

Present :

Sally O'Brien
Cathy Macdonald
Alisa Abgarov
Johnny Hewerdine
Nathan Degiorgio
Michael Heath-Eves
Sean Warburton

Committees, Representatives and Staff :

Brian Croker	Registrar
Jacqueline Odlum	Recording Sec
Chris Smith	MSC/OSOA
Steve Goodwin	SO

Regrets: Craig Zimmerman Robert McGlashan

01. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:18 a.m. with sally O'Brien presiding as chair.

02. Motion

To accept the agenda

Moved by: Sean Warburton; Seconded by Michael Heath Eves
Carried

03. Motion

To accept the minutes of the September 6th, 2008 meeting

Moved by: Michael; Seconded by Cathy MacDonald
Carried

04. Motion

To accept the minutes of the September 17th, 2008 teleconference meeting.

Moved by: Sean. Seconded by: Johnny Hewerdine
Carried

05. Motion

To accept the minutes of the November 16th, 2008 mini meeting.

Moved by: Michael. Seconded by: Johnny
Carried

06. Motion

To accept the minutes of the November 30th, 2008 teleconference meeting

Moved by: Michael. Seconded by: Alisa Abgarov
Carried

Business arising from the minutes

1. Registration on line – the first step is to send a list of club registrars to Lindsay. Nathan to be responsible as Leadership chair, to get information ready to present at Provincials and Brian to be contact person for questions. Michael to continue as liaison with Lindsay and he will work with Brian to set it up with assistance from Alisa and Lois Adams

07. Motion

To have Brian and Michael coordinate in contacting Lindsay to set up the data and processes for the new registration system.

Moved by: Michael. Seconded by: Sean

Carried

2. Equipment list is now OK – Jacqueline pointed out that Brian is now looking after the computer although she has signed for it – to be changed.
3. Goals for board members
Alisa = user friendly website
Chris = improve masters swimming structure to become stronger
4. Sanctioning Masters portion of SO meets – Steve advised this will be fixed this year and MSO will sanction if required

Board reports

President – Sally O'Brien

I'm looking forward to a year with a positive outcome with the registration by the fall of 2009 or sooner and perhaps a coach's clinic with references to the requirements listed in the survey taken in 2007.

On November 30th 2008 a letter of commitment was sent to the board of Masters Swimming Canada in which we, as a board of directors, agreed to move forward on getting the MSO swimmers' registration on line. We are moving in that direction although not as quickly as some would like. We are working on compiling the lists of swimmers and club registrars. Instructions will have to be sent out to them and they will have to be registered as registrars. This will take some time.

You must remember that most on the board are volunteers. When new things are introduced we all have to learn them. This too takes time.

On Jan 20th I received a note from Kim Lumsden advising me that she is resigning from the board.

Vice President - Michael Heath-Eves

COP/MSC

Activity since the November 30, 2008 teleconference has been to contact MSABC through the COP contact to inquire how it implemented the MSC New Registration System. To date no response from its Registrar has been received.

Swimmer Registration Program

A letter of intent was sent to MSC by the MSO President outlining the conditions under which it would switch over to the new registration system by September 1, 2009. The details of contacting MSO member clubs with instructions have yet to be completed

Insurance

No report.

Michael will review Insurance re liability for directors

Treasurer – Cathy MacDonald (file attached)

Change format to reflect “fees to SNC, SO, MSC”

Show medals and ribbons under revenue and expenses with same title

Discussion ensued on the subject of the \$2 fee/donation to SO.

Competition – Sally

Thanks To Olenka McKee the competition schedule is running very well. Robert has agreed to take over as chair of competition. Hopefully we can get help on the Open Water Swims for him.

Chris asked for list of referees for upcoming meets

Leadership – Nathan Degiorgio

Re Coaches Clinic, Nathan asked if there is a budget and who might be involved – Chris suggested contacting Nigel Kemp. Brian to send list of coaches to Nathan. Nathan to come up with a proposal and potential costs.

Health and Lifestyle – Sean Warburton

A1k swim can be done at local pool times, counted and times by fellow swimmers and then entered online and compared with other swimmers across the country. Lindsay is developing the software for this

Communication – Alisa

Suggested a link on website to be: New Registration System - under construction - stay tuned

Alisa wants info for the newsletter from each Board member – she should contact Cindy for previous process.

Staff Reports

Webmaster

No report from Craig –

Brian Croker – Registrar

REGISTRAR REPORT

As of January 21, 2009

Clubs	82
Mail memberships	0
Total swimmers	2530
Club swimmers	2488
Unattached Swimmers	35

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

New Clubs- Aurora Selkies, Chatham, St. Mary's, Swim Ottawa

Lost Clubs B-Trn, Courtice, Golden Horseshoe, Mallard, Pembroke, Performance Plus, Norfolk, Stratford Y, Kanata Surfers, Toronto Swim Club

Cambridge and SAMS- registered club only- not legitimate clubs in eyes of MSC.

08. Motion

To authorize cable internet service with Rogers for the Registrar

Moved by: Sean. Seconded by: Michael

Carried

External Reps

Swim Ontario – Steve Goodwin
No issues

MSC/OSOA - Chris Smith

Michael Heath-Eves may have some info he wants to forward on to you, but here are a few thoughts from my perspective.

With regards to the election for the MSC Board, the call for nominations has been sent to the clubs and nominations are due by March 15. Currently Ontario has one member on the Board of ten. Ontario has almost 40% of MSC's membership. The one Ontario Board member is Nancy Black who replaced Frank Coy in October '08. Since Frank's term ended in May'09, Nancy's will also. She has not yet indicated to me whether she will stand for election.

Currently the Board consists of 1 from BC (18% of membership), 2 from Prairies (16% of membership), 1 from Ontario (37% of membership) 2 from Quebec (25% of membership) and 4 from the Atlantic (4% of membership). Of course we are looking for the best candidates, wherever they are from, but distribution is a factor. A concern some have is that the two provinces with the most democratic, member controlled organizations, have the lowest representation. An issue your Board may wish to consider.

The Council of Provinces appoints two of its members to the Board, a prime consideration for these appointments is the distribution related to membership. There will likely be a vacancy in May.

There is clearly a relationship with structure and the ability of a body to provide services. MSC consists of adult swimmers, clubs, Provincial Masters Organizations (PMOs) like MSO and the National body. MSC was set up to be the governing body of masters swimming in Canada and it was to be controlled by its members. During the incorporating process a structure was imposed on it that negated this and the tools of governance were taken from it, by other swim bodies, so that for its first ten years after incorporation it was totally ineffectual, much to the detriment of Masters swimming across Canada, including Ontario. Due to an incident in 2002 we did take action which led to a partial restructuring, giving the clubs the right to elect the Board, as in Ontario. This has definitely helped but the last minute incorporation of a Council of Provinces during that process is not working, communication between the MSC Board and the PMOs has many fault lines, and too much is asked of a committee of ten, particularly in the larger provinces. Masters cannot develop to its full potential in Canada unless the bodies that serve the members, clubs, PMOs and MSC are well integrated into a uniform whole and the members are informed, involved and in the controlling position of all levels of the organization.

One suggestion to help rectify this is to give the PMOs the vote, in addition to the clubs. There are about two hundred and fifty clubs in Canada and they have just over three hundred votes. There was a 27% vote last May, which is hardly adequate in a democratic organization. Giving the PMOs a vote related to their membership, for example; ON 12, QC 10, BC 8, AB 6, SK, MB and NS 4, NB, PE and NL 2 would add over fifty votes and more importantly would add a significant group of interested and informed participants in the process. Since the eighties numerous people have noted that holding the AGM at Nationals just doesn't work and that we should hold a convention and AGM as a stand alone event,

probably at the beginning of the swim year, i.e. September. These are a couple of issues that should be considered to improve the relationships, communication and operation at all levels of masters swimming in Canada. There are others that people may want to see dealt with.

Since the AGM is in Toronto, morning of May 15th, this would be a good opportunity to work on a proposal on some of these issues. Resolutions or proposed By-Law changes would have to be ready for circulation to the membership by April 15th. I encourage all members of the MSO Board to plan to attend the MSC AGM at the Olympium.

The new rule books have been approved and are being printed

09. Motion

To accept reports as presented

Moved by: Cathy MacDonald. Seconded by: Nathan Degiorgio
Carried

New Business

1. AGM – separate room for 2009 AGM. Steve advised the large room upstairs could be made available (for a cost)
2. Board members to send info to Alisa for the newsletter

Other Business

1. Step 3 in sanctioning process – special format for Pat Niblett is requested. Follow up is required for results and OSOA fee
2. Links – Craig to add provincial links to our website
3. Order of Soggy Goggles - we have two spare ones right now which have to be paid for.

Next meeting: Sunday March 8th at 3:00 pm as a teleconference call.

10. Motion

To adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Moved by Sally O'Brien.