

Masters Swimming Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting
Skype meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2019

Board Members Present: Andrea Schwartz Smith, Brigitte Zirger, Jake Nesovic, Michael Sweny, Rod Beauprie, Sue Weir.

Regrets: Beth Carey, Chris Cupidio

Meeting began with quorum at 7:11 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Brigitte Seconded by: Mike. Motion carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes from May 23, 2019 meeting

Moved by: Sue Seconded by: Mike. Jake abstained since he had not attended, all others in favour, motion carried.

3. Business Arising from Minutes and Action Items

a) MEGAmetre caps

These are being re-printed and should arrive in the next couple of weeks.

b) Merchandise for sale at MSO Provincials

While sanctioning of the meet is still to be confirmed, clothing can still be available for sale at the Welland event.

4. Reports

a) Administration Report/Current situation

Full Admin report provided by Brigitte, see below for details.

Full report on the Current situation related to SNC May 29th letter, see below.

Discussion about what how to approach MSC in the light of recent developments. Consensus that the current MSC leadership has not taken meaningful actions and appear to have no plan for responding to Swim Ontario/Swim Canada. MSC has the full infrastructure to carry on and it has significant assets in the form of information and Masters history that belongs to the Masters community.

Agreed that Andrea would approach them to see if there is interest in collaboration.

Jake will contact John McLeod, an MSC Director he has known for a long time. Message is “we have survived and thrived on our own, join us!”

Per Brigitte, “CIMS is leading the charge, MSO can help them best by providing another solid program in 2019-2020.”

b) Request for Seed funding

Confirming approval for 2K\$ in seed funding, see SharePoint for emails dated June 16 and 24th.

5. New Business

a) Symposium (Sue)

Sue and Beth have arranged the McMaster Pool for October 2019, see poster in SharePoint. Brigitte looking at a similar event in Toronto, to be combined with a Level 1 course.

b) Service agreement with Bookkeeper

Deferred – Brigitte advises that an increase is required to match the level of service we have been receiving.

6. Roundtable

Andrea interested in a new supplier for merchandise.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm. Next meeting scheduled for August 6 at 7 PM.

ANNEX

Report on Administration

Much attention is on *Canadian Independent Masters Swimming (CIMS)*.

The fee MSO notice went out May 30th with an opening para acknowledging the SNC letter of May 29th and reassuring MSO members that it has no impact on MSO or our operations.

I am behind in almost everything.

- OWS Welland sanction is still pending. Neither Ian nor I have had time to concentrate on it. If MSO is to have an OWS championship it needs to be sanctioned very soon.
- Additional OWS Team wear was purchased specifically for Welland. We will consider making it available for sale regardless of it being an MSO Championship or not.
- Some systems changes have been initiated. Rick is working through a self-registration feature that puts the swimmer directly into the database. We are currently using a webform and that requires 4-5 manual steps to complete the registration. Last year we had 192 self-registered swimmers. If the system is used for the CIMS the numbers will increase. This particular update is being charged to MSO since it is needed anyways.
- Rick has started looking at what needs to be done to open the system Canada-wide. It should not be significant. This work will be charged to CIMS.
- The CIMS URL registration and the webwork is being paid by MSO using CIMS seed funding.
- I have started reaching out to clubs for their meet dates and posting the dates as they are confirmed.
- Phil Rogers and I have a phone call with HUB for CIMS insurance next week. This is significant and I am being cautious as to the impact on MSO. Let's see where the discussion goes.

Report on Current Situation with SNC's May 29th Letter

Report on Current Situation

May 29th Letter from SNC announced that they would no longer facilitate the collection of fees for MSC. For the first time ever SNC used language like "Special interest group" to describe MSC. Appears it went out to clubs in most provinces but to clubs and swimmer in Ontario; likely to get penetration to MSO clubs.

June 5th after a week's silence MSC issued an open letter which indicates intent to seek USMS structure. Included a survey which cannot yield meaningful results. There are two follow ups. Only strategy offered is seeking a meeting with the Minister and AC; letter writing to the Minister, which will not be effective, especially with pre-election climate.

June 6th SO issues and update outlining fees, financial incentives for meets and draft meet list which included a Pentathlon in December – direct competition with NYG. There were rumblings about such a move from SO Provincials feedback. Surprising move nevertheless.

A small group is formed including MSO. The group's interest is to support MSC in attaining a USMS-like model. But MSC seems to be missing in action.

June 8, 2019 MSO issues a Letter to all Canadian Masters. Brigitte approached MSC to help distribute. The reply was "Thanks for the heads up and reaching out. We're talking daily and are discussing options." Brigitte sent two more follow ups with no response. Some of the ad hoc group are having more but still limited success in reaching them. Very limited information suggests there is no solid plan that will lead to MSC being operational by September.

June 10th Dave Wilkin published a Crossroads document to support an independent organization. MSO posted it on the Website.

June 12 Alderwood replies to MSC regarding the limitations of the survey and makes it clear that MSC needs to repair the relationship with Ontario before MSC, as an organization, gets any support. BZ has permission to reprint and share as appropriate.

June 13 SNC second letter to all swimmers. It refers to the MOU but says "the specifics of the MOU will not be shared". Note the MOU expired August 31, 2018. It is not clear if it auto-renewed for another year or was negotiated. MSC continues to operate secretively. A new MOU would have been reported at their AGM, but they do not publish draft minutes. The SNC letter suggests that they were attempting to renegotiate (annual process)...

Also relevant is the misleading statement "Masters continue to receive the full benefits of membership..." – this refers to SNC membership not MSC membership. Also, "... mandatory membership with MSC no longer exists." SNC NEVER required MSC membership. They seem to be referring to the administrative processes for collecting fees described in the National Registration Manual. Furthermore, the collection of fees is not new nor tied to the MOU. It has been a longstanding administrative process outlined in the National Registration manual. The only reason it showed up in the 2016 MOU was because of Swim Alberta's 2014 refusal to collect and send the fees to MSC. That was

minuted by MSC. (see <https://www.mastersswimmingontario.ca/documents-relevant-to-may-29-2019-snc-letter/>)

There are vibrant discussions on FB (MSO and the now renamed Canadian Masters Swimmers). We are getting participation from more provinces.

- The president of EOMAC has suddenly becomes very active. There is a tread of over 170 comments. He manages to insult most swimmers who are not record holders or in his view “competitive”. There are so many comments it was hard to keep up.
- Nancy Pulham sums up her disappointment in his comments as

WOW! Wow... that's what I'm left with after reading through the comments of the last few posts.

What a sad realization to come to the understanding of the total lack of respect that is heaped onto the 'noncompetitive', 'common', 'misinformed' 'recreational' Ontario master swimmer.

These comments are SO demeaning. Whether they were meant to be taken this way is neither here nor there. They were used to describe a rather LARGE population of master swimmers.

Not very inspiring to say the least. The vast majority of master swimmers will never win a fina sanctioned event, but we keep swimming, we keep competing. Why? Because we love the water. Period.

Please, be more respectful.

*we also pay the bills 😊

June 25 – A new group is formed, and Canadian Independent Masters Swimming starts issuing a bilingual letter announcing it will be operations ready by September. The letter was posted at 11:32. At 1:45 the CIMS webmaster attempted to register the URL. It was free earlier in the day, but suddenly it was gone, and the URL was redirected to the SO Masters Page. There was an exchange of emails with SO. They had no knowledge of it and could not delete the redirect. They have no interest in being associated with the CIMS URL and requested us to correct this at our end. We posted the request for whoever did this to delete the redirect immediately.

A new URL has been registered. A webpage is now active but not complete. When ready, the letter will be sent out again. Only then will I do a blast out to Ontario.

CIMS has MSO support.

MSO Facebook Group again exploded and the President/Coach of EMOAC and several EOMAC swimmers pounced on the 10 words, "Ian and I are club owners and coaches." Andrea was very active in responding to them.

Response has been very positive. Lots of emails coming to the CIMS address. Offers of help.

A great deal of work in trying to contact MSABC and MS Manitoba. We have made inroads. We have a technical help from NB. We have one contact in Quebec but it will be difficult given that so many clubs are integrated. We are slowly getting representation from across the country and the first order of business is the outreach.

MSC has put all its eggs in to the AC basket. It does not appear to be trying to become operations ready. From a starting board of 7 directors, three resigned within days of the May 29th SNC letter. Some are away this summer – e.g., Greg King is going to FINA-Korea as an SNC-selected official.

Things are fluid and change rapidly.