

MINUTES

Masters Swimming Ontario Board of Directors Teleconference

March 3rd, 2012 4pm

The Meeting was convened by Sean at 4:10

Present:

Pat Angus
Sean Warburton
Sally O'Brien
Chris Smith
Phil Rogers
Steve Goodwin
Carole Herbert
Cathy Macdonald

Regrets:

Brian Croker
Mike Heath-Eves

Absent:

Craig Zimmerman

Adoption of Agenda

Motion 01: that the agenda for today's meeting be adopted as amended

Moved: Sally O'Brien
Seconded: Phil Rogers

Carried

Approval of Minutes of January 21st, 2012

The approval of these minutes was delayed and will be approved at the next face-to-face meeting on April 21st.

Business arising from the minutes

All items arising from the minutes will be discussed at the next face-to-face meeting.

Portfolio updates

President Sean Warburton

Sean noted that there has been feedback on the mail-in only of entries for the upcoming Ontario Championships in Etobicoke. Steve noted that there was not enough time to set up on-line registration.

Vice President Phil Rogers

Phil noted that there have been ongoing conversations with Mike regarding the current surplus, especially in light of the provincial Not for Profit legislation that is expected within a year or so. He has been speaking with Phil Wilson, executive VP of CIBC and will have some recommendations that will be brought to the board.

Phil noted he continues to look for people to recruit for this committee work.

Treasurer Cathy MacDonald

Member and club fees continue to come in. Expenses are up to date. There is one stale dated expense reimbursement cheque that will be discussed with the applicable Board member. If anyone believes there are outstanding amounts due to be paid, please contact the Treasurer to discuss further.

One material outstanding expense item is the first installment payment to Masters Swimming Canada (\$15 per MSO member) that is currently being processed.

Income and Expenditures versus Budget will be provided at the next face to face board meeting in April, 2012.

Competition

Sally O'Brien

Sally has asked the Board to review the Welland OWS Champs proposal and report back to her before she sanctions them

It was noted that the 10K OWS offered by L.O.S.T. as a National Championship, needs approval by MSC before MSO can sanction. This is not to confuse it with the 10K OWS in Welland which is a Provincial Championship.

OWS Medals – Steve is to find out the number of OWS medals we have on hand and report to Sally. More may need to be ordered.

Sally also reported that most clubs sending Step 3 on time.

Leadership_

Steve Goodwin

Steve noted that registration Ontario Championships is on a par compared to other years. So far approximately 100 entries have been received. Steve noted that a possible strike in Toronto that could have had an impact on the swim meet will be averted. It should be known very soon.

Steve noted that his attempt to recruit coaches for the coaches clinic has been very difficult due to the fact that the Olympic trials are being held in Montreal at the same time. He noted that this is probably going to pose a problem every 4 years.

With only four weeks left to get participation from clubs, it was decided that a deadline of March 9th be set for confirming the clinic.

Phil suggested that MSO could partially fund interested Ontario coaches to attend the USMS 2 ½ day camp held in California at the end of June.

Sean agreed that this could be considered and asked if Ontario coaches would have access to this camp. Phil assured them that usually everyone is welcome.

Chris noted that Nigel Kemp is working on a coaching template for MSC and suggested he be approached for the MSO camp.

Steve is partnering up with the Ontario Swim Officials Association and OSOA has agreed to provide all the timers for the championship meet.

Steve offered them \$6,000. for them to put toward their on-line education program.

Health & Lifestyle Vacant
Communication Vacant
Special Projects Mike Heath-Eves

No report at this time

Staff reports

Web_ Craig Zimmerman

No report at this time.

Pat Niblett had sent information to Craig about a company interested in submitting an Request for Proposal (RFP)to Craig, and wondered if this had been followed up. This was put forward to the next meeting in April.

Registration Brian Croker

No report at this time.

It was suggested that Brian ensure the contact list for all the clubs be updated on an annual basis.

External Reps

Swim Ontario Steve Goodwin

Nothing new to report at this time.

Officials/MSC Chris Smith

Officials

Chris had nothing new to report regarding officials at this time. He did note that the new MSC rules are not up on the MSC website yet.

MSC

Questions were raised regarding Armed Forces Teams and how their records were recorded in provincial meets. Chris Smith will clarify this for the next meeting.

Not for Profit (NFP) Legislation

Chris reported that the MSC Board has reversed an earlier approach to the new NFP Act, where they thought they had lots of time before the October, 2014 deadline to now believing that the by-laws dealing with voting delegates should be developed and sent to the current members for approval in May, 2012, which would mean sending new by-laws out in April. In order to do this it had not been possible for the MSC Board to consider a number of significant issues. If these issues are not dealt with they could have serious implications for the future of masters swimming in Canada, including Ontario. He pointed out that when the voting structure was first discussed in the mid eighties there was an attempt to compromise between delegates appointed by provinces on a rep by population basis or one delegate per province. The decision was taken from masters and a one Board member per province was forced on MSC by the provincial swim bodies. This did not work and by 2000 MSC was almost totally dysfunctional. An attempt was made to change this but again due to external interference MSC had to adopt a club based vote, effectively disconnecting itself from its provincial bodies. This is proportional as the number of member clubs per province is more or less equivalent to the number of swimmers per province. The Ontario clubs hold about 37% of the vote, new by-laws would require a 67% approval by the voting members.

Ralph Chown had proposed a formula some years ago that is a compromise between the one vote per province and the proportional vote which has been circulated several times previously and has, for those who have studied it, great merit. Some MSC board members felt it was too complicated. It is actually very simple to understand and apply. There would be a potential of 40 or more delegates at Convention, this is critical to develop the leadership and informed volunteers in an organization like ours. The costs would be shared and are totally within the financial capabilities of MSC and the PMOs to deal with.

The suggested model at the MSC meeting was that we go to 15 delegates at our "Convention" or annual meeting, one from each province with 4 from Ontario and 2 from both BC and Quebec. This was felt to be similar to the current 18 that are invited to the MSC face to face meeting in October, actually a reduction in cost.

The good news is they are going to a provincially based delegate, even some consideration of proportionality. The bad news is that there has been no consideration as to how these delegates are selected, an issue that totally undermined MSC in its earliest form (1993 - 2005). Also there has been no consideration that this is too few people to build up the necessary leadership and volunteer base, MSCs and eight of our PMOs greatest deficit. As a comparison, USMS with 50,000 members (5 x MSC) has 250 to 350 delegates at their convention, consequently they have built up a great number of informed and dedicated volunteers working at all levels of their organization.

The MSC board meets again on March 25th to consider and approve the revised by-laws so they can be sent out to the club membership for approval in April. Chris suggested that we might want to have a meeting on this after the MSC Board meeting to discuss this issue. He said he would be sending out further information on the subject and would copy the MSO Board on it. We would know more after the MSC meeting and he suggested that for those attending provincials we could have a discussion on March 30th.

As discussed previously the federal government and provincial governments have been discussing and are cooperating on this new legislation and Ontario intends to introduce similar requirements for provincial corporations (like MSO) by the end of 2015. Chris felt the structure of MSO would require little change however the procedure was complicated. He noted that the recent changes to our constitution recommended by the ministry were clearly based on their understanding of the new requirements and activities by others which they felt were inappropriate under this new legislation.

Reports discussion

If Sally needs to order new OWS medals, Board approval will be needed. This will be discussed at the next meeting, once we know how many medals we have on hand

New Business

Sean noted that he has someone who is an expert in communications, who is interested in getting involved with the Board. He will provide a resume to the Board before the next meeting. Sean will invite him to attend the next meeting in April

Next Meeting Date and Meal

The next face-to-face meeting will be:

Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Etobicoke.

Dinner to follow at the Open Cork at 5 p.m.

Sean asked people to RSVP as soon as possible and he will make the reservations.

The Board wished Chris Smith Happy 80th birthday and wishes him well in his new age group.

Adjournment

Steve moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

/pjd