately 200 miles apart. Apparently, the committee only compares the location of the same course from year to year, so it appears that this "advantage" to swimmers in that part of the country isn't an issue (at least to the committee). Sally noted that she was asked if PNA would consider bidding for a LCM meet and she replied that it was not financially feasible.

2. **Approval of minutes:** It was MS to approve the minutes of the July 14 meeting. It was noted that the table was missing from B.1. – the Meets report. Linda located it and inserted it into the minutes. The second paragraph was also amended to be clear. **The amended minutes were approved.**
3. **Finance:** Arni reported in writing: 2019 income through August is \$24,036 of which \$1,598 is from donations. The total meet income is a negative \$753 since we paid Puget Sound Masters the guaranteed income for the 2018 SCM meet. PNA had a positive income for the new LCM meet of \$1,436.

- The net income to August 31 is \$9,307
- Total Assets are \$69,966.92
- Checking account balance as of August 31 is \$10,900
- Savings account balance as of August 31 is \$59,292.13
- The credit card balance as of August 31 is \$3,585.78, which was paid to King County Aquatics for the LCM meet
- PNA is beginning to see registrations for 2020

Arni noted that PNA needs to find a way to earn more interest on our savings. She will check with credit unions and other institutions and report back at our November meeting. She also said that Jane Moore is verifying the bank reconciliations. There were no questions about the balance sheet; it was MSA to approve the financial report.

4. **Meeting visitors:** Sally noted that Maddie Sibilias and Wade Praeger were on the call. Wade is our new Fitness and Clinics Coordinator and Maddie is the Dixie Zone Director, serving on the USMS Board of Directors. She recently located to Seattle after taking a position at Boeing in Everett.
5. **Membership:** Stephanie reported that we have 1715 members (865 men and 850 women).

B. Coordinator/Committee Reports

1. **Meets:** Linda posted a meets report. She had nothing to add and there were no questions. 2020 meets are the Bellevue Club mile (1/19) and Thunderbird (2/2). PNA champs are Easter weekend this year. In 2009, the meet was held on Friday at 5:30, and Saturday all day. BWAQ is talking about it as a board. We should approve the champs for that weekend with the days to be determined. Sarah asked about meets that won't be held; LWM won't be held – Linda needs a break and PASC is having their pool refurbished. This provides an opportunity for some other team to bid. **MSA** to approve the Jan-June meets as listed.

Linda provided the following information regarding available sessions that officials would work in 2020 (forecasted meet sessions between 9/1 and 2020 USMS SCY Nationals in San Antonio):

- BAMFest – 1 session
 - Snohomish – 1 session
 - BC Mile – 1 session
 - TACM – 1 session
 - PNA Champs – 2 sessions
2. **Open Water:** Jim reported that the Aly Fell Memorial OW event had 41 swimmers. The Last Gasp of Summer occurs next weekend.
 3. **Newsletter:** Sally thanked Lucianne for putting together another terrific issue. Lucianne would appreciate contributors doing better job adhering to the deadlines. Otherwise, she said it is going well. She declined Arni's offer to provide a subscription to Acrobat. Steve noted that he uses Acrobat to reduce the size of each newsletter before posting them.
 4. **Social Media:** Sally has been in touch with Isaac. He has been dealing with an illness in the family and hasn't been able to firm up a proposal for a new website. She has asked him to prepare something for the November meeting.
 5. **Historian:** Walt has been working on Top 10 postings of late. The information has been moved on the website to a better location. There is a writeup in the current newsletter with details.

C. Old Business

1. **New PNA logo:** While there are images of orcas posted on our Google Drive, the project has stalled. Sally asked for a volunteers to serve on a subcommittee; Lucianne (lead), Jim, and Bob volunteered. They will narrow the field of choices and bring to the November 2 meeting a selection for us to choose from.
2. **Website update:** See Social Media above
3. **Officials policy:** Dave proposed minor changes to the existing policy. PNA sent five coaches to Mesa last year, which was more than the host organization (Arizona) provided. The policy does need revising to clarify the requirements for funding. Linda proposed a couple revisions of her own. After discussion about whether to restrict reimbursement to only USMS Certified officials, the Board agreed to defer the decision about policy changes until the November meeting. Linda recommended that Dave give the officials a heads-up about volunteer hours since we will have fewer meets in 2020 than usual.

D. New Business

1. **Convention:** The board discussed various issues that will come up at the convention in St. Louis the coming week. The objective was to give non-attending members a chance to provide input, and to discuss issues that are likely to be controversial.
 - a. **Unified Fee:** The National Office and USMS BOD provided a multi-page document outlining the proposals. We took advantage of Maddie's presence by asking her about the following:
 - Regarding financial support for delegates – how many will they support? It is not completely turfed out but Maddie expects it would be hotel costs for the delegates attending as representatives of their LMSC. This would not include other delegates that attend due to membership on committees. Sarah has done the math for 2020 if we were to commit. PNA – 1715 members at \$60 each. \$45 goes to the NO; \$15 to PNA. However, PNA sends \$3 per swimmer back to the NO. The NO then pays hotel rooms for four delegates.
 - 1715 x \$15 = + \$25,725
 - 1715 x \$3 = - \$5,145
 - NO \$\$ for 4 del = + \$1225
 - (or 8 del) = + \$2450
 - PNA baseline/expected income in 2020

- $1715 \times \$13 = \$22,295$
 - With four delegate hotels paid, PNA loses \$490 compared to baseline
 - With eight delegate hotels paid, PNA gains \$745 compared to the baseline
- How long can we expect the \$60 fee to last before the NO wants to raise it? Maddie said—based on conversations—the goal is to have it be the start of a flat line and last for at least one to two years. The NO will be able to run metrics to determine if the cost of membership is affecting growth. Some proposals refer to marketing with other sport bodies; e.g., joint registration for USMS and USAT. Do we lose \$\$? Maddie said they would be looking at 20% rather than dollars. Idea is to bring new members that we would not have had. Linda noted that with the Unified Fee, we would no longer be able to set our own fees and we will likely get lower income from registration fees unless there is a bump in membership. The hope is we will get more members but there are no guarantees. Maddie said more research will be done before these memberships are available.
 - Would we continue to get 20% if the total fees go up? Maddie believes so. Dave noted that as a member of USAT, USA Cycling, USA-S, and USMS, he is at the higher age of people competing. In his opinion if he was a member of just one, he wouldn't join the other organization unless there was a specific interest. He doesn't think a triathlete would join USMS so they could compete in meets. Maddie said they would be doing beta testing to determine the validity of these partnerships.
- b. **Legislative proposals:** Steve and Kathy attended the Legislation conference call that occurred earlier in the day. Kathy brought up L2, which proposes a change from 60 days to 30 days to be unattached before a swimmer can change clubs. Kathy thinks this could complicate Nationals meet entries and suggested amending this to 35 days instead.
 - c. **Long Distance proposals:** Sally noted that the LD committee unanimously voted to not recommend LD2. This proposal asks for an altitude adjustment for swimmers competing in the postal events. All other proposals appeared to be non-controversial.
 - d. **Rule proposals:** Kathy noted that R1 & R2 (rules regarding relay entries) are connected. R9 clarifies “foreign swimmers” and records on US soil. Fewer than usual, the proposals for the most part are not controversial.
 - e. **Other convention issues:** There are two task force reports that appear to be controversial.

Volunteers Task Force recommends combining the meets chair with the top 10 and records chair. Linda said the main reason is to give the meet host a single point of contact. She is very much against this idea and Walt agreed. There could be a committee but it shouldn't be a single person handling all duties. Dave noted the meet referee is involved in the process as well since they need to sign the documents and coordinate with the top 10 person. This is asking too much of a single individual.

OW strategy task force – Sally recommend that everyone review that information as well.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm.

Next Meeting – November 2 in Issaquah at 10 am