

DRAFT MINUTES
Second Quarter USAS Board Meeting
May 20, 2023

ROLL CALL -

USA Artistic Swimming: Adam Andrasko;
USA Diving: Lee Michaud;
US Masters Swimming: Peter Guadagni;
USA Swimming: Carli Brashier & Eric Skufka;
USA Water Polo: Chris Ramsey
Officers: Patty Miller, Jared Book & Gregory Eggert
Guest: Christine McMaster-Shah, Chef de Mission

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING - A motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2023 was made by Chris Ramsey, seconded by Peter Guadagni and approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Patty Miller welcomed the Board members and indicated that Chef de Mission Christine McMaster-Shah will join the meeting as soon as her schedule permits, as she is officiating at an USA Artistic Swimming competition. The President indicated that World Aquatics Treasurer Dale Neuburger is attending an ACODEPA meeting and cannot attend in person but has recorded a video for the meeting. The President anticipated there will likely be voting on the Max Ritter Award recipients and on housekeeping changes to the USAS Bylaws. Patty reminded the Board that Dale Neuburger is the incumbent candidate for World Aquatics Treasurer. The election of the World Aquatics President and Treasurer will be held at the Congress on July 25th in Fukuoka.

FUKUOKA 2023 CHEF DE MISSION UPDATE - Christine reported that she and Carli Brashier of USA Swimming visited Fukuoka in March. She confirmed that since their visit, all US teams have elected to stay at the Hilton Seahawk hotel.

1. Christine has been working directly with Team Leaders from each sport and expects to send out preliminary and final accommodations invoices to each sport in the next few weeks.
1. Christine and Carli received assurances from the LOC that there will be regular bus services from the Hilton and that there are no intermediate stops on the route to the Marine Messe Aquatic Center. The hotel will have several smaller teams booked at the Hilton beyond the USA and CAN. The venues for OWS and High Diving are within walking distance. Bus transport to the Marine Messe venue

(AS & SW & WP) venues is about 20 minutes and to DV only about 5 minutes longer. Bus transport will be traveling opposite traffic during high traffic times.

2. Christine reported that for personal reasons that Jeri Marshburn was unable to attend the site visit nor can she attend the World Championships. Jeri advised that she will be available 24/7, and Christine can count on her knowledge and or expertise when/as needed.
3. An artistic swimming coach agreed to volunteer as translator since one will not be provided by the Organizing Committee. This request was approved by the USAS officers as these expenses will be within the existing budget that included travel and accommodations expenses for Jeri.

Adam emphasized the value of the Chef de Mission and encouraged USAS to continue to budget for this position in the future.

OFFICERS IN FUKUOKA - USAS has budgeted for the President to attend the World Championships. World Aquatics will provide a flight subsidy for the President's airfare to USAS. Greg has been invited to attend the championships at the expense of World Aquatics as a member of the Aqua Media Team.

WORLD AQUATICS CONGRESS - USAS will be represented at the July 25th Congress in Fukuoka by delegates from USA Swimming and USA Diving. These sports are asked to submit the names of their delegates before the registration deadline which is May 31. USAS will also be permitted to have two observers attend the Congress and the May 31st deadline is operative. Each sport has previously covered the travel and accommodations of their respective delegate to FINA/World Aquatic and Pan American Congresses. Delegates have usually been people who are attending the event for another role beyond USAS delegates. Virtual attendance has been offered since the pandemic. World Aquatics provides an airfare subsidy for the National Federation Representative (USAS President) to attend the World Championships. In the past the hotel subsidy for the National Federation Representative has been allocated to USA Swimming. USAS funding for Congress delegates was not budgeted for 2023. Currently there is no reference to financial support in the previously distributed memorandums from World Aquatics other than for athletes and two National Federation representatives.

WORLD AQUATICS TREASURER REPORT - Dale Neuburger provided a written report in advance of the meeting as he was not able to be present for this meeting. Dale provided a video report which included:

- + Thanks from World Aquatics for those sports which host international events within the USA;
- + The IOC has rules for readmitting the Russia and Belarus situation for participation at the 2024 Olympic Games. If Russian and Belarus athletes accept the IOC provisions athletes may be able to compete in individual events but won't be eligible for team events including water polo, duet artistic swimming events, synchronized diving events or swimming relays.
- + World Aquatics has been cutting back on the number of events offered, and has hosted a few multidisciplinary events;
- + The Sports Medicine is the only committee extended through Fukuoka. It is unclear if the next term will be 2023-2025 or 2023-2027. Dr. Jim Miller was previously nominated by USAS and his name and CV will be submitted once the application process is initiated.
- + Dale reported that the current composition of the World Aquatic Bureau is 38% with a goal of 50% gender equity.

PAN AM AQUATICS CONSTITUTION - As a member of the Pan American Aquatics Constitution Tax Force Dale Neuburger provided the following information in his video presentation:

- + Following the December 2022 adoption of a new World Aquatics Constitution in Melbourne, the constitutions of the continental associations must be changed to be in compliance by the end of 2023. In early June World Aquatics will provide recommendations to PAQ. In early July a draft of the PAQ Constitution with proposed amendments will be sent to the National Federations for their review. PAQ will offer an informational session for NF representatives in Fukuoka to include an opportunity for questions. On August 24 an Extraordinary Pan American Aquatics Congress will be held for the purpose of considering amendments to the Constitution. The constitution will take effect at the Pan American Aquatics Congress in Santiago, Chile in October.
- + Potential changes to the PAQ Constitution include the following:
 1. Currently there are four zones within the Americas and there is a proposal to add a 5th zone. The change would impact the existing Caribbean and Central America, potentially breaking into English speaking and Spanish speaking zones.
 2. Only the USA and Canada have positions on the World Aquatic Bureau per the current PAQ constitution and Dale reported that amendments will not affect this status
 3. The PAQ Executive committee is proposed to include one male and female nominated from each of the 5 zones.

4. It is proposed that the PAQ Executive will select the officers of the organization;
 5. A two term limit and an age limit of 75 is being proposed;
 6. Current members of the World Aquatics Bureau may be included in a PAQ Bureau with responsibilities to be determined;
 7. A PAQ Congress will be held every 2 years instead of the current 4 year cycle.
 8. PAQ will have more authority and responsibility and Dale recommends that strong USA leadership and support will allow the organization to reach its full potential.
 9. The PAQ Executive Committee will select World Aquatics Bureau members to ensure gender diversity and geographic representation. The future composition of World Aquatics Bureau members from the Americas will be either 5 men and 4 women or 4 men and 5 women. This will satisfy the obligation that each gender will not be less than 40%.
- + Dale indicated that Patty will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to the PAQ constitution with PAQ President Maureen Croes.

USAS FINANCIAL STATUS - USAS Treasurer Jared Book explained the financial reports that he presented in advance of the Board meeting and answered questions. Jared reported:

- + USAS is aware of being over the FDIC insurance limit. Our money is held in a 48 billion dollar bank that has over 9 billion in capital. The bank was established in 1834, and has stable management.
- + USAS can move money into money markets or elsewhere based on our cash flow requirements. Chris recommends maximizing returns for the cash held currently using FDIC insured Money Markets accounts.
- + The World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024 will require similar funding requirements as Fukuoka 2023, but in Q1 2024.
- + The first installment of 2023 World Aquatics OASP money was distributed since the last meeting;
- + The 9K balance from the 2022 World Aquatics OASP was only recently received; an additional \$1500 per sport will soon be distributed.
- + Our tax returns were timely filed with the IRS, and a copy of 990 was also submitted.
- + Jared is anticipating that invoices for 2023 Fukuoka accommodations are expected to be due in June and is anticipating USAS cash flow requirements.
- + Jared indicated that it is proposed that each sport will come up with their own funds, but if needed USAS can assist.
- + Sport representatives indicated that they would have difficulty advancing either the deposits or the final balances of their accommodation invoices for the 2023

Fukuoka World Championships. A consensus was reached that USAS will advance the deposits and if necessary the final amounts due to the LOC for all of our sports.

- + Chris recommended that a written agreement should be used in the instance that USAS advances any payments for accommodations invoices for any of our sports.
- + The settlement of accommodation invoices may not occur until August, perhaps before the Q3 meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO USAS CONSTITUTION - A motion to amend the bylaws to include housekeeping changes was moved by Adam and seconded by Peter and was unanimously approved.

MAX RITTER AWARD - Carol Zaleski, chair of the subcommittee, received nominations for two individuals prior to the March 31 deadline. Information about the award and a link to past recipients confirms that USAS past recognition has been to both international and domestic recipients.

- + Mr. Kiho Abe was nominated by Dale Neuburger. Mr. Abe was the competition manager for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games;
- + Ginny Jasontek was nominated by Denise Shively of USA Artistic Swimming; Ginny serves as a member of the Technical Artistic Swimming committees of PAQ and FINA along with many leadership roles within USA Artistic Swimming;

The Board approved the recognition of both individuals. It was proposed that Mr. Abe will be presented with his recognition in Fukuoka during the World Championships. It was suggested that Ginny receive recognition during the Pan American Games this fall.

CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF MAX RITTER AWARDS - Board members are asked to refrain from sharing the results of these decisions or to congratulate the recipients. The decision to recognize both recipients in 2023 should be kept confidential so the award is both are intended to be surprises to the recipients. The names will not be included in the approved minutes until after the award is presented to each recipient.

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- + The World Aquatics Scholarship program deadline is approaching this month; this may pertain to Artistic Swimming.
- + There is a May 31st deadline to register World Aquatics Congress delegates.
- + The 3rd quarter meeting of the USAS Board will be held in August and before the virtual Extraordinary Congress to consider amendments to the PAQ Constitution.
- + PAQ Technical Committee nominations by each sport should be submitted at the 3rd quarter meeting. Each sport should nominate one female and one male as there is an expectation that the new PAQ constitution will require gender diversity.
- + Nominations for PAQ committees including Legal, Social Media, Sport Medicine may be presented at the 3rd or 4th quarter USAS Board meeting based on a call for nomination from PAQ.
- + The 4th quarter annual meeting may be scheduled before the October Pan American Games to consider nominations received for the PAQ Executive Committee and other non technical committees of PAQ.
- + Regarding 2024 Paris Olympic ticket requests submitted to World Aquatics last fall, it is understood that full requested allocation may not be provided. World Aquatics has clarified that ticket orders cannot be modified (including a reduction in the order) and that each Sport will be responsible for the payment of their order once tickets have been allocated. USAS will not advance funds for 2024 Paris Olympic ticket and each sport will be responsible to make their payment directly to World Aquatics, so advance planning is warranted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN - A motion to adjourn was received, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Eggert

The minutes of the May 20, 2023 were approved by the USAS Board on August 19, 2023 and will be posted to the USAS website in the near future.