

MASTERS SWIMMING ONTARIO  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Saturday January 16, 2010  
Etobicoke Olympium Pool  
590 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke, Ontario

**Present**

Sean Warburton, Bob Miles, Cathy Macdonald, Mike Heath Eves, Brian Croker, Sally O'Brien, Pat Angus, Steve Goodwin

External Reps  
Chris Smith  
Steve Goodwin

**Regrets**

Phil Rogers  
Craig Zimmerman

**Absent**

Alisa Abgarov  
Robert McGlashan

The meeting was brought to order by Sally O'Brien at 12:15 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Mike moved to accept the agenda for today's meeting as amended. Seconded by Sean.  
Carried Unanimously

Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2009 Teleconference

There were a couple of small changes made to the minutes. Mike moved to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Cathy  
Carried Unanimously

Business Arising From the Minutes

1. Finances

Cathy noted that the bank reconciliation had been forwarded to board members indicating income/expenses to date.

Mike and Sally have signed the new banking signature cards. Cathy should receive the card soon and she will sign it as well. The old cards will be pulled and filed.

Sally asked if a full audit of the book was necessary. Cathy will find out what the difference is between a full audit review and the review we presently have and report to the next meeting.

Cathy has had requests to know what MSO staff is paid. It was noted that this disclosure is usual for most non-profit organizations. This additional disclosure could be added to the financial reports by Cathy, either in a paragraph or line item. She will bring samples to the next meeting to discuss how to put information into the financial report.

Regarding the reserve, Mike suggested we put more into an account with a higher interest rate. Chris noted it is normal to have keep 50% of the budget as a reserve. Sean noted that MSO needs to get more people working for the membership since we do have money to fund programs.

## 2. Newsletter

Alisa hasn't gotten a recent newsletter on webpage yet. Alisa has not yet sent a newsletter for publication on the website. Waiting for contributions from board members. Brian will check with Alisa to find out status. It was suggested that whatever she has now could go out.

Sally noted that Gord Van Tol, a water polo player/masters swimmer from Ottawa died and there will be an item posted on the website including a link to the Nepean Masters Club for memories as well as a link to the Ottawa citizen for obituary and link to his 'story'.

## 3. Membership Cards

Brian hasn't had a chance to work on the cards. People have been asking for membership cards when going down south or out of country. There is still some confusion as to what individual swimmers can do on the MSC website regarding their own profile. As well, it would appear that Brian does not have the ability to access the MSO information and change any information. It was suggested some of these problems are to be expected and hopefully will be resolved shortly.

Chris noted that for the Worlds in Sweden this year, Chris and Lindsay are confirming information when received from Sweden. As well, this same process is working right now with the United States.

## 4. Accountability for Meet Managers at Meets

Questions arose as to what they can access and how. Both Sally and Brian do not think they have full access. Apparently privacy is still a worry.

Mike has been asked to send a letter to MSC. Mike moved that a letter, on MSO letterhead, be sent to MSC allowing MSC to provide access to Meet Managers to verify registration of competitors. Seconded by Bob Miles.

Carried Unanimously

Brian suggested that notification be sent to clubs with currently sanctioned meets and there should be a notation on the website as each new meet is sanctioned.

Mike is to speak to Lindsay regarding verifying information for out of province/country meets. This will be brought forward to next meeting.

#### 5. Insurance liability re swim camps:

At the moment this issue related to a swim camp being held in Florida by Jim Wright (Swim with Jim). We are still awaiting word from our insurer to comment as to what we have to have in place. Are they insured, are MSO swimmers insured? There are a lot of unknowns re: directors, other swimmers, lifeguards, etc. – concern re directors, other swimmers, lifeguards etc. – a lot of unknowns. The question was raised as to the difference between Marguerita and Florida. It was suggested that all Marguerita swimmers are masters swimmers, but this was not confirmed.

Sean suggested that we have a link to the camp, online, with a caveat. For now we will wait for a reply from the insurers. In the meantime, Sally will check to find out if all the swimmers at Marguerita camp are all MSO swimmers.

#### 6. Medals

Cathy has ordered the medals. She had asked for prices from other suppliers and had not heard back from them all. She had to order from usual supplier but feels that they are most likely best priced and they are coming to provincials to engrave. The increase is 5 cents per medal, and the medals might be slightly thinner which means we may be using two different medals at provincials. This was not considered to be an issue.

#### 7. Coaching and/or Stroke Clinics

As Phil was absent today, this item is deferred to the next meeting.

Sally noted that the Thunder Bay meet has unfortunately been cancelled and so the person from North Bay will now have more time to help Phil with this.

#### 8. Decision on Aid to Officials at Worlds in Sweden 2010.

The decision as to who will be invited to the Worlds has been made but we have not yet been notified.

Motion, that MSO support each of the 3 Ontario officials, if they are approved by FINA and if they officiate at the 2010 World Championships in Sweden, in the amount of \$1000.00 each to help offset their expenses.

Moved by Bob Miles

Seconded by Sean.

Carried Unanimously

#### 9. Awards

Chris Smith noted that MSC is searching for members to sit on the MSC Awards Committee. Members are being sought ideally from the five regions of Canada and it would be good if they have some background in MSO. The committee will establish the criteria and a system to nominate people for awards. Chris asked anyone with any ideas to please send them to him.

As well, names for recipients are also needed. These nominations can come from anyone, a club or an individual. This information can be as a notice to clubs via the website, or an e-mail to each club registrar. Sally will craft something for Brian to send out.

Bob Miles and Sally will get together re: Ontario awards. Bob has some ideas for OSG awards and noted not just swimmers could be included in the OSG – could include officials.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

President Sally – see attached report.

VP Mike Heath Eves– see attached.

The question of SO's liability if I advertises the camp on its website arose. The SO insurer has been asked for comment before any decision is made to advertise this activity.

Mike noted that lately the site of Nationals seems to be decided upon with only one year lead time. He suggested that ideally Nationals should be on a two-year prep basis. Perhaps we need better criteria established.

Mike has asked Claus to obtain a letter of insurance coverage from the insurer. Steve will give a copy of this letter to SO and enquire if there is a duplication of insurance coverage on their part as MSO arranges and pays for its own insurance. There may be a potential savings of \$2.00 per swimmer if there is duplication.

Regarding COP – Sean asked how delegates were selected for USMS and how they would be for MSC by MSO. Chris replied that the USMS delegates are selected by the LMSC (State body) in whatever way they want, but in accordance with USMS

regulations. If we used the same system either our Ontario clubs, our voting members, would elect/select them or they would delegate this responsibility to the Board of MSO. It was agreed that there is a need to define what a Provincial Masters Organization is and what a Masters Club is. Bob Miles noted that objectives needed to be clearly defined.

Treasurer – Cathy Macdonald

Nothing new to report in addition to discussion above.

Competition – see attached report.

Sally noted that one meet has been cancelled. Nothing more has been heard regarding St. Mary's OWS. Bob Miles has made inquiries regarding having the St. Mary's club assist with the meet. He will get in touch with Bryan Findlay and will work something out

Leadership – Phil Rogers,

As Phil was absent, there was not report today. Cathy has spoken to Nathan and it is hoped he will be able to find the survey information in his basement, soon. Sean noted that it is very important that these are found, as they are the only copies.

Health & Lifestyle – Robert McGlashan absent but report is attached.

Sean noted that he is forwarding information, from his club, to Robert about a program developed for swimmers to log their swims and relate them geographically – e.g. equal to swimming Lake Ontario or around an island swim.

Communication – Alisa Abgarov – absent. No report. Sally will contact her and let her know that she should get a copy of what she has to the board ASAP.

Awards – Bob Miles has nothing to add to the discussion above.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Web – Craig Zimmerman. He continues to put things on the web as they come to him.

Registration – Brian Croker

Brian distributed information indicating that there are now 76 clubs registered. The number of swimmers is 2019 and this list includes only those swimmers from whom money has been received. The actual numbers are probably a little higher. Overall membership may be down marginally.

As discussed above, Brian would like the ability to access the MSO registration site and to make changes if need be. One problem experienced by Brian regarding registration of clubs and swimmers is that invoices are being generated but money is not being sent. This is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Officials – Chris Smith

Chris indicated that there is an MSC Board Meeting coming up. He noted that officiating in Ontario is terrific and he would like to see the programs (face-to-face and on-line clinics) adopted across Canada. Most of the money for these programs comes from Masters swimmers contribution included in their meet fee.

Chris would very much like there to be a forum to discuss MSC and where it is going. He compared it to the USMS, which he feels is the perfect structure for a democratic body. They have an annual convention and Chris suggested that it would be beneficial for MSO to send one or two representatives to the next convention in September, in order to get a much better understanding of how this body works.

The COP was designed to have one person from each province represented on the MSC Board but do not have any voting power. MSC voting procedures are currently not weighted according to the number of swimmers in each province. It is felt that a weighted vote would be more democratic.

Chris asked that we bring specific issues to next meeting.

MSC bylaws need to be distributed to clubs 60 days in advance of the May meet in Nanaimo. Chris noted that we should see the bylaws shortly and we can discuss at the next meeting. He feels that the comprehensive bylaws espouse an elite structure that governs from the top down and he would like to see a more democratic structure.

Chris also spoke about the MSC rulebook. A new one is due as soon as FINA ratifies their decision about swim suits for competition. The new MSC 2009 Rulebook should be finalized very soon. It will appear on the MSC website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. 2009 AGM Minutes for 2010 AGM**

It was decided that the minutes from the 2009 AGM could be put on the MSO website until they are approved at the 2010 AGM. It would be made clear that these are DRAFT minutes until ratified by the membership.

### **2. St. Mary's OWS – discussed above**

### **3. Using MSO website to advertise for MSC board members.**

Chris asked if we could use the MSO website to advertise for MSC Board members. It was felt that this gives the impression that MSC has difficulty getting board members. Instead it was felt there could be a notice on our website giving a link to go to for more information. Mike was going to word a notice on the MSO website by way of something that would indicate “nominations for the MSC Board must be received by a certain date and the information as to what to do”

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### 1. Provincial

Cathy noted that plans are almost complete. The theme is “Swimming with the Dolphins”. The club wondered if there is anyone to ask about meet ‘best practices – good or bad. It was suggested Steve Goodwin would be a great resource as well as Lois Adams.

### 2. Record Keeping Payments

Sally will speak to Pat Niblett.

### 3. Next Meeting

It was decided the next meeting will be a teleconference on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. We will try to wrap the meeting up by 4:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

### **President's report Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 2010**

I have heard very few complaints about the registration system now in use. I have received no feedback on meet registrations and meet swimmer verifications so I must assume that all is going well. I have heard there are glitches with transfers and some with adding new members to the club listing. I have also heard that not having a card with the number on it is inconvenient for the club registrars.

### **Competition Report Jan 16 2010**

There are 10 sanctioned meets and 3 planned meets coming up from Jan to June 2010. There are 4 OWS planned for the summer. So far I have not heard from St Mary's but I'm still hoping that issues can be ironed out at the facility and it will be a go this Sept.

### **Robert McGlashan's report for January 16, 2010 Meeting**

The purpose of this email is to provide a report of my progress for discussion at the next meeting.

I have started writing to publishers who publish books on swimming and masters swimming seeking permission and lists of books they would like to submit for review in our news letter.

Once this process is complete, I will coordinate with Alisa to have the reviews placed in the News letter for our members who are interested in independently learning more about competitive swimming or swimming for health and would like to know which books are best for this.

If any one has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to speaking with you.

All the best,

Robert

### **Vice President's Report**

#### **1. COP**

- The new COP held its teleconference 09-11-26. This group made up of experienced swimmers is keen to assist the MSC and each Province to attain their goals. Len Martel of MSABC was elected Chairman.

- The first business was to review a set of Terms of Reference established at the face-to-face meeting with the MSC in Mississauga 09-11-06 to 08.
- Contact information for each COP member will be found in the MSC web site.
- There will be four COP Meetings each year, three by teleconference and one face-to-face, all funded by MSC each year.

## **2. MSC**

- Teleconferences held 09-12-06 and 10-01-03 were attended by MSO VP.
- There was much discussion, headed by Bob Diewold of the new governance issues that MSC has been addressing throughout 2009.
- In addition Lindsay Patten has produced a 2010 Strategic Plan, a draft copy of which is attached at the end of this report.
- The MSC is still looking for nominations for awards to be presented at the AGM in May. Your VP will ask Lindsay for a list of awards that may be given out.
- Two Letters of Intent have been received from the FNQ and Nepean Masters to hold the 2011 Nationals. More information has been requested from each group so that a fair awarding decision may be reached early this spring.
- Ed Everett of the COP and who is a member of FINA stated that a Canadian city might bid for the Worlds in 2012 or 2014.

## **3. Swimmer Registration Program**

- I am going to let the Registrar comment on how this new program is functioning.
- I have used it in the test phase in 2009 and recently to assist my club register some of its swimmers. It seemed to work well.

#### 4. Insurance

- The issue of possible duplicate insurance and related costs continues to be the subject of discussion.
- Some facts are required at this time. It has been proposed that MSO provide our Swim Ontario representative a copy of our insurance coverage letter to take to the SO Board. Both parties can then address this issue and the possibility of a duplicate premium being paid by MSO and SO. A copy of this letter will be made available at the 10-01-16 meeting.
- This is a priority.

Michael J. Heath-Eves

January 12, 2010

**MSC Strategic Progress Assessment attached as file. \*\*\*\*Sally this is a large file – and I think everyone has it, including Craig – can it just be added to the website along with these minutes when they are approved? Thanks.**