

**Gulf LMSC Meeting
Wednesday March 9, 2022
Via Zoom Conference Call**

APPROVED 4/3/22

Kris welcomed all attendees.

Attendance

Officers and Committee Chairs: Kris Wingenroth (Chair), Mark Hahn (Treasurer), Karlene Denby (Secretary, Communications Chair, Fitness Chair), Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator), Stacey Eicks (Coaches Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Kyra Wakefield (Top Ten Recorder), Nicole Christensen (Gulf webmaster, South Central Zone Chair)

Team Attendees: Tom Boak (WMST), Carolyn Boak (WMST)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The December 4, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by an email vote on December 28, 2021, and they were posted to the Gulf LMSC website shortly after being approved.

Officers' Reports

- Chairwoman (Kris Wingenroth) – no report.
- Vice Chair (Kevin Lunsford) – no report.
- Secretary (Karlene Denby) – The December 4, 2021 meeting was the Gulf LMSC annual meeting. The meeting minutes were emailed to the National Office on December 28, 2021, and receipt by USMS was confirmed on January 10, 2022.
- Treasurer (Mark Hahn) – For calendar year 2021, the LMSC had revenue of \$15,453.01 and expenses of \$4,289.34, resulting in an ending balance of \$35,742.16 as of December 31, 2021. For the first two months of 2022, there has been \$6,547 in revenue, primarily from member registration, and minimal expenditures of \$629.16. Mark has submitted all necessary paperwork to both USMS and the IRS for calendar year 2021. The 2022 budget is still being worked on and is not yet completed.
- Membership Coordinator (Linda Visser) – As of March 7, 2022 there are 752 individual registrations. This is a significant increase over 2021 (686 registrations on March 31, 2021). A new team registration was received in February for Texas Elite Swim Team (TEST).

Committee Reports

- Sanction Chair (Kevin Lunsford) – Kevin reported by email that the sanction process has been started for the Lake Longhorn Open Water Swim scheduled for May 15, 2022. The USMS Open Water Coordinator, Mr. David Miner, has highlighted some items that still need to be addressed, and Andreas Lorenz and Seth Huston have been notified of these items. Additionally, a sanction request for the Graham Johnston Invitational LCM Meet scheduled for June 5th was received by Kevin on March 8, 2022.
- Top Ten Recorder (Kyra Wakefield) – The Sweetheart Meet has already been uploaded into the USMS database. The Rice March Madness Meet results were received on March 9 and should be uploaded by this weekend. Nicole suggested that meet directors be sent a checklist of what needs to be done to get results recorded and the timeline to get the items completed after the meet is over. She suggested sending the meet director either the PDF or the document link once the meet has been sanctioned.
- Communications (Karlene Denby) – The spring newsletter will most likely be finished and published in May 2022. A May publication date will allow the inclusion of articles about USMS Spring Nationals and the 2022 Gulf Swim University. Other newsletter items will include a workout, a nutrition article, a

remembrance of Bob Bailie, a recap of the Gatormania OW Swim as part of the Grand Prix OW series, 2021 SCM Top Ten results, All American/All Star/All World results, and upcoming events.

- Webmaster (Nicole Christensen) – The Gulf home page has been updated to include the Open Water Grand Prix Challenge, the USMS webinar series, the Winter 2022 newsletter, and 2022 Gulf Swim University. Kris mentioned that the Jesse Coon Award section needs to be updated with most recent recipients. There has been no new formatting. As always, suggestions on content and format are always welcome. Send Nicole a text or email if something needs to be updated. It is helpful to copy the url in your communication so that Nicole is directed to the specific page.
- Coaches (Stacey Eicks) – Stacey reached out to Juan Somoza, the masters coach of Sharks Swim Club (SSC). The team is located in Friendswood and practices are held at Stevenson Park Pool. Stacey provided suggestions on how to advertise the club, and she sent him a webinar presentation on club-building from the most recent Coaches Committee meeting.
- Fitness (Karlene Denby) – Fifty swimmers are signed up for 2022 Gulf Swim University. Karlene is suggesting a duffel bag as the participation award. It is price competitive with t-shirts, it can be easily packed and mailed to out of area participants, and it should be an item that will be used. Karlene would also like to begin planning for the post-event social. Karlene suggested May 14, 21, and 22 as possible dates for the social. After discussion, Sunday May 22, 2022 beginning at 4 p.m. was selected as the date and time of the social. The location would be Dad's Club. Nicole will check on the availability of holding the social there.
- Officials (Herb Schwab) – no report. Kris reported that when sanctioning the Lake Longhorn OW event, a USMS certified OW official must be present at the event. Certification is done on-line, and it is an easy process to get through the training and certification.
- Open Water (Andreas Lorenz) – To date, the South Central Zone Grand Prix Challenge will consist of three events: April 24th in Boerne, TX, May 15th in League City, TX, and September 25th in Bentonville, AR. January was the first annual one-hour virtual swim at Dad's Club. There were 14 participants. There was also an enthusiastic group of family members and friends who helped as lap counters and volunteers. John Dissinger (BTA) swam over 5,000 yards and placed first in the men's 45-49 age group nationwide. Andreas expressed his appreciation to Nicole for her help in organizing the event and Karlene for getting the event recap in the newsletter. It was felt that the outdoor venue in January may have limited the number of one-hour participants, and Carolyn said that the Woodlands team would try to host an indoor one-hour event in January 2023. There will be two Gulf open water clinics this year, one in May and one in September. Andreas encouraged everyone to come swim in the League City OW event on May 15th.

South Central Zone Report – Nicole Christensen

- The Zone website has been updated. There is a new graphic on the home page for the Grand Prix Open Water Series, with a link that directs you to information about the three individual OW events. Clicking on the "find out more" tab under each event takes you to the event's registration page. The upcoming events calendar has also been updated.
- The Zone Open Water Challenge currently has three events. To date, no one in the North Texas or Oklahoma LMSCs has stepped up to put on an open water event for the series.
- Nicole plans to send an all-zone email about the upcoming SCY Zone Championship and the Grand Prix open water swim series.
- Kristen Hoffman has volunteered to update the all-time Zone records (not zone championship meet records). This would be a compilation of the fastest swims done by a zone-registered swimmer at any sanctioned meet nationwide.
- The SCY Zone Championship Meet records will be updated prior to the upcoming Zone meet on April 1-3 hosted by WMST.

Meet Reports

- Sweetheart Meet: Nicole reported that the meet had 82 entries. There were several all-time Zone records set at the meet. Herb Schwab and the officiating crew did an excellent job of running the meet. The participants enjoyed the meet. Event results have already been submitted.

- March Madness Meet: Tom Boak reported that the weather was fantastic, the meet was well run, and that there was a good turnout. The swimmers enjoyed being able to gather together and race again.

USMS Volunteer Relay Meeting Reports

- Stacey, Nicole, Andreas, and Kris attended the meeting, which was held in Denver on March 4-6.
- Stacey: The meeting goal was to take one thing back from the weekend that would help local programs. Lots of presentations resonated with her. The discussions made her more aware that the WMST is already doing the best practices that were recommended. That made her feel very positive about her team. She left the meeting feeling energized about implementing within the Gulf LMSC some of the good ideas that were presented.
- Andreas: There were about 175 members present at the meeting. He was struck by the openness of the presenters, who would readily field follow-up questions. There were lots of good ideas on how to improve the LMSC. He learned a lot about setting up an open water clinic. The recurring message was an emphasis on community, finding better ways to communicate, and bringing the membership together.
- Nicole: Nicole thought it was a fantastic experience, and that it was very different from convention. She felt that it energized many of the newer volunteers, and that they learned a lot over the weekend.
- Kris: Kris said that the attendees need to meet, organize their thoughts, and determine ways to implement what they learned in the Gulf LMSC.

Unfinished Business

- Jesse Coon Award nominations (Nicole). There has only been one nomination so far. While multiple reminders to submit nominations were sent out to all LMSCs early in the nomination process, no additional reminders have been sent recently.

New Business

- Audit 2021: Stacey Eicks will conduct the audit again this year. She has received all of the needed materials from Mark and has already started working on it.
- Vote to consider waiving the sanction fee for the Lake Longhorn Open Water Swim: **This was motioned, seconded, and approved via an email vote on February 28, 2022. The LMSC will pay \$100 fee plus the additional \$5/swimmer USMS fee.** Carolyn questioned why are the USMS fees for an open water event are so high. The USMS fees are \$50 for a sanctioned pool meet and \$100 for a USMS recognized meet.
- Vote to approve a budget for the Gulf Swim University awards and post-event social: Tom suggested a budget of \$750. **MSA a \$750 budget for the 2022 Gulf Swim University event.**
- Update to Sanctions section of the Gulf policy document to include a policy on waiving open water swim sanction fees: The proposed document was further amended to include “as the budget allows” in case USMS drastically increases OW event fees. **MSA of the submitted document with the additional wording.**
- 2022 Gulf LMSC Budget: The 2022 budget is not yet completed.
- Discussion of “Team Dividends” (reimbursement to Gulf teams of \$5/swimmer): This agenda item was tabled until a full proposal can be submitted for consideration. Nicole says that the South Texas LMSC is doing something similar. Stacey will contact the South Texas Chair, Tim Murphy, to see how they are administering this.
- Discussion of meet or fitness event incentives: Stacey is asking that we submit ideas to her about potential financial incentives for teams to put on clinics, fitness events, or meets.
- Date for next Gulf Meeting: The plan is to hold the meeting on same day as the Gulf Swim University social at Dad’s Club. The meeting would be held on Sunday, May 22nd from 3-4 p.m., and the social would start at 4 p.m. Nicole needs to check with Dad’s Club to see if we can use the space.

Upcoming Events

April 1 - 3, 2022: South Central Zone Champs (SCY), Conroe ISD Natatorium. **Registration is open.**

April 24, 2022: Gatormania Open Water Swims (1500 yds./3000 yds.)

April 28 - May 1, 2022: USMS Spring National Championships (SCY), San Antonio, TX, **Registration is open.**

May 15, 2022: Gulf LMSC Lake Longhorn Open Water Swims (1.25K, 2.5K, 5K), League City, TX

June 5, 2022: Graham Johnston Invitational (LCM), Dads Club

June 5, 2022: Lake Boerne Open Water Swim Boerne, TX (1500 meter, 3000 meter)

July 21-28, 2022: UANA Pan American Masters Championships (LCM), Medellin, Columbia

August 3 - 7, 2022: USMS Summer National Championships (LCM), Richmond, VA

September 22-24, 2022: USMS Annual Meeting (tentative date/location to be advised)

September 25, 2022: Walmart OZ Open Water Swims (1 mi./2 mi./3 mi.), Beaver Lake Dam, Bentonville, AR

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, May 22, 2022, 3-4 p.m., at Dad's Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karlene Denby, Secretary