Committee Name: Board of Directors	**Date/Time of Meeting:** August 17, 2026: 8:00 p.m. ET
Committee Chair: Ed Coates	**Minutes recorded by:** Erika Braun
Committee members present: 16	**Committee members absent:** 2
Ed Coates (President); Crystie McGrail (VP of Local Operations); Carrie Stolar (VP of Programs); Kenny Brisbin (VP of Community Services); Denise Dombay (Treasurer); Erika Braun (Secretary); Dawson Hughes (CEO); Peter Guadagni (Immediate Past President) At-Large Directors: Sam Kraft (Breadbasket); Guy Davis (Colonies); C.J. Rushman (Great Lakes); Rob Heath (Northwest); Phyllis Quinn (Oceana); Nicole Christensen (South Central); Trey Taylor (Southeast); Jeff Commings (Southwest) **Absent:** Katie Kenyon (Legal Counsel); Julie Dussliere (VP of Administration)	
Other guests: Meredith Buchanan (Coordinator, Volunteer Services)	

Actions Taken:

1. Approved. July 10-12, 2026, BOD retreat meeting minutes
2. Vote Tabled. Approval of expenditure over budget request.
3. Executive Session: Approved. Board committee membership change

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. ET.

2. Agenda review, conflict of interest declarations – Ed: There were no conflicts of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item) – Erika
   i. July Board meeting minutes. **MSA to approve** July 10-12, 2026, BOD retreat meeting minutes. Discussion: None. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Minute of Good News
   i. Erika Braun (August) – A successful co-hosting partnership between Raleigh Area Masters and TAC Titans was highlighted following the Southeastern Zone Long Course Championship. By sharing hosting responsibilities and expenses, the meet remained financially viable while providing valuable championship hosting experience for TAC. The event attracted 117 swimmers, generated 465 event entries, and produced five Masters world records. The collaboration was noted as a potential model for managing increasing facility and pool rental costs.

   ii. Peter Guadagni (September)

5. CEO Update (Informational) – Dawson
    i. Legal Update
        - Progress continues toward a potential settlement in the Florida matter. Discussions are focused on registration language and compliance procedures, with minimal operational impact anticipated.
        - The Texas case remains ongoing, with continued procedural activity and anticipated hearings regarding scheduling and case management.
        - The Board will continue to receive updates as developments occur.

    ii. Key Event Highlights
        - The Summer National Championship in Sacramento concluded successfully and became the largest Summer Nationals meet on record, with more than 1,400 swimmers.
        - Additional USMS-supported events held the same weekend, including Grown-Up Swimming meets and an open water event in Northern California, demonstrated strong nationwide participation and engagement.

    iii. Technology Updates
        - Development of the new Club Dashboard continues. The dashboard will provide clubs with enhanced access to membership information, including lapsed and expired member tracking. The club dashboard will also secure club member data behind the club login.
        - A bulk registration capability is planned for the 2027 membership year. Participation will require club opt-in during the initial rollout to allow staff to assess usage and refine the process.
        - Staff also provided an update on efforts to enhance member privacy by evaluating which membership and results information should require login credentials while maintaining public visibility for key performance data and rankings.

6. Governance Project Next Steps – (Action Item) – Ed and Dawson
    - A proposal was presented for the next phase of the governance modernization project, including work extending through the 2027 annual meeting. The project will focus on developing a comprehensive governing policies manual, implementing an ends-based strategic planning framework, establishing key performance indicators for CEO evaluation, and supporting governance reform communications. The engagement also includes governance coaching and facilitation for the Board and CEO through the September 2027 HOD meeting to support the adoption and implementation of proposed governance changes.

    - The proposal included a request for a $45,000 over budget expenditure for 2026, with additional funding anticipated as part of the 2027 budget. Board members discussed project scope, timing, review procedures, and budget considerations. The **motion to approve** the over-budget request was **tabled** to allow additional Board review and Finance Committee consideration. A **motion** and a **second** were provided during the meeting. **An electronic vote will be conducted later that week.**

7. Annual Legislation Proposals and Annual Meeting Preparation (informational) – Ed
    i. The Board reviewed key legislative proposals expected for consideration including:
        - Pool measurement requirements aligned with USA Swimming and World Aquatics standards.
        - Long-distance governance updates moving operational policies from the rule book to policy documents.
        - Moving membership categories from the rule book to Board policy.
        - Updating Board officer titles.
        - Procedures related to proposals not recommended by a committee of jurisdiction.

    ii. Board members volunteered to assist with preparation, communication, and advocacy efforts related to several proposals. Talking points and support materials will be developed in advance of Annual Meeting forums and discussions.

8. Zone Board Call Summary – (Informational) – Ed and Dawson
    - Feedback from recent Zone Board calls was reviewed. Two themes emerged consistently across multiple zones including rising pool and facility rental costs and ongoing volunteer recruitment and retention challenges. Discussion also included recent sanctioning process changes and the importance of continued member education and change management.

    - Additional opportunities were identified to support events through partnerships with local convention and Visitor's bureaus, sports commissions, and facilities capable of hosting regional-level competitions. A summary of zone feedback will be prepared for broader member communication.

9. Performance Enhancing Drug (PED) Position Statement Discussion – (Informational) – Ed and Dawson
    - The Board reviewed a draft position statement intended to provide guidance for responding to member inquiries regarding performance-enhancing drugs and related eligibility issues. Discussion included current USMS rules, World Aquatics policies, and emerging topics such as the Enhanced Games.

    - The statement is currently intended as an internal reference document rather than a formal policy. Additional Board feedback will be incorporated before further review.

10. Executive Session (Action Item) – Ed – The BOD entered executive session at 9:09 p.m. ET.
    i. The Board discussed committee membership matters. **MSA to approve** Board committee membership change**. The motion passed unanimously.**

Next Board Meeting: Monday, September 14 at 8:00 p.m. ET. Jessica Reilly will send out Zoom calendar invite. The meeting will be open for member observation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika Braun, Secretary