

Minutes of the February 4, 2023
United States Aquatic Sports Board Meeting
Approved by USAS Board on May 20, 2023

I. ROLL CALL -

The following people attended the meeting:

- + USAS (voting) Board Members: Mariya Koroleva, Adam Adrasko, Lee Michaud, Britta O'Leary, Peter Guadagni, Anthony Ervin, Lucinda McRoberts, William Smith, Chris Ramsey, Dale Neuburger.
- + USAS (non voting) Officers: Patty Miller (President), Jared Book (Treasurer) and Gregory Eggert (Vice President Administration)

II. PRESIDENTS REPORT -

President Miller thanked everyone able to attend the first of 4 quarterly meetings of the USAS Board in 2023. She presented a written report in advance of the meeting and there were no questions.

III. REPORT FROM WORLD AQUATICS BUREAU MEMBER -

World Aquatics Treasurer Dale Neuburger presented a review of actions taken at the World Aquatics Extraordinary Congress in Melbourne held December 12, 2022. Dale explained that the new constitution was intended to clean up previous inconsistencies. Thirteen members were added to the World Aquatics Bureau resulting in 20% of the National Federations represented. A recent governance review confirmed that World Aquatics had the largest increase in improvements by improving greater representation; women represent 38% of the Bureau including Alia Atkinson the chair of the Athletes Commission. A new set of Bylaws was intended to consolidate topics into one place and provide greater clarity. The international federation adopted a new name: World Aquatics and introduced a new dynamic logo. A color correct PMS logo was created for each of the 209 National Federations. A final schedule for the World Championships was recently approved across 5 different venues. The independent Aquatics Integrity Unit was implemented on January 1 intended to offer additional protections for athletes to ensure fair competition. The Sports Medicine Committee will continue through the World Championships and it is likely that a new term will begin in August 2023; The Legal, Marketing, Facilities, and Media committees will be eliminated but experts in these fields will be identified and retained on an as needed basis.

There is a high probability that men will compete in Artistic Swimming at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. There were improvements in the relay qualification procedures for swimming. The long standing ISL lawsuit was resolved in World Aquatics's favor. It was confirmed that International

Federations have the rights and responsibility to set a competition calendar and athletes are free agents to decide where and when they compete. Dale reported that he will continue his practice of meeting with the Boards of each of the sports for the purpose of enhancing two way conversations, and to provide additional information on topics of concern. In July there will be a World Aquatics Congress, one that is held every two years.

IV. CHEF DE MISSION REPORT was given by Jeri Marshburn regarding preparations for the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka from July 14-30, 2023. Jeri explained that she will be unable to attend the World Championships or to participate in an advance site visit to Fukuoka but that she will be able to assist Christine in administrative responsibilities. Christine McMaster-Shah will assume primary responsibilities as the Chef de Mission for the Fukuoka World Championships and will be making a site visit to Fukuoka in March. There are frequent zoom meetings with LOC.

The USA delegations will stay at the Fukuoka Seahawk Hilton hotel and USAS was successful in blocking room requirements requested by our sports. Preliminary info has been sent to the local organizing committee (LOC) on behalf of each of our sports accommodation requirements. There is an exclusive eating area for the USA at the Hilton and the chefs indicate that they will have greater input in menu selection. We are waiting to hear from the hotel about extra charges for several special requests submitted by our sports. The current transportation plan is tentative and it was noted that transportation has often been a challenge. USAS has recommended changes that our sports consider will be essential. The Hilton is on a direct line to venue which means there is less of a chance that the bus is full before our athletes board. Water Polo teams have designated buses.

V. WORLD AQUATICS CONGRESS is scheduled for July 25, 2023 in Fukuoka. Dale is the incumbent Treasurer and pursuant to the new constitution is eligible to run for another term. The position of Treasurer needs to be in sync with the term of President for overall perspective and planning. If elected, this will be Dale's final term as he will be age restricted from future office. The constitution has changed the term of the World Aquatics President to 8 years with the ability to run for a second 4 year term that mirrors IOC. This avoids short cycles where candidates are frequently engaged in a re-election process.

Dale was excused from the Zoom meeting. Bill Smith nominated Dale for the position of World Aquatics Treasurer and Britta O'Leary seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A motion to close nominations was received and seconded (Bill Smith and Tony Ervin). Chris Ramsey moved and Bill Smith seconded a motion to elect Dale by acclamation; there were two abstentions. The President suggested that USAS begin to work on identifying a person who can succeed Dale in an officer role within World Aquatics.

USAS REPRESENTATION AT THE WORLD AQUATIC CONGRESS -

Between this meeting and the next quarterly meeting board members will have an opportunity to discuss the mechanism for identifying Congress delegates for World Aquatics. Congress Delegates representing USAS will be selected at the next quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. Dale will clarify with World Aquatics the amount of the subsidy for the USAS President and General Secretary (Vice President Administration) to attend the World Aquatics Championships in Fukuoka.

VI. FINANCIAL -

Jared presented financial information available at the time of the meeting and presented the 2023 budget. The Treasurer reported that the account balance is approximately \$470K. He indicated that a balance sheet will be forthcoming. A brief discussion on the topic of meetings indicated that virtual meetings were preferred and that the sense of the board is not to have in person meetings in 2023. Jared reported that annual dues were not invoiced for 2022 but they will be invoiced in the near future. Invoices for annual dues for 2023 dues will be delayed until the third quarter of 2021. Jared offered a motion to approve the 2023 budget which was seconded by Bill. Bill suggested a careful analysis and evaluation of USAS income sources and expenses for the purpose of understanding how long can USAS sustain the status quo. Patty promised that the officers will provide an analysis of existing funds for the next meeting; Chris suggested the creation of an investment committee for the growth of USAS funds. Bill noted that Treasury funds paying 4.5% will allow ready access to our money. Jared indicated that he will review the USAS cash flow and that he will consider future investment opportunities, and will report to the Board if USAS makes investment of funds. Jared asked if USAS would need to advance funds for the accommodation expenses for our respective sports at the 2023 World Championships. The 2023 budget was approved with two abstentions.

The annual 990 reports were filed late in 2019 and 2020 but timely in 2021. A penalty of \$2400 was assessed. USAS filed a notice of abatement and that is still pending

VII. BIDDING FOR WORLD AQUATICS EVENTS - Chris reported that USA Water Polo is in discussion with World Aquatics to host a men's and women's World Cup Super Final in Southern California. Each event is a three day tournament with two day preparations.

HOSTING PAN AM AQUATIC EVENTS - USA Artistic Swimming is hosting the 2023 Pan Am Artistic Swimming Championships - August 10-13th - Fort Lauderdale, Florida

VIII. BYLAWS AMENDMENTS presented in proper legislative format at (and advance of) this meeting, at least 60 days in advance of the second quarterly meeting including housekeeping changes replacing all references to FINA with World Aquatics (AQUA); replacing all references to UANA with Pan American Aquatics.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS PREFERENCES from each sport were confirmed to ensure the timely and appropriate distribution of messages from World Aquatics and Pan Am Aquatics.

OTHER TOPICS CONSIDERED -

MAX RITTER AWARD nominations should be submitted to Carol Zaleski (czaleski@att.net) on or before March 31, 2023 in order to be considered at the next quarterly meeting of the USAS Board.

MINUTES from the October 29, 2022 meeting of the USAS Board were moved by Adam and seconded by Britta. Following the approval of these minutes, they will be posted to the USAS website.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was offered by Peter and seconded by Chris, and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Eggert
USAS Vice President of Administration
February 4, 2023