

Committee Name:	Long Distance	Session #:	1	Report #:	1
Committee Chair:	Ali Hall	Vice Chair:			Phyllis Quinn
Minutes recorded by:	Lorena Sims	Date/time of meeting:			1/31/2021; 8pm ET

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None.

Motions Passed:

1. Motion to change the National Championship bid submission date to August 1st this year: carried without opposition.
2. Motion to allow extension of 2021 USMS 1-Hour ePostal Nationals until March 31st: carried with 13-2 vote.

Number of committee members present: 16 **Absent: 0** **Number of other delegates present: 3**

Committee members present: Dave Brancamp, Phyllis Quinn, Jill Wright, Catherine Rust, Bob Bruce, Chuck Beatty, Alana Aubin, Robin Smith, Sarah King, Bob Singer, Jenny Hodges, Jim Davidson, Tim Murphy, Stephen Rouch, Ali Hall, Lorena Sims

Ex-Officio members present: Jay Eckert, David Miner, Donn Livoni

Topic: LDC Meeting January 31, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM EST:

1. Welcome and roll call
2. Approval of any outstanding meeting minutes – None.
3. Reports from the chair (Ali) and vice chair (Phyllis) and vice president (Donn)
 - Donn – Nationals have been moved to July 21-25 and October 6-10 and we need to do all we can to support our local pool meets. We encourage obtaining official certifications if at all possible in order to best support local events.
 - Phyllis – Nothing at this time.
 - Ali – Nothing at this time.
4. Working groups – reports
 - a. 2021 Rules/Legislation – Jim and Alana; Donn, Lorena, Bob S., Robin, Steve, Bob B
 - Will have things for the committee to consider in February. Nothing at this time.
 - b. PARA – Jim and Sarah; Patches & Awards – Dave; All-Americans (AA) - Men – Lorena, Chuck; (AA) Women – Jenny, Tim; (AA) Relays – Phyllis, Dave; Records – Jill, Tim, All-Stars – Lorena, Alana; Postal Series – Alana, Lorena; ePostal Series Recognition: Catherine, Jenny
 - Everything has been completed at this time and results are posted on the National website. Hopeful to have all eleven OWNC and ePostal results to compile in 2023.
 - c. Club Assistant – Robin & Steve
 - Club Assistant is currently experiencing low staffing and it will behoove us as liaisons to work through the issues for hosts prior to reaching out to CA due to the low staffing. They will require a request from liaison prior to doing any work.

- Confirmed communications process with Club Assistant (CA). The LDC Liaison is responsible for initiating the formal request to move forward with the set-up in CA for both ePostal and OW NC events. It will be important for the LDC Liaison to ensure that the Event Host is moving forward with their event set-up and for reviewing all of the event information in CA (as an admin) before the NC event goes "live". CA has put together several tutorials to assist with some admin and editing functions. Please keep Robin and Stephen in the loop regarding your interactions and any questions or issues that come up.
- d. Safety (as needed) – David M., lead
- There have not been a lot of sanction applications but hopefully as the year progresses we'll be able to get more event sanctions going. Reached out to over 55 events to see if we can recruit them as well as past events.
- e. 2023 NC Recruitment/Selection – Jill, lead; Robin, Steve, Catherine & Jenny
- All the paperwork is complete for recruitment/selection but we would like to change the paperwork a little in order to postpone the bid closing date to August 1st instead of July 1st. In the event a host postpones their event, we'd like to give them the opportunity to bid until August. Motion: Jill. Second: Jenny. Discussion: August 1st still gives the LDC time to announce the selections at convention. Motion carried without opposition.
 - Always looking for new hosts but will also provide priority to hosts who have been affected by the pandemic.
- f. NC Oversight - Ali, lead; Phyllis, Jim, Bob S, David M
- Motion to approve extension request of 2021 USMS 1-Hour ePostal Nationals event host. Approved 13-2.
- g. Nose to Tail LD NC Working Group: Sarah and Chuck (leads), Alana, Jim, Bob S, Dave, Catherine, Jill, Bob B, Ali
- In preparation for the 2021 OWNC and ePostal National Championship events, our group has worked on revising the existing championship packets. We welcome any additional revisions, corrections, and comments to these documents as well as to the previously sent documents.
 - LDC Award Nomination Form sent to the USMS national office on 1/28.
 - 2023 OWNC and ePostal Bid Form Cover Letter and relevant bid form links sent to the USMS national office on 1/28.
 - Need to update the bids document now that the date change has been approved, then can finalize the link in the OW documents and publish those.
 - National championships documents will also be updated shortly.
- h. Goals – Alana, lead; Lorena, Robin, Bob S, Catherine, Tim, Chuck and Bob B
- Initial goal brainstorm document has been distributed to all members for consideration.
 - Generally, one goal we have is to integrate the Open Water Committee's work into LDC. If anyone has any other goal ideas, please send them Alana's way!
 - Working to figure out better document management.
- i. LDNC Award – Jill, lead; Lorena, Dave, Jenny, Ali
- The award form has been put on the website. Please nominate who you feel is worthy.
- j. 2021 Clinic Working Group—Catherine and Steve
- Looking to put the clinic with the Texas events in May but at present the Texas events are still pending agreement from the county and local pools so may have to move to a different host.

- Could also consider a zoom clinic.
5. Open Water Committee—Phyllis, Ali, Tim, Bob B.
- The open water committee is still a committee of USMS. A proposal was made last year to reintegrate the committee into LDC. As of right now, OWC will continue as a working group and will probably continue into the future as such. The procedure going forward will be to start consideration of which rules will need to be changed and if that is, indeed, something that needs to be done.
 - The main issue will be the formal dissolution of the OWC and reassigning its tasks from rulebook part 3 to the LDC. There are also a number of projects that are tackled by OWC, both rules and non-rules related that will have to be sorted out. We do not have to do all 12 things this year if we do not have the time to do so. It may be wise to get someone from Rules to review the changes made.
 - We will need to work closely with David Miner to determine how the officials certification process would transition and to whom.
6. Other business for the good of the order
- Discussion regarding the wisdom of sanctioning events in a pandemic. USMS sanctions do not override local, state, and national guidance regarding safety, gatherings, etc. and therefore the sanction is regarding the design of the event but the event should not continue if outside local, state, or federal guidelines.
 - Federal, state, and local health guidelines and orders, as well as facility requirements, supersede all advice in this document when they are more restrictive than USMS guidance. If social distancing and/or gathering requirements prohibit any of the parameters listed here, LMSC sanctions chairs should NOT sanction the event.
 - CONGRATS to Alana for being on the cover of this year's rulebook!
 - Update from Jay:
 - In case you missed them, here are two important emails that were sent yesterday:
 - Phase 1 Return to Competition update sent to all national/LMSC volunteers and 2019-21 event directors. The revised docs incorporate guidance for open water events among other updates.
 - Events newsletter sent to all 2021 members. We originally planned this as a new monthly email to members to promote national level events and USMS events in general. This first one ended up with the rather large topic of postponing Spring/Summer Nationals. It also promoted the 2021 USMS 1-Hour ePostal Nationals. We'll continue to send this email the last week of each month moving forward since STREAMLINES is the first Tuesday and SL for Coaches is the third Tuesday.
 - We also announced a new partnership with Zone3 this week (as did USA Triathlon recently). They are based in the UK and an OW/triathlon industry leader in Europe. They are making a push in the US and eager to support USMS events, clubs, and members. We'll have product (raffle prizes and likely caps) to support OWNCs and other sanctioned open water events.
 - Regarding bids for 2023 events... the Championship Committee typically has a May 1 deadline for bids. That deadline is being extended to Dec. 1 for 2023 bids. Last year, we ended up moving 2020 Spring and Summer Nationals in San Antonio and Richmond to 2022 rather than selecting new hosts. Hopefully by postponing 2021 Spring and Summer Nationals (now renamed Short/Long

Course Nationals), we'll be able to safely host these events assuming conditions improve as the vaccine is more widely distributed. But obviously there is still a ton of uncertainty for all events this year.

- By postponing the bid deadline, Champ will be able to make decisions once the status of 2021 events is determined with the option to move 2021 locations (Greensboro/SPIRE) to 2023 if those events can't be held this year. If the 2021 locations end up being moved to 2023 this will also eliminate the unnecessary workload of collecting/evaluating bids for the Championships Committee and frustration from potential hosts that spend time preparing bids if they won't be considered. Dec. 1 was selected rather than delaying a full year so that potential new 2023 hosts will still have ~1.5 years to prepare.
- The bid process and host structure is different for pool, open water, and ePostal championships, but is this something the LDC would consider as well? For example, if a 2021 OWNC is unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, they could be given first right of refusal for 2023.

2021 Long Distance National Championships:

- **Sprint – Masters of South Texas, May 15th**
- **Long Distance – Masters of South Texas, May 16th**
 - Catherine/Tim
 - Update from event host: Verbal agreement with the city for the venue and has paid deposit to hold the site. Contacted chip company for timing. Certified official has committed. Working with hotel on room rate. The host wishes to hold off on opening registration until March 1, 2021 to avoid having refund costs and more certainty that the event will occur.
- **Cable Swim – Foster Lake, June 26th**
 - Ali/Jenny
 - Host is hopeful the event can be held. More information soon.
- **Middle Distance – Newport Pier to Pier, July 10th**
 - Robin/Phyllis
 - In contact with Event Host. The host city is not allowing any special events or issuing permits at this time - everything is on hold. In addition, the State of California does not currently allow large groups or mass gatherings and travel restrictions are still in place. Working with host to incorporate physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures, along with face covering mandates, into event logistics and race timelines.
- **Marathon – Applegate Lake 10k, July 17th or 18th**
 - Jill/Bob B.
 - Their contract has been signed. There is concern by the host about water levels and Covid restrictions by the state especially concerning travel and numbers of people. A minimum of 80 people entered is necessary to break even on costs. Right now the limit is 50 with distancing.
- **Ultra-Marathon – 10 mile New England Masters, July 24th**
 - Steve/Dave
 - Registration is open, currently sitting at 44 of 150 slots filled. This includes a rollover of about 30 people from last year.
 - Registration opened on November 1st 2020. A slow trickle of registrants has occurred.
 - This is the same weekend that 'Spring' Nationals has been moved to.
- **OHeP – Oregon Masters**
 - Sarah/Robin
 - We are up to 46 entrants to the event. I just looked at Club Assistant. We even have participants from Sweden and Australia. Keep the event entries coming in. I know our pool access is so varied, but if you know

of individuals and teams swimming and/or if you are swimming yourself, please encourage them to swim this event!!

- **5/10k – Kentucky Masters**

- Jim/Jenny
- Preparation for the event is underway with the logo and entry form in work.

- **3/6k – Loveland Masters**

- Chuck/Bob S.
- Made contact with host. Jay has corrected host's email on USMS ePostal page. Planning a phone conversation to answer preliminary questions.