

**Montana Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2022**

General Chair Jay Friend called the zoom meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Those in attendance included Jay Friend; Eric Belasco, Officials Chair; Brenda Huckert, Safe Sport Chair; Susan Huckleby, Secretary and DDEI Chair; Jessica Marshall, Program Development Vice Chair; Michelle Schermerhorn, Admin Vice Chair; Nicole Olson, Governance Committee Chair; and Athlete Representatives Analise Belasco, Addy Lewis, and Jesse McCormick.

The group approved adding one additional item to the agenda – the program development committee report.

Committee Reports:

Safe Sport – Brenda Huckert: Brenda commended Susan Huckleby as the meet referee for the BYSC Mining City Classic meet. Safe sport signage, announcements, and other safe sport items were done very well at the swim meet.

There are 14 teams in the LSC and only four are Safe Sport Recognized Clubs. Eight teams have started the process. She wants every team to be a SSRC. Brenda is willing to assist teams with the process and willing to travel to work with teams if needed. Alana Cunningham (HDST) and Beth Storey (HDST) are the members of her committee. She needs two athletes to join her committee.

Brenda would like a current list of the coaches in the LSC. Jessica will send Brenda the list she has.

Teams need to update their websites. BMA needs to add the correct phone number for the US Center for Safe Sport. HAV and LAKE need to add MAPP2.0 language. MYST needs to add the correct phone number for reporting. BYSC needs to add information to their website. Teams hosting meets need to include the correct safe sport/MAAPP verbiage in the meet information, post signs stating no cameras behind the blocks or in locker rooms/changing rooms, etc.

Some parents don't know how to access the parent courses. Brenda and Nicole have great instructions for this and will share the information. Susan will post the information on the website.

Brenda would like to attend the spring workshop in Denver for the safe sport chairs meeting.

Governance Committee – Nicole Olsen: The committee includes Nicole, Kristen Wyatt (BY), Caty Flikkema (BAC), and athletes Ella Stack (MAC) and Laine Gilluly (BY). The committee is reviewing the new policy, procedures, and standing rules document. They will seek nominees for open positions on the board, help with committees, and will also develop materials for board evaluations, board job descriptions, and board orientation. The committee has met once.

DDEI – Susan Huckleby: Susan explained that no teams applied for the fall Reach Out grant program. She asked if she should re-open the application period or would the board consider using the funds to purchase external strobes for teams to use when starting deaf/hearing impaired swimmers.

M/S/P: It was moved by Jay and seconded by Eric that the 2022 fall Reach Out grant application period be closed. The \$2500 grant funds would be used to purchase external strobes for teams. Depending upon the number of teams desiring a strobe, the funds may be used to pay for all or part of the cost of

the strobes and cables. The motion passed. Susan will get prices for the equipment and report back to the board. The committee will develop the application process and the application for the strobes.

USA Swimming DEI Coordinator Leland Brown III will be speaking at the swim clinic in Hardin on Saturday, November 19. Leland will speak with the adults and the athletes.

Athlete Committee – Addy Lewis, Analise Belasco, Jesse McCormick: Connor Mizner was absent. Addy reported the athlete committee met for the second time the previous day. The athletes reported they had good Halloween practices, were excited for the first prelim/finals meet at MAC, and the monthly meetings may be changed to twice a month meetings. Analise reported the athletes would like more clinics to be held like the one in Hardin. She would be interested in serving on the safe sport committee. (Jay said it was ok for Analise to be on both committees but if we could find other athletes to serve on committees it would allow more athlete involvement in the LSC.) Jay also stated that committees could have more than five members but are required to have 33 percent athlete representation on each committee. The athletes will spread word to the other athletes that volunteers are needed to serve on committees.

Finance Committee: Treasurer Matt Yovich and Finance Vice Chair Tracy Flikkema were absent. Matt is working on corporate sponsorships and other outside funding sources.

Program Development – Jessica Marshall: Jessica will seek members for her committee. She would like to develop awards recognition for the LSC. She would like to give bag tags to the state qualifiers and Junior BC qualifiers. She would like to celebrate short course accomplishments at Long Course State and long course accomplishments at Short Course State. She would like to give plaques to record breakers, athletes who qualify for Futures, Juniors, Nationals/US Open, and Olympic Trials. She would like to recognize IMX high point scores. She would like to replace the towels given for the AAA qualifiers with plaques. She would like to recognize the coaches of the year, volunteer of the year, and athletes of the year by presenting them plaques.

In the past certificates were sent to swimmers who broke state records. The coach of the year winner in the past (a number of years ago) was given a one-year ASCA membership. Both coach of the year winners have first choice to coach the Montana zone teams. Plaques are already given to the athletes of the year, sportspersons of the year, and volunteer of the year.

Jay suggested Jessica check the budgeted amount for the AAA towels and then price the various awards. He also suggested seeking input from the athletes as to what type of award they may prefer.

Jessica accepted five applications for the four open zone coach positions. She and Caty will put together a coach group to review and select the zone coaches.

Admin Vice Chair – Michelle Schermerhorn: No report.

New Business:

LEAP: Jay worked on the LEAP application. We should have the results in December to find out what we did well and where we need to improve.

Strategic Plan 2022-2023: The strategic plan is part of LEAP. The LSC needs a strategic plan for next year. The governance committee will keep the board true to the strategic plan and how it is executed. What items do we the board want to accomplish for our members next year? For the next meeting in December, each person should bring some ideas that could be included in the draft strategic plan.

2023 Short Course State: We did not received bids to host Short Course State for 2022 or 2023. We should review how we frame the bids or consider eliminating bids for short course state. An idea for a longer-term vision to host Short Course State only may be to eliminate bidding and, as an LSC, work out a contract with the Butte YMCA to host the meet there. Three to four teams would be assigned to host the meet each year and the assignments would rotate annually. The group of teams hosting state could perhaps include one team from the west, one from central, and one from the east. The teams would provide volunteers to run the meet. Officiating is taken care of already. Montana Swimming orders the awards. Would need volunteers to organize the meet, provide safety marshals, announce, handle awards, and run concessions and hospitality. Teams would be assigned to timing duties.

In the past Butte, Griz Pool and Polson have hosted state. There is opposition to hosting the meet at Polson due to poor air quality in the facility. Griz Pool is not available the last weekend in February 2023 due to basketball games. Nicole mentioned BOZ and BMA approached the Butte Y about hosting the meet and were told no. Susan said the Butte Y has a new interim CEO. If the meet is at Butte, we cannot use the upstairs weight room area. Hardin is the only other 8 lane 25-yard pool. Would Hardin be interested in hosting SC State? Susan will talk with Kristen Mark and the facility director, Sarah Passes. State was held in Hardin several years ago.

If we moved the date for SC State, moving it one week later would be the same time as YMCA Regionals, two weeks later would be the same time as senior sectionals, and three weeks later would be the same time as NW Age Group Regionals. Moving the meet four weeks later would be during many spring break vacation times and five weeks later would be at the same time as WZ SCY Senior meet. We need to check when basketball tournaments are being held and if that interferes with possible dates and locations. Jay will ask MAC if they could host SC State if it was one week later. It is possible to switch the dates for the Junior BC Championships and SC State.

Meet Sanctions: Jay and Matt are splitting the meet sanctioning duties now. Eric Belasco, the new Officials Chair, has been working with Matt to learn the sanctioning process and is interested in taking over the meet sanctioning duties.

M/S/P: Brenda moved, and Michelle seconded a motion to have the Officials Chair become the Meet Sanctions Chair. The motion passed.

Jay will send the meet sanction database to Eric. Jay will sanction the HAV Great Northern Classic and then Eric will begin sanctioning the following meets.

Eric will send approved meet sanctions to Jay, Susan, and Brenda.

Registration Chair: Stephanie Boysen stepped down as registration chair. So far Stephanie has the only access to registration in SWIMS 3.0. Jay will meet with Jane Grosser to get access to registration. Susan will also email Eric Stimson about access to registration.

The new registration chairs will be Jay Friend and Susan Huckleby. Jay will also give Matt and Michelle access to registration to assist.

Meet Registration Recon Reports: Susan will handle all the meet registration recon reports which she already has access to and runs as part of uploading times.

Establish Committees: Each Board Chair may have a committee. Each committee must have at least 33 percent athlete members. The governance committee and athlete committee can assist with finding members for committees. Committee members must be USA Swimming members. Non-athletes must have at the minimum an admin membership. Brenda would prefer committee members to complete the background check before serving.

Membership Communication: To create more communication from the board to the membership. Committee members: Jay Friend, Susan Huckleby, and Michelle Schermerhorn, plus two athletes.

Fundraising Committee: Matt Yovich might serve on the committee but would rather not if possible. Tracy Flikkema would be a good person to serve on the committee.

Program Development Committee: Jessica Marshal, chair.

Please names and email addresses of committee members to Susan to post and to Jay.

2023 Spring HOD Meeting: All club voting members must be currently registered USA Swimming members. This information will be posted on the website and Susan will remind clubs in emails about the meeting.

Monthly Board Meetings: Jay will have monthly board meetings. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Sunday December 18, 2022.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Huckleby
MT Swim Secretary
December 14, 2022

MT Swimming Board of Directors Meeting Agenda – November 13, 2022

Call to Order

Committee Reports

- Safe Sport
- Governance
- DDEI
- Athlete
- Finance

New Business

- 2022-2023 Strategic Plan
- Short Course State
- Meet Sanctioning
- Registration Chair
- Establishing Committees
 - Membership Communication
 - Fundraising

Old Business

- None

Round Table

Adjournment