

Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting
Date: Saturday, June 14, 2008
Teleconference Call

Present :

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

Committees, Representatives and Staff :

Jacqueline Odlum Recording Sec
Chris Smith MSC/OSOA
Steve Goodwin SO
Craig Zimmerman Webmaster

Regrets:

Johnnie Hewerdine Nathan Degiorgio Brian Croker

01. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. with Sally O'Brien presiding as chair/moderator.

02. Motion

To accept this teleconference as a Board meeting
Moved by: Lesley Mason-Ward, seconded by: Michael Heath-Eves
Carried

03. Motion: To adopt the agenda.

Moved by: Cindy Bertelink, seconded by: Sean Warburton
Carried

04. Motion: To approve the minutes of Board meeting of April 26th

Moved by: Michael, seconded by: Cindy
Carried

Business Arising

1. Brian's computer equipment – Michael is following up on this item.
2. Meets will not be granted sanction until fees are paid for officials at previous meets.
3. It is imperative that meet managers attend the upgraded officials course. Chris and Nathan to work on promoting this.
4. New form is being designed for submitting results and meet report – to include age groups, sex, etc. What information would be helpful from a marketing perspective – let Olenka and Craig know.
5. Swim Ontario cannot sanction a Masters meet – this has to go through Olenka.
6. Still nothing from the auditors despite repeated follow up. They should be replaced at a special general meeting. Lesley will call Chris Cupidio to see if he can put pressure on them.
7. Lindsay Patten will have information regarding the database in the Fall – he is away right now.
8. Regarding the demonstration against closing Toronto school pools, the closings have been delayed for now.
9. Regarding the survey results, a coaches brainstorming session could be held in conjunction with a meet like the one previously at Etobicoke.
10. COP funding will be revisited when the new budget is drawn up.
11. One page regarding advertising will be put on the web by the end of August.

12. MSO annual goals – this is to be discussed by Cindy, Chris and Sally – should be similar to MSC one year plan.

President's report

No report

Vice President's report

1. COP/MSC

Your VP attended meetings of the COP and the MSC AGM in Quebec City, May 16 and May 17.

Norm McKee has retired from his duties at MSC.

Lindsay Patten is the new Director of Operations for MSC. Other changes are noted below.

Lindsay Patten's One Year Plan was discussed at both meetings. This has been previously circulated to the Board.

It was decided that there will be no COP Chairman to replace Paul Boulding but Mike Morrow will head any meetings.

Nigel Kemp mentioned that SNC's credo of "cradle to the grave" swimming philosophy will give Masters Swimming more credence within the swimming community.

Of note to MSO, one Ontario member complained bitterly at the MSC AGM about the lack of rule updates concerning the strokes. Officials at the Ontario Provincials reprimanded some of his club's swimmers for having toes above the water in the backstroke start for example.

Mike Morrow sent the following report to me, which I forwarded to the Board so it may be a bit of duplication but will give you an idea of what has happened:

"- Frank Coy submitted his resignation as President of MSC. In a teleconference held Sunday 11 May, Nigel Kemp was elected to the position of President of MSC.

- COP had a meeting the afternoon of Thursday 15 May and the morning of Friday 16 May in Quebec City. There was informal discussion of the role of COP with respect to MSC. Having completed his term, Paul Boulding stepped down as the chair of COP. Mike Morrow agreed to take the position as long as the role was limited to facilitating any meetings COP may have. Ratification of that position will wait upon approval by the COP members who were not at the meeting

- the MSC members meeting was held Saturday 17 May at PEPS in Quebec City. Most of the discussion centered on the one-year plan prepared by Lindsay Patten.

- the MSC Annual General meeting was held Saturday 17 May at PEPS in Quebec City, following the member's meeting. Election of the new MSC directors was completed. The elected directors are:

- Christian Berger
- Carolyn Prebble
- Sylvie Potvin
- Robert Diebold

- MSC board members had an unofficial meeting Sunday 18 May at PEPS. The business of the meeting was to sign the forms to transfer signing authority for the MSC bank account. It was proposed that the Director of Operations (Lindsay) be given signing authority.

A teleconference was held Sunday 25 May to minute the change of signing authority. A second meeting was held immediately after to approve the minutes of the first meeting."

Noted at the COP Meeting was the fact that 30% of Masters are registered for the Million Metre Challenge but only 15% actively participate.

2. Swimmer Registration Program

- The following is an excerpt from an e-mail from Lindsay Patten concerning the new SNC Registration system:

“There are a few provinces that are using the SNC system now, the feedback has not been entirely positive, but the early experiences with new software that was brought out on a tight deadline are often suboptimal. I fully expect that they will be working full tilt to bring it up to par by the fall. “

- Lindsay has suggested that MSO wait for the fall before looking at any new system.

3. MSO Data Base

- MSO Data base has been received by Lindsay Patten of MSC.

4. Insurance

- There is no report at this time.

5. Equipment List

- Incomplete. Waiting for responses from some Board members and the Registrar.

Reports from Workgroup Leaders

Treasurer – Lesley Mason Ward

2007-8 Revenues and Expenses – Monthly Accounting

	2006-7	2007-8	SEPT-OCT	NOV-DEC	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN
REVENUES							
Deposits	76,955	77,000	22,230	19,565	20,825	19,400	2,890
Interest	1,702	1800	312	315	315	315	276
Awards	3,730	3800					4,406
Total	82,387	82,600	22,542	19,870	21,130	19,715	7,572
		RUNNING TOTAL		42,422	63,562	83,277	90,849
EXPENSES							
1.Affiliation							
a)MSC	32,750	35,000	4,280			21,010	9,270
b)SO	6,680	6,200		6,146			
c)OSOA		1000	1,000				
Total	39,430	42,000	5,280	6,146		21,010	9,270
		RUNNING TOTAL	5,280	11,426	11,426	32,436	41,706
2.Insurance							
Total	10,988	11,000	11,019				

	2006-7 ACTUAL	2007-8 PROJECTED	SEPT-OCT	NOV-DEC	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN
		RUNNING TOTAL	11,019	11,019	11,019	11,019	11,019
3. Finance							
a) Audit	4,452	2,500	17	70			
b) Bank charges	177	200	8	8	8	8	8
Total	4,629	2,700	25	78	8	8	8
		RUNNING TOTAL	25	103	111	119	127
4. Board Meetings							
a) Directors' travel	8,008	8,500	2,391		1,555	182	1,269
b) Venue	135	500					
c) Teleconference	945	2,000				64	
d) Presidents Banquet	655	800			350		
e) Recording secretary	750	1,200	150		150	150	150
Total	10,493	13,000	2,541		2,055	214	1,419
		RUNNING TOTAL	2,541	2,541	4,596	4,810	6,229
5. AGM							
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			
		RUNNING TOTAL		2,989	2,989	2,989	2,989
6) Registrar							
a) Salary	6,000	6,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
b) Phone/Internet	957	2,000	824		716		420
c) Supplies/copy/post	915	1,200					241
d) Club refunds	565	500					
Total	8,437	9,700	1,824	1,000	1,716	1,000	1,661
		RUNNING TOTAL	1,824	2,824	4,540	5,540	7,201
7) Communications							
a) Webmaster	1,500	1,500		750			750
b) web costs	527	600	40				
Total	2,027	2,100	40	750			750
		RUNNING TOTAL	40	790	790	790	1,540
8) Competition							
a) Medals/Ribbons	4,075	4,000			4,376		
b) Records Keeper	944	1,000					

Total	5,069	5,000					
			RUNNING TOTAL			4,376	4376
9)Health and Lifestyle Marketing Total		500					
		500	RUNNING TOTAL				
10)Leadership							
a)Survey	211	200					
b)Special awards(eg OSG)	670	800					
Total	881	1,000	RUNNING TOTAL				

	2006-7 ACTUAL	2007-8 PROJECTED	SEPT-OCT	NOV-DEC	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN
					8,155		
	84,495	91,300	20,729	10,963	39,847	22,414	13,031
				31,692		62,261	75,292
					63,562		
TOTAL REVENUE RUNNING TOTAL			22,542	42,422	39,847	83,277	90,849
			20,729	31,692		62,261	75,292
					23,715		
BALANCE (Revenues minus expenses)			1813	10,730		21,016	15,657

Competition – Olenka McKee

COMPETITION REPORT JUNE 2008

WELLAND OWS

A special THANKS to Charlie Lane and Bryan Finlay for going to Welland as MSO representatives and lending their support and expertise to the organizer of this event.

OSOA FEE

FEE FROM THE MASTER'S MEETS AS OF JUNE 5

OWS	= 280	
POOL NONCHAMPIONSHIP	= 1828	
POOL CHAMPIONSHIP	= 3755	TOTAL = 5863

FEES OUTSTANDING

BURLINGTON – MEET REPORT NOT SENT – UNABLE TO ISSUE AN INVOICE
TECHNOSPORT (4 MEETS) = 276
RIDEAU SPEEDEAUS = 142
LONDON = 270
MILTON = 272

TOTAL = 960

TOTAL IF ALL PAID = 6823

discussion

RECOMMEND THE BOARD REVISIT FEE – OPTIONS - MAINTAIN, REDUCE,
CANCEL

- OWS CHAMPIONSHIP FEE REDUCE TO 2.50

SANCTIONING A MEET

STEP 3 MEET REPORT AND RESULT

In order to save the Meet Coordinator some work Craig is working on Step 3 – online report that the results will be attached to and then sent to the various people.

THE 2009 ONTARIO MASTERS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nepean setting up work groups and put a notice on web under What's New

Leadership – Nathan Degiorgio

No report

Health and Lifestyle – Sean Warburton

Planning to have the 1500 metre swim challenge some time in November. Also get 400 and 800 time – timed and counted by other team members; this would then be entered on line as a “virtual” meet. Not sanctioned for records or top ten, just a “lifestyle” contest with funds to go to a charity, probably Heart and Stroke. Sean will send a draft to the Board for comments and review it with Craig for the website.

Communication – Cindy Bertelink

Cindy has asked Pat Niblett for the records set at Nationals to include in the latest newsletter.

Staff Reports

(a) Registration, Brian Croker –

REGISTRAR REPORT

As of May 31, 2008

Clubs 88

Mail memberships -

Total swimmers 3074
Club swimmers 3026
Unattached Swimmers 40

8 OSG Members, Beth Whittall, Ted Roach,
Michael Stroud, Brian Croker, Chris Smith
Pat Niblett, Bryan Finlay, Barrie Malloch

1 new club- Open Water River Swimmers- Brockville

(b) **Web Master, Craig Zimmerman** – Has made website more user friendly

Reports from External Reps

(a) **Officials/MSC, Chris Smith** – issue of clubs not registering all swimmers continues to be a problem.

Discussions at Perth, April 2008

When in 2004, we at MSC were looking for a good program for our members, not in the normal competitive area, I remembered talking to some AUSSI Masters in 2002 in both Sydney and Christchurch about their organization and programs for their members. It is from this discussion that our Million Metre Challenge was born, our more sophisticated IT version of a highly successful AUSSI program.

In those discussions and several subsequent ones I was greatly impressed by both their programs and the organization. I met their current President, John Pugh, at Stanford and have since compared notes with him on several topics. I had several discussions with John at Perth, also with a number of other Australians involved in their organization. I got a number of views on a number of issues, some contradictory, some I didn't fully understand or can't remember the details of. The overall picture is that AUSSI is currently far more evolved than we are. It has a large number of knowledgeable and involved members serving on Committees, working at the national, state or club level, it is totally controlled by its members.

AUSSI's structure is based on their state (provincial) organizations as far as member involvement and on national committees to carry out the work of the organization. Their head office in Melbourne has three staff in Executive and Administrative positions to make sure it all works. The Australian State organizations, as in Canada, have large size differences; the relationship between New South Wales and the Northern Territories is similar to that of Ontario to PEI. The State representation at semi-annual members meetings is related to size. They hold their AGM at one of these.

The member clubs are active at the State Level and elect and direct their representatives to the national level. The State representatives elect the National Board which meets face to face immediately before and after the semi-annual members meeting (State reps) plus on several other occasions by teleconference. The national Committees have the time and expertise to thoroughly consider issues and bring well developed proposals to the Board and members.

Interestingly AUSSI has been going through some major changes over the last year, rethinking and restructuring several components of their operation and changing their constitution. They had found under their recent staff that there was a tendency for staff to take control of issues, out of the hands of members. They have changed staff and this direction, putting the control back in the hands of the Committees, Board and Members.

They also had recognized several years ago that many aspects of their operation, in particular registration for membership, competition, programs and merchandise could be done more effectively over the net.

They had been convinced to work with Swim Australia on a joint registration system. This had been a disaster, not all Swim Australia's fault; however, AUSSI was now setting up their own independent registration system.

I asked John about the relationship between AUSSI and Swim Australia. His view that they were generally cordial, they did not have a lot in common other than the need for officials for competitions and the need for pools. These two items they worked together on and this had been most successful. They both supported the officials and lobbied together for pools. He did say that there had been occasions in the past where Swim Australia had tried to take control of AUSSI, either by "a carrot or a stick". He felt that it was most important, certainly for Masters, that this never happen and that Masters have total control of all aspects of Masters swimming in Australia, including reporting through their national Aquatics body to FINA on Masters issues. John also felt that the current relationships between AUSSI and Swim Australia contributed in an important way to the success at all levels and components of aquatics in Australia. For example, Perth, with a population of one million, has the same number of 50m pools as Canada.

John believes that keeping the members informed of what is happening at AUSSI is most important; "branding" the organization to the members and the public is an important function of the Board. This is currently primarily achieved through their website and web-magazine. See "Newsletter", which includes items on above and contact info on;

http://www.aussimasters.com.au/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Compared to Australia we are in a far less developed state, certainly in the structural areas which is critical if we are to deliver our programs, inform and involve our members and raise our profile. There is a significant amount of thought and work required to get this in place. We can learn from Australia. We can also learn from USMS, which is similar in many ways to AUSSI in both its structures and relationships, and importantly, is much closer! <http://www.usms.org/>. Tracy Grilli of USMS has been a great help to us on many issues.

These are considered by many to be the two most successful Masters organizations in the World. Copying success could be the easiest route to success!

I have earlier sent you reports on discussions and observations on AUSSI, Masters Australia, also on the most recent OSOA Board meeting. If any of you did not receive these or have any questions please get back to me.

You have also seen the minutes from the MSC Board meetings in Quebec and the subsequent teleconference meeting which deal to a great degree with the 1500m incident in Quebec, officiating at Nationals, the regulating of meets and masters Rules. This all relates to officials and I believe we may see some positive movement in these areas. Finalizing the MSC Rule book would go a long way to resolving some of these difficulties. Again please contact me if you have questions.

As you know two of the largest Masters championships in Canada will be in Ontario next year. Alastair Curry, Horst Tietze and myself look forward to working with Steve and his team to insure the best ever Nationals at Etobicoke next year. I have also been asked to work with Steve on behalf of MSC. Dave Roza, the President of OSOA and Dave Sweeny, a member of the OSOA Board, and Nepean Masters, will be working closely with the Nepean organizers to insure their officiating needs are met at our provincials.

OSOA provides the training programs for officials, not only for Ontario, but for use across Canada. The preparation of these courses and tools and the training of officials in Ontario accounts for most of the OSOA budget, normally about \$20,000, this coming year we are projecting expenses of approximately \$25,500. Primarily due to the Swim Ontario decision to host this year's AGM in Huntsville, also the development of more sophisticated training tools. Our income comes from swimmers. Each age

group swimmer pays \$1.00 to OSOA and there about 10,000 in Ontario. OSOA projects an income of approximately \$6000 from masters. This ties in closely to Olenka's projection of \$7000 from meet surcharges for the year. I believe it may be a slightly different 12 month period. If OSOA continues to provide the services they are now doing they will need to find other sources of income. A significant cost to us is the training of officials in the north-east and north-west regions of Ontario where the sparseness of swimmers over vast areas makes this process very expensive.

I think we all recognize that masters provide far more funding to OSOA related to the percentage of service they receive from Ontario officials. I and numerous other Masters I have spoken to have no difficulty with that. We, who have received so much from our sport in fun, fitness, friendship and travel, have no difficulty funding this dedicated band of volunteers who contribute so much to the development of the next generation of swimmers. I think we also recognize that Ontario with by far the largest number of Masters, age group swimmers and officials can do a great deal in many ways to raise the level of the swimming experience for those in smaller provinces across Canada. OSOA is the prime example of this.

Clearly the elevation of one of our MSO members, Eunice Fowler of London Silver Dolphins, to the Chair of the National Officials Committee, (NOC) augers well for the continued growth of this beneficial relationship.

We have developed over the last half dozen years a great relationship with OSOA. This is a win win situation for everyone and needs to be protected for the good of all swimmers and volunteers in Ontario, and Canada.

OSOA Report – May, 2008

The Ontario Swimming Officials Association Board met in Toronto on the 24 – 25, May, 2008. This is one of three two day face to face meetings held each year in January, May and September. The latter is part of their AGM. They also have several conference call Board meetings with limited agendas. They have a Board of thirteen, all are Level 5 Officials.

OSOA is responsible for the education and certification of swimming officials in Ontario. It is an independent association of swimming officials associated with Swim Ontario and NOC. Their website is attached to the SO site. Their material is used for this purpose in many parts of Canada. Some highlights of this weekend's meeting, for your information;

- The work on the incorporation of "Masters" components into the clinics and power point presentation has been completed for Meet Manager, Strokes and Turns and Starter. Work on the Referee's clinic should be available in a month.
- We had a presentation from the Canadian Paralympics Committee (CPC) on the requirements for the training and certification of officials for SWAD (Swimmers with a disability), also the special sanctioning process required if SWAD was involved in a meet. Sanctioning is directly to the International body, IPC, which is not part of FINA. Notwithstanding this the CPC has chosen to work with SNC in the training of officials. Swim Alberta has taken the OSOA clinics and added SWAD components to them, similar to what OSOA has done for Masters and we will be incorporating the Alberta SWAD material into our clinics. Since the SWAD sanctioning process is extremely complex it is recommended that Masters not consider holding joint Masters/SWAD meets. We do have registered members who would qualify as SWAD and some of these do compete in our meets as regular members. It is recommended that this arrangement not change.
- The Board has again asked when the MSC Rule Book would be available. This was promised to the officials two years ago. I fear our credibility has suffered on this issue and action should be taken.
- We should expect a request from FINA for recommendations for List 9 for FINA Masters Officials this year. We have clarifications and suggestions from FINA on additional criteria for this process. We have comprehensive information from Ontario on the officials who might qualify but nothing from other provinces.

- We had an extensive report on the new on line SNC registration and sanctioning process. Officials from all parts of the province are highly critical of this as far as age group clubs are concerned. They do not believe it would be suitable for Masters and suggest we look elsewhere.
- We had a very exciting demonstration of our first on line clinic. We have started with the Level 1, Timers Clinic, and are using MOODLE, Modular Object-Orientated Dynamic Learning Environment, a tool now used extensively for on-line teaching. The potential of this as a learning tool is amazing. It can be used by extremely busy people, people in remote areas and can be as effective, although different, to our standard regional or club clinics. We should have this finalized by September and I expect many provinces will borrow it and use it. Which is fine, as always, by us.
- This was Eunice Fowlers last Board meeting, she has now resigned to take over the responsibilities of the Chair of the National Officials Committee (NOC). Eunice has contributed greatly to the work of OSOA over the years. She has a good understand of Masters issues regarding pool needs, rules, programs, relationships, etc. She is a Masters swimmer, a member of London Silver Dolphins, as is her daughter. We will miss her and wish her well.
- Finally, the Board of OSOA expressed their heartfelt thanks to the members and Board of MSO who have supported them financially for several years and are fully aware that without this assistance the work of this organization would have been significantly curtailed. This would have had a detrimental effect not only on Masters who compete, but all swimmers who compete. Also not just on Ontario swimmers, this support has contributed greatly to swimming across Canada.

Note: For those of you who are not familiar with this issue, OSOA used to receive funding from the Province of Ontario to assist them in the training of officials. About fifteen years ago the province started reducing and subsequently eliminated this support. We, as a Board asked MSO if we could run meets for them as a money making operation for use in officials' training, which they readily agreed to. We have subsequently run a number of meets including provincials in Toronto and Ottawa, also the 2005 Nationals, generally in conjunction with local Masters Clubs. MSO has now also adopted a surcharge of \$2 per swimmer for regular meets and \$5 per swimmers for Championships which goes directly to OSOA for this purpose. This funding from Masters has been a major source of funding for OSOA's work, Masters contribution is far greater as a percentage than the proportion we as officials spend on Masters competitions.

Ontario officials are most appreciative of this support and are always more than ready to work at our meets and open water swims. This relationship is a win-win situation for swimming in Canada.

Chris Smith
May 25, 2008

Swim Ontario, Steve Goodwin

I checked with Swim Ontario about the concerns raised by Chris here.

This meet ran quite successfully last year under the same format and with MSO members invited at the same registration fee as SO members so I am not sure how or why things are considered different this year. Swim Ontario's motive is only to be as open and inclusive as possible to all swimmers wishing a quality Open Water competition opportunity.

As to the Non-member issue it really is a non issue here as what actually occurs is anyone swimming becomes a member for a day so they are covered by special insurance obtained only for that day. That is why they are charged a higher fee for the event. Swim Ontario is absorbing the cost of the extra insurance for the event for MSO members in this case. I understand that Swim Canada also now uses this policy in their Open Water events. There are no infractions of FINA rules here so all historical precedents cited are moot points. There is no requirement of a double sanction for the event as all

participants are members for the day. The competition is using FINA Open Water Rules but that doesn't mean it is a FINA competition or any results will be sent to FINA.

I hope that covers all the points raised. If anything else needs to be addressed I can certainly raise the points with Swim Ontario.

Unfortunately I will be on deck at the Olympium from 7am to about 6pm on Saturday officiating at the Central Region Championships. February and June are the busy months for meets. If I have the opportunity I certainly will try to phone in for a few minutes.

New Business

1. Rule book – Michael to do a letter to MSC regarding frustration of swimmers at the lack of a current rule book – for Sally's signature.
2. At the AGM a decision was made to increase the fee from \$45 to \$50 for unattached swimmers.
3. Same day registration for Open Water Swimming

Motion: To collect a MSC/MSO membership fee for those who are not already registered for Open Water Swimming same day registration.

Moved by: Marion Wyatt, seconded by: Cindy Bertelink
Carried

4. Nominations Committee – Jacqueline to speak to Grant Jeffrey regarding chairing the committee.
5. The AGM could be held at Etobicoke after the November 8 or 9th meet. Mike offered to run the meeting and Cindy will help. Lesley and Olenka are not running again.

Next meeting – September 6th, at 11:00 a.m. at the London Aquatic Centre

05. Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Moved by: Sally O'Brien