

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY  
AND ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION AND APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN SWIMMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



MICHIGAN  
SWIMMING

**Minutes of the**

Michigan Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

January 25, 2009

MSU Campus, 208 IM Sports West, East Lansing, MI 48824

**Voting board members in attendance:** David Brace (UN – Program Operations Co-Vice-Chair), Mick Cruce (NS, Secretary), Madeline Gillen (CW–Sr. Athlete Rep.), Margaret Green (DRD – Program Operations Co-Vice Chair), Mike Lane (BAC – Jr. Athlete Rep.), John Loria (LCSC – Finance Vice-Chair), Robert L Merchant (UN – General Chair), Mike O'Connor (PA – Sr. Coach Rep), Steve Potter (EGRA – Treasurer), Damon Robertson (CAST, Program Dev. - Vice-Chair), Michael Rogers, (SST – Admin Vice Chair) and Julie Youngquist (LAC – Jr. Coach Rep).

**Voting board members absent:** Dan Meconis (UN – Officials Chair), Bailey Weathers (Safety Coordinator).

**Others in attendance:** Kirk Nissley (NTV), Anna Hurley (LCSC).

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by General Chair Bob Merchant.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to approve the September 7, 2008 minutes.  
**Motion passed.**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Report of Officers:**

**General Chairman – Bob Merchant** – Bob is on the USA Swimming Audit Committee and indicated investments of USA Swimming's 3 corporate entities are down about 25%, which is better than the average market. They are targeting annual growth of 3%. Bob also discussed the breast stroke rule indicating it requires a pull to start.

**Secretary – Mick Cruce** – No report.

**Treasurer – Steve Potter** – The 2008 year-end asset and financial reports were reviewed. The net checking account total was \$90,493 with total assets of \$294,999. Steve indicated there were about 40,000 swims and \$12,000 in deposits

from meets in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. There was also more income than expenses which is typical in an Olympic year. Two bank CDs are expiring in February and March that will be re-deposited in high quality, well capitalized banks.

### **Reports of Division Chairmen:**

**Administrative Vice-Chair – Michael Rogers** – Michael indicated he will be meeting with a “creative” contact regarding the MS website. This contact developed President Obama’s website and he also has another contact willing to donate time towards redevelopment of the website. Michael will be providing the Board with a specific website improvement plan including cost estimates. The 2008 website budget of \$15,000 is being rolled over to next year in the event additional funding is required. The posting of documents to the site is generally the largest website cost. Michael will confirm that MS has ownership rights to the website. It was noted that the Top times database (\$500 annual cost) is redundant with the USA Swimming database, however, feedback has been very positive on retaining it based on its easy access and value.

Michael reported that the Connoco-Phillips Outstanding Service Award for the Michigan LSC has not been awarded since 1996-1997 and suggested formation of a small committee to accept nominations.

The next Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2009 at MSU and plans are to hold the HOD meeting at MSU as well on April 25, 2009 (noon registration with the meeting from 1pm-4pm). Damon Robertson will request the meeting room reservations at MSU.

Michael also indicated he has been soliciting nominations for open MS Board positions and plans to send a notice to all clubs requesting nominations, if necessary.

**Athlete Division – Madeline Gillen/Mike Lane** – Mike voiced a concern regarding meets filling up quickly causing some teams to be shut out of meets. It was noted that there have been many meet opportunities with 35 scheduled meets of which only 3 of the more popular meets filled up with only one meet cancellation.

**Board of Review – Damon Robertson** – No report.

**Coach Division – Mike O’Connor** – Mike reported concerns from coaches regarding the Club Wolverine meet: preferential designated seating was allowed for select team’s parents; some relays were moved from Saturday to Sunday; refunds were not immediate for cancelled swims; coaches were challenged extensively on credentials versus a check-in process; coaches meeting was set at the same time as sprints/warm-up; results were not posted timely; CW athletes were allowed earlier deck access; and, poor first aid kit and lack of closing of immediate area during a cut injury. Some positive comments were reported as well including the venue at U of M/facilities management.

**Coach Division – Julie Youngquist** – Julie reported concerns regarding the CW meet as well, especially the moving of events. There is continuing dialogue regarding the usage of high-tech swimsuits. The NCAA presently allows the suits

with the exception of no double suiting, but may not in the future. High-tech swimsuits will be addressed at the upcoming HOD meeting.

**Finance – John Loria** – John reviewed the MS 2008 Budget Performance Summary that indicates excellent results. Actual revenues were \$520,197 versus budgeted revenues of \$491,600 and actual expenses were \$494,898 versus budgeted expenses of \$510,157. There were 8095 registered athletes in 2008 versus 7515 in 2007. John has started development of the 2010 budget and will present it at the March Board meeting. This budget may be more challenging due to the present economy, but John indicated there is a \$235,000 reserve, if necessary.

John presented the 2008 Travel Reimbursement Summary including lower total reimbursements of \$16,149. There were reimbursements for 20 athletes in 2008 versus 27 athletes in 2007 and 31 athletes in 2006. There is no cap on the number of meets allowed reimbursement per athlete which may need to be addressed at the HOD meeting. A **MOTION** was made and seconded to make 2008 reimbursement payments based on the present rules. **Motion passed.**

**Program Development – Damon Robertson** – Damon reported that two revisions have been made to the Junior Olympic Meet including the addition of relays and deletion of the awards ceremony.

**Adapted Swimming – Shawn Kornoelje** – No report (may need to re-assign chair due to Shawn's absences).

**Program Operations – David Brace** – David reported that the Disability meet has been moved to the University of Cincinnati due to scheduling issues in finding a venue. He also reviewed his written report.

David presented the Long Course meet schedule approved by his committee. The number of meets has been reduced from 13 to 12 with the elimination of the May BAC meet (PCC & CW meets are the only meets in May). A **MOTION** was made and seconded to approve the 2009 Long Course meet schedule. **Motion passed.**

An update was provided to the Meet Scheduling Request Form that will be presented to the HOD for approval. The revision refers to published rules to avoid confusion. Meets outside of the schedule must be submitted 45 days in advance and approved by MS. A draft attachment was submitted (for discussion only) by Kirk Nissley outlining the types of swims/meets authorized to generate official USA swimming times. The draft attachment defines sanctioned, approved and observed meets and recommends that no intra-squad time trials be authorized.

Ideas were discussed to create incentives for clubs to host other than ABC meets. For B/C meets, some ideas included allowing higher level swimmers to swim exhibition (so parents will work) and the lowering of sanctioning fees.

A rule change from the 2008 USAS HOD mandated pool length certifications and notifications in meet announcements. Some high level meets (USA meet at Texas A & M) have had issues with short bulkheads. MS may need to consider certifications for at least higher level meets to ensure times are approved.

Numerous housekeeping changes will be introduced at the HOD to clean up inconsistencies in the Rules & Procedures. Other considerations discussed were the elimination of ABC Festivals (not used recently), Postal meets (replaced by Internet Distance Challenge) and ideas to encourage Michigan Mile bids. Elimination of the paper entry fee was also discussed and it was recommended it be retained.

Rules need to be revised supported by the 2007 HOD meeting indicating OME (online meet entry) should be used rather than shall be used. Ideas to create incentives to use OME will be discussed at the HOD meeting.

There are still issues regarding implementation of the new Four Hour Rule. MS continues to work with clubs on various issues/situations. Data indicates a 20 second interval (versus 30 seconds) may be more appropriate for younger swimmers and will be discussed at the HOD meeting.

District venue assignments have been updated for 2009 based on new clubs and non-renewals from 2008. JO venue assignments have been adjusted as well. Data indicates splitting the JO meet improved attendance with improved meet feedback.

John Loria noted that there were 33 teams and 97 participants attending the Meet Manager & Meet Directors seminars and plans are to continue these on a non-mandatory basis.

#### **Report of Committees / Coordinators**

**Officials—Dan Meconis** – No report. It was noted that Dan is developing a list of proposed officials for the state meet. Several are looking for national certifications.

**Safety – Bailey Weathers** – No report.

**Open Water – Steve Potter** – Steve noted that he was unable to get his club to sponsor the Open Water meet.

**Recognition & Michigan Swim Office – Kirk Nissley** - Kirk advised that the records and Top 16 have been updated and certificates have been received.

**Michigan Swim Office – Jan Cartmill** – No report

**MOTION was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

The next MS Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for late March 15, 2009 at MSU. The meeting information will be distributed once the date, time and location is confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mick Cruce  
Secretary, Michigan Swimming