

**Present :**

Sally O'Brien - President  
Olenka McKee - Director  
Marion Wyatt - Director  
Cindy Bertelink - Director  
Lesley Mason-Ward - Treasurer  
Michael Heath-Eves – Vice President  
Nathan Degiorgio - Director  
Johnny Hewerdine - Director  
Sean Warburton – Director

**Committees, Representatives and Staff :**

Brian Croker	Registrar
Jacqueline Odlum	Recording Sec
Chris Smith	MSC and OSOA

Regrets: Steve Goodwin      Craig Zimmerman

**01. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:13 a.m. with Michael Heath-Eves presiding as chair. To set the tone of the meeting, Michael asked that we all try to bring new ideas of how to do things differently for Masters swimming

**02. Motion:** To adopt the agenda as amended to save the expense reduction item to the end of the meeting.

Moved by: Sally O'Brien, seconded by: Olenka McKee

Carried

**03. Motion:** To approve the minutes of Board meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

Moved by: Sally, seconded by: Lesley Mason-Ward

Carried

**04. Motion:** To approve the minutes of mini meeting of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Moved by: Marion Wyatt, seconded by: Sean Warburton

Carried

**Board Reports**

**President**

As the New Year begins, I would like to welcome our new board members, Nathan Degiorgio and Johnny Hewerdine from London On, and Sean Warburton from Etobicoke. Thanks to the recruiting efforts of Mr. Grant Jeffrey, we were able to have a well attended AGM last November and a vote.

On behalf of the board I sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Jeffrey.

The survey results have been compiled and we are looking forward to seeing how we, as a board, can meet the needs of our swimmers.

The data base remains an ongoing discussion to see what is truly viable for the provinces as well as Masters Swimming Canada.

Our Handbook/Rule book is also being looked at as it has not been updated since 2002.

Keep fit, keep swimming.

## Vice President

COP/MSC

The VP MSO attended a meeting of Masters Swimming Canada October 19, 2007 in Ottawa. There was very little to hear on the new registration system as the Swim Direct program was about to be abandoned by the SNC. It was predicted that SNC would have a new program in place in late 2008. They were working with Clevernet at that time.

Minutes of the entire meeting are attached to the e-mail that carries this report.

Among important issues to MSO is the rise in the MSC fee to all MSO members from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per registered swimmer effective September 1, 2008. See Motion B7:07:04.

According to a representative of the MSC, notification of this increase to the PMO's (which includes MSO) is to be conveyed by the COP Representative (me). In other words there will be no *formal notification* to MSO of the fee increase other than receipt of the MSC Meeting Minutes. This apparently was discussed at the meeting and this form of notification was agreed upon at that time. I was not present for this part of the meeting.

It will be proposed that notification of the MSC increase to MSO Clubs be sent immediately.

### Swimmer Registration

The project to source a new registration program for MSO is in abeyance for the time being. The MSO Board will review alternative programs in the future. In the meantime it is business as usual. At this time we will run with the current registration program until a change makes sense.

### Insurance

There is no further news at this time.

## Treasurer

Despite the warnings given at the AGM last November, we are not yet in a sinking ship. Revenues to the end of December 2007 totalled \$42,422. and expenses were \$31,684 – a difference of about \$10,000. However, we still owe the second installment of MSC dues – which are calculated upon our membership as of February 1. We have had to reorder medals and ribbons, and we still have audit fees to pay. But three major expenses have already been undertaken – to wit, the first installment of our dues to MSC, our total commitment to Swim Ontario, and all of our annual insurance.

Our total expenses for the AGM amounted to \$2989 – pretty close to the \$3000 budgeted for last year and a \$1000 saving on the projected amount for this year. They include the \$145 cost of a pre-AGM teleconference. We owe a BIG thank-you to EOMAC for their provision of food after their meet – which enticed a sufficient number of swimmers to participate in the annual meeting.

Other major upcoming expenses are costs incurred by Directors' meetings and these cannot be accurately projected. The costs of salaries (Registrar, Webmaster, Records Keeper) are constant.

Periodic transfer of funds from our active account to a savings account is increasing our income and prudent expenditure is keeping our bank account stable. Members of the Board should see no special cause for alarm.

### 2007-8 Revenue and Expenses Monthly Accounting

2006-7	2007-8	SEPT- OCT	NOV- DEC
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	ACTUAL	PROJECTED		
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Deposits	76,955	77,000	22,230	19,565
Interest	1,702	1800	312	315
Awards	3,730	3800		
Total	82,387	82,600	22,542	20
		RUNNING		
		G		
		TOTAL		42,422
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>1.Affiliation</b>				
a)MSC	32,750	35,000	4,280	
b)SO	6,680	6,200		6,146
c)OSOA		1000	1,000	
Total	39,430	42,000	5,280	6,146
<b>2.Insurance</b>				
Total	10,988	11,000	11,019	
<b>3.Finance</b>				
a)Audit	4,452	2,500	17	70
b)Bank charges	177	200	8	8
Total	4,629	2,700	25	78
<b>4. Board Meetings</b>				
a)Directors' travel	8,008	8,500	2,391	
b)Venue	135	500		
c)Teleconference	945	2,000		
d)Presidents Banquet	655	800		
e)Recording secretary	750	1,200	150	
Total	10,493	13,000	2,541	
<b>5&gt;Annual General Meeting</b>				
a)Directors Travel	772	2,000		1,599
b)Recording secretary	150	200		150
c)Clinic/Teleconf	1,250	1,500		145
d)Supplies,copy,post	403	400		1,095
Total	2,575	4,100		2,989
<b>6)Registrar</b>				
a)Salary	6,000	6,000	1,000	1,000
b)Phone/internet	957	2,000		
c)Supplies/copy/post	915	1,200	824	
d)Club refunds	565	500		

Total	8,437	9,700	1,824	1,000
7)Communications				
a)Webmaster	1,500	1,500		750
b)Web costs	527	600	40	
Total	2,027	2,100	40	750
8)Competition				
a)Medals/ribbons	4,075	4,000		
b)Records keeper	944	1,000		
Total	5,069	5,000		
9)Health and Lifestyle				
Marketing		500		
Total		500		
10.Leadership				
a)Survey expenses	211	200		
b)Special awards (e.g. OSG)	670	800		
Total	881	1,000		
TOTAL EXPENSES	84,495	91,300	20,729	10,963
		RUNNIN G TOTAL		31,692

## Competition

Provincials  
March 28 – 30 Sanctioned  
Nepean

Meet Schedule – dates for meets have always been assigned on a first come first served basis and the second ‘rule of thumb’ try to have at least 2 weeks between meets in a region that would draw from the same swimmer pool The Toronto area is getting booked solid - more teams want to run meets as a fund generator –I already have a request from York University Masters for January 25 2009

Masters appear to want short meets, not expensive and not too far away.

‘New’ clubs wanting to run a meet and ‘old clubs feeling they have always been there so should get their usual weekend .Everyone wants November to March.

**Request** a working group to review the approving of dates and sanctioning of meets.

Non sanctioned meets – Claus confirmed for me that as long as a club is registered the insurance covers a non-sanctioned meet (same as a practice);The purpose of the sanction is quality control. No results and records are valid if the meet is not sanctioned

Non registered swimmers

According to the by-laws page 54 # 09 “Member club” states all its members shall be registered As far as I know this has never been enforced because there is no way to control who a club registers. Not only in Ontario but across Canada this seems to be true – some clubs register all swimmers and some only those who may compete and some register no swimmers.

Non registered swimmers cannot compete in sanctioned meets.

Ribbons for provincials – 2008 committee have requested that the ribbons on the medals for 2008 be blue / yellow not the usual blue/white. The ribbon change will allow a swimmer to identify where a medal was won. The medal will remain the same.

Question, when the decision was made to go to a standardized medal did that include the ribbon? I was led to believe provincials were blue/white and Canadians red /white but do not know the source of this info.

Olenka asked for guidance on giving clubs dates for their meets. There was discussion regarding “first come, first served” as opposed to a legacy where clubs have for many years chosen the same date. A sub-committee comprising Olenka McKee, Sean Warburton and Cindy Bertelink has been formed to study meet guidelines – such as a firm date when clubs must be registered; must be a masters club to get sanction; all swimmers in the club must be registered with MSO; promote competition so clubs can run meets on the same weekend, perhaps with different events (e.g. long distance rather than sprints).

All swimmers must be registered and in order to call yourself a “masters swimmer” you must be registered with MSO. This is in the rule book and the Board will remind clubs with the possibility of adding a penalty.

**05. Motion:** That Provincial championship medals have a blue and white ribbon attached and that place ribbons be of a current standardized colour.

Moved by: Lesley, seconded by: Johnny Hewerdine

Carried

## Leadership

Hillary had hoped to come to the meeting to transfer the survey files to Nathan. They will communicate via e-mail and he will arrange to get them from her and to prepare a presentation for the Board at the next meeting.

## Health and Lifestyle

Sean talked about the Million Metre challenge originally designed to encourage fitness swimmers but seems to be competitive – he wants to come up with programs specifically to encourage non-competitive swimmers. He plans to put info on the web page which talks about healthy lifestyle which swimming promotes. He will obtain brochures e.g. from Heart and Stroke to make available to entrants at Provincials.

## Communication

### Newsletter

After our board meeting in January, I will move forward with producing the latest edition of the newsletter based on the template Marion created last year. This will include updates/reports from the various committee chairs, as well as upcoming meet information.

As a reminder, this means I'll need any pertinent information from the board shortly after the meeting for inclusion in the newsletter. I will give everyone a deadline to submit their reports at our meeting.

### Advertising

I received an email before Christmas from a company that organizes swim trips/vacations, asking if it is possible to include their information in an upcoming newsletter or to put it on our website (see below)

#### SwimVacation Offers New Adventure for Swimmers

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, December 21, 2007 – SwimVacation, a new adventure travel company, has begun offering 7-day training trips to the British Virgin Islands for swimmers and triathletes. A maximum of ten travelers will stay aboard the Promenade, a sixty-five foot trimaran sailing yacht, and will be offered guided open water training swims among the islands. The first trip is scheduled to begin on April 6, 2008.

SwimVacation president George “Hopper” McDonough was recently featured in Outside Magazine when he completed a 22-mile open water swim that wound through the Virgin Islands. Impressed with the combination of breath taking scenery, physical challenge, and adventure, McDonough felt that a modified version of his trip would have great appeal to athletes who wanted to train as well as relax aboard a sailing yacht.

Further motivated by his own desire to keep in shape and sharpen swimming skills year-round, McDonough has designed a program that will provide recreation as well as a daily workouts throughout the British Virgin Islands. “The trip will include stroke clinics and guided swims that will challenge elite athletes as well as cater to athletes who desire a less strenuous workout”, McDonough said from his office in Bath, Maine. “What makes this program unusual is that the training location changes every day to include various spectacular aquatic scenes such as coral reefs, white sand beaches, and tropical island cays”. Running and cycling opportunities on the islands will also be available, and non-swimming companions are welcome aboard each trip.

Activities such as snorkeling, water skiing, kayaking, fishing, and scuba diving will be available between workouts. The all-inclusive trip features three gourmet meals a day and an open bar. The spacious guest cabins are designed for comfort. With a maximum of only ten clients per trip, individual attention is paid to the training and culinary desires of each guest. Trip prices range from \$2,850 for a shared double occupancy cabin to \$3,600 for a large single cabin.

For additional information about SwimVacation, call (207) 975-5489 or visit [www.swimvacation.com](http://www.swimvacation.com) <<http://www.swimvacation.com/>> .

ABOUT SWIMVACATION-SwimVacation is a new adventure travel company based in Bath, Maine that provides training vacations for swimmers and triathletes.

I’m not sure how often MSO gets these type of requests, but it could be an opportunity to generate revenue for the organization (i.e. paid advertising). It certainly would be worthwhile to explore if this is feasible. Do we have demographics of our membership to relay to potential sponsors?

We could have an advertising section on the website and/or newsletter. Another idea would be to have a sponsored tip of the day/week/month. This could be written by a coach, swimmer, nutritionist or other professional and provide advice or insight.

#### Value-Added

Another thought along these lines would be to create a members-only log-on portion of the site. This area could include sample workouts, information on technique and other aspects of the sport. It could be a value-added element to MSO membership – especially for recreational swimmers and triathletes that do not necessarily compete in meets.

Additionally, we could create sponsorship ties to membership to add value. For example,

perhaps members could get 10% at a swimwear distributor (e.g. Team Aquatics) if they show their membership card.

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

The new computer has been purchased and will be installed on Sunday – cards will be done as soon as possible.

MSC has not yet seen the specifications for Registration

Chris Smith reported that the swim camp in January was a great success- 40 participants with 5 coaches, 3 hours pool time per day.

### **Staff Reports**

Craig Zimmerman

Webmaster - If you have been on the website, you will have noticed a new look. Have been working through the myriad of pages to convert them.

New Directors, if possible could you send me a picture that could be posted on the website along with your club affiliation.

Registrar – Brian Croker

Due to technical difficulties – no report

### **External Reps**

Swim Ontario – no report from Steve

OSOA – Chris advised that there is a meeting next week and he will have a report after this. He did say that Officials training now contains a specific Masters component. There is no specific training for open-water competition.

### **New Business**

1. Regarding unsanctioned meets, Sally to draft a letter to advise that hosts have to highlight that it is not sanctioned. Sally to e-mail committee before sending.
2. Sally to draft a letter to advise clubs of MSO increase of \$5 per swimmer which was passed at the AGM and also let them know of the \$5 increase for MSC.
3. The handbook is 6 years old and the FINA rule book is still not ready. Sally will co-ordinate with Chris and Craig to ensure the website has correct, current rules.

### **Next meeting:**

Sunday, March 16 4:00 p.m. teleconference

Saturday, April 26 11:00 a.m. Etobicoke (Cindy to check with Steve re booking a room)

Saturday, June 14 9:00 a.m. teleconference

Saturday, September 6 11:00 a.m. London – Nathan to arrange room

### **Expense Reduction**

**Motion:** To reduce compensation for travel to and from MSO meeting to 35 cents per kilometer effective January 20, 2008

Moved by: Marion Wyatt, seconded by Olenka McKee

Carried

Most fees cannot be changed – MSC fees should be shown as a Liability rather than Income.  
Meeting expenses have been reduced by having teleconference calls alternating with face-to-face.  
Planning in advance for dates allows purchase of discounted tickets.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m. Moved by Sally O'Brien.