

<b>Committee Name:</b> Long Distance	<b>Session #:</b> Telephone	<b>Report #:</b> 1
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Donn Livoni	<b>Vice Chair:</b> Vacant	
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b> Bruce Hopson	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> 1/26/2014 8 PM EST	

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## Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

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## Motions Passed:

1. MSA to approve the recommendations from the NC Bid Selection Working group

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 14	<b>Absent:</b> 8	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b> NA
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Donn Livoni, Bob Bruce, Ali Hall, Bruce Hopson, Susan Kirk, Phyllis Quinn, Denise Brown, James Biles, Jill Wright, Colleen Driscoll, Rob Copeland, and Robert Zeitner; Chris McGiffin and Lynn Hazelwood both <i>ex officio</i>		

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## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. EST

1. Welcome and roll call -- Welcome to Rob Copeland
2. Minutes from December 22, 2013, were previously approved via email
3. Report from Susan Kirk on Open Water Festival Survey
  - a. Susan Kirk went over the survey results and took questions. She specifically addressed the issues concerning festivals. She emphasized that festivals are composed of national championship events. There would be three NC in a festival and the remaining three would be done individually.
  - b. Bob Bruce clarified that we would not need a rule change to allow for festivals in or out of area.
  - c. Susan stressed this was a preliminary observation of the results. If after further review and analysis, there may be additional recommendations.
  - d. MSA (unanimously) to accept the committee recommendations
4. **Report from BOD** -- Chris McGiffin reported on what the Board of Directors was doing especially in regards to the financial aspects of the pool nationals.
5. **LDC Goals**
  - a. Donn reported that things were progressing on the four goals the committee voted in favor of pursuing for 2014 on its December conference call.
  - b. James Biles reported that he and Dick Sidner were attempting to contact with the new Masters Club in Fort Wayne, IN, regarding a certified cable course in Huntington, IN.
6. **2014 LD NC events** – Donn reported that things were moving along
  - a. **OHP** (Susan) - Fully underway and currently has 437 entries. The event host is current to the LDC timeline.
  - b. **5K Elk Lake and 10K Lake George** (Ali) - both hosts are doing an excellent job moving through their draft entry processes and I expect both to go to final shortly, on time, and be ready to go live thereafter, again on schedule.
  - c. **9+Mile** (Robert Zeitner) - Seriously behind schedule. Have not received a signed contract, which was due November 25, 2013, as well as no draft entry, which was due January 1, 2014. The Host has not offered an explanation for either delay. The deadline for the sanctioned entry is February 1, 2014, and will most surely be delayed.
  - d. **5k-10k Postal 2013** (Greta): awaiting one more record split sheet, the swimmer is mailing a hard copy. All else is done.
  - e. **5k-10k Postal 2014** (Greta): the draft online entry form is completed.
  - f. **1 Mile Lake Berryessa** (Phyllis): I am working with the Race Director to meet the next deadline of Feb 1. They had to change the venue within the Lake and this may cause a slight delay of the required materials.

7. **Working groups (WG) See attached written reports**

- a. **Rules/Legislation** – Bob Bruce gave his report orally. Almost everyone responded. Bob compiled the list and has sent out to his committee to make sure that to make appropriate comments and sort process from rules. Also to rework words so we have better usage. Will have this back in two weeks and will send out to LD and OW committees for comments. Donn reminded the committee members of the importance of their making comments before the February 23 meeting.
- b. **PARA** (Patches, All-Americans, Records, All-Stars): (Greta) the individual AAs for 2013 have been finalized and sent to Ann and Susan. Work is in progress on the Relay AAs (double checking needs to be finished), Records, Patches and All Stars. I expect that our committee will meet the 1/31 deadline
- c. **Club Assistant--** (Susan) - Club Assistant is working on building the postal relay records database. CA projects to complete the task and for it to be available for the 2014 OHP relay results reports. CA continues to work with the 2014 OHP event host and participating clubs that wish to process as a single transaction 20 or more individual entries using the group batch entry online method.
- d. **Safety** – Bill Roach, lead; Rob **None Submitted**
- e. **Manuals & Documents** – Ann, lead; Greta, James, Bob , Rob **None Submitted**
- f. **2016 NC Selection** – Susan, Ann, Ali, Robert, Denise:

(1) Susan reports that the NC Bid Selection sub-committee created and implemented a concise 12 question survey (using Survey Monkey) which was distributed to the full 2014 USMS membership with the help of the National Office through the January Streamlines publication to gain further insight into members' preferences regarding USMS Open Water National Championships and festivals. The information gained from the survey will help to guide the Sub-Committee and the LDC with proactively soliciting potential hosts for the Open Water National Championships.

(2) **Survey summary comments/observations: ~ Susan**

Demographics: 461 respondents. 95% of the respondents swim in OW events; however 60% do not swim in OW National Championships; but ~70% of the respondents are likely, very likely or definitely will enter an OW NC in 2014. The last 2 stats are interesting when looked at together --- 60% of respondents do not swim in OW National Championships yet 70% of the respondents will enter an OW NC in 2014.

**Travel distance (#1 answer)**, desirable destination and swim distance are important consideration factors

Awards/Recognition as an OW National Championship is the least important factor in deciding to attend

90% responded likely, very likely, or definitely would attend if an OW National Festival was offered

The top (3) favorite distances in order of preference are: (the lower the rating average the better)

1-3 miles (rating average 2.65)  
1-mile swim (rating average 3.16)  
3-6 miles (rating average 3.30)

57% of participants will not travel beyond 500 miles -- this indicates the importance of geographical distribution of OW NCs on an annual basis. This also supports the importance of rotating the location of the festivals between the (3) areas --- West, Central, and East. The NC Bid Selection Sub-Committee therefore recommends that if an OW NC festival is created in 2016, that a venue/host in the East Coast be the awarded location. The West Coast has (3) OW NCs in 2015; while the East Coast only has (1).

78% of the respondents are between the ages of 40 - 70 with the highest percentage (32.3%) between 50-59 years old

**Open ended responses comments/observations:**

Some great thoughts and ideas were expressed. Of course, there were opposite opinions expressed. Some respondents were in favor of festivals with multiple OW NCs in one location and some respondents were in favor of keeping the OW NCs spread throughout the country. With this in mind, the NC Bid-Selection Sub-Committee recommends a hybrid of OW NC swim opportunities awarded each year; some (up to 3 swims) OW NCs within a festival format at a single venue and the remaining OW NCs spread throughout the country using the current bid rotation chart.

Diversity of bodies of water expressed ~ some like the ocean, some like fresh water, some like it warm, some like it cold and rough

Fun, festival atmosphere -- have music and an announcer -- also offer other activities for non-swimmers to do during the swims

When looking at the open ended responses as a whole, diversity seems to be the key. Diversity of geographical location and body of water from year to year would seem to attract the largest demographic over a given multi-year time span.

- g. **LDC Communications and Publications Liaison to USMS NO** Susan, lead; Ann: Susan reports that so far, there has been one Facebook post (January 7th) promoting the 1-Hour Postal National Championship. 75 likes, 19 shares and 2 comments. Content will be submitted to Laura Hamel by January 25th to include in the February Streamlines announcing the opening of registration for the 2014 USMS 2.4 Mile OW NC to be held on May 17th in Chattanooga, TN. This event will kick off the 2014 USMS OW NC season
  - h. **LDC National Championship Oversight** – Ann, Susan, and Donn: Ann and Susan report that the 2016 USMS Postal and Open Water National Championship Bid Forms are currently being restructured and developed. Susan will submit a draft of the bid forms to the LDC Chair by February 1st. The 2013 LD All-Star Polo shirts have been selected and will once again be provided by TYR. Tracy Grilli will coordinate the order and mailing of the shirts once the list of LD All-Stars is submitted to her. Reminder to all Postal National Championship liaisons to please remind the event hosts to collect and submit the detailed split sheets for the individual National Records set during their event to the event liaisons who will then submit them to the LDC Chair
- 8. Other business for the good of the order
  - 9. Next Call – **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> with times of 8 PM EST, 7 PM CST, 6 PM MST & 5 PM PST.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM EST