

LMSC of Virginia Minutes
Monday, August 20, 2012, 7pm
Teleconference

Present on call:

Patty Miller, Chair/ Safety
Charlie Tupitza, Vice Chair, Warrenton Masters
Chris Stevenson, Webmaster/ Records & Top Ten
Charlie Cockrell, Treasurer/ Officials
Dave Holland, Secretary/ Long Distance
Lisa Bennett, Outgoing Registrar
Shirley Loftus-Charley, Incoming Registrar
Pam Dameron, Fitness, Quest Masters
Heather Stevenson, Sanctions
Betsy Durrant, VMST Treasurer/ Newsletter
Elizabeth Cohen, VMST President
Laurel Davis, Blacksburg Masters

Old Business: none

New Business:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by the Chair.
2. Budget for 2013-14 was introduced as the topic for the meeting. Patty explained that we needed to address the budget now because any fee increases would need to be enacted before our annual meeting in November.
3. Charlie C. recommended changes for 2013 and 2014, as described below in an email to the board before the meeting:

Recommended Budget Framework

- Require a balanced budget by 2014.
- Maintain operating expenses at current levels (accounting for modest inflation and membership growth, including webmaster, newsletter, convention, and registrar expenses) for 2013.
- Increase individual membership dues by \$3 in 2013 (to \$11 per swimmer) and plan for an additional \$1 increase (to \$12 per swimmer) in 2014.
- Require 18-24-year-old swimmers to pay the full cost of USMS membership, but continue to waive the LMSC fee.
- Increase the one-event registration fee to \$15 per swimmer per event.
- Make no changes to club membership fees, sanction fees, or meet profit fees.
- Explore newsletter savings by targeting a shift to electronic readership away from paper.

- Prioritize strategic investment options that could be funded in 2013 if we realize these targets.
- Plan for a minimum 25% reduction in paper newsletter circulation through “opt outs” in 2014.
- Defer strategic investments in 2013 unless a wedge can be created by other means. Possibilities include:
- Prioritize strategic investment options that could be funded with positive budget variances.
- Run a larger budget deficit in 2013 (spend additional money from our money market account).
- Reduce operating expenses in other areas (options are limited).
- Run a clinic or other event and use the proceeds to provide additional membership services.
- Other ideas?
- The resulting budget framework creates a \$1,000 wedge in 2014 for strategic investments.

Discussion:

Betsy asked how much we collect per swimmer. We collect \$8 per swimmer to the LMSC, and \$31 to USMS (\$39 total).

We collect \$12 for “One Event” registrations. USMS also collects \$12. We could increase our LMSC fee if we want. “One Event” numbers are up at Jack King and Chris Greene Lake this year, so fees have not deterred anyone.

Charlie C. proposed that we adopt a budget framework that establishes a balanced annual budget by 2014. Charlie T seconded. It passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued about the newsletter costs and trying to get the newsletter condensed from 12 pages to 8 pages. One possible way to accomplish that is to reduce the space needed for meet entries and instead, direct people to the website.

Charlie C. recommended the following four changes, which were discussed and voted on by the Board.

1. Increase by \$3 per swimmer in 2013 for individual LMSC fee (from \$8 to \$11).
2. 18-24 swimmers pay the full cost of USMS membership (\$31), but no LMSC fee.
3. Increase “one event” fee by \$3 (from \$12 to \$15)
4. No changes to club membership fees, sanction fees, or percentage of profits from meets (20% of profits to LMSC).

1. Patty proposed that we increase individual membership fees by \$3 in 2013, seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Group discussed a possible increase again in 2014 by \$1, but consensus was that we re-visit the issue one year from now.

2. 18-24 swimmers. Patty introduced a motion that we continue to waive LMSC fee for this group, but charge them the full USMS fee, seconded, and it passed unanimously.
3. "One Event" fees. Patty proposed that we increase fee by \$3 to \$15, seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. There is no reason to act on club membership fees, etc., as those rates will remain unchanged.

The Board talked about strategic investments and ways to increase income. Betsy said that she would look into bidding for postal swims. Chris mentioned that we will bid for the 2013 LC Zone Championships at Collegiate School Aquatic Center (GRAP), but any bid for a USMS National Championship in Richmond would likely have to wait until 2017, as bids have been awarded through 2015, and 2016 will most likely be coupled with Olympic Trials again.

Patty motioned that we approve 2013 budget, it was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned by Chair at 8:24pm.

Summary of Actions

1. **Motion to approve a budget framework that establishes a balanced annual budget by 2014, approved with MSA.**
2. **Motion to increase individual LMSC membership fees by \$3 in 2013 (from \$8 to \$11), approved with MSA.**
3. **Motion to change 18-24 yr. old policy so that age group now pays full USMS dues, and LMSC fee continues to be waived, approved with MSA.**
4. **Motion to increase "one event" fees from \$12 to \$15, approved with MSA.**
5. **Motion to approve 2013 budget approved with MSA.**

Minutes submitted electronically by Dave Holland, Secretary, on August 21, 2012