

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2022 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Colonies Zones	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Douglas Sayles	Vice Chair:	Jeremy Gross
Minutes recorded by:	Jeremy Gross (edited by DS)	Date/Time:	September 1, 2022, 7 p.m. EST

Motions Passed:

1. MSA Charles Cockrell endorsed as a candidate for USMS At-Large Director from the Colonies Zone.

Other Actions:

1. Colonies Zone delegates will vote whether to endorse Ally Sega as a competing candidate for the USMS at-large director seat once the Elections Committee accepts and posts her nomination package.
2. The chair appointed Jeremy Gross as the Colonies Zone vice chair without objection.
3. Metropolitan LMSC agreed to reimburse \$250 in expenses for 2022-2023 zone website and service award expenses; New England LMSC will cover those expenses for 2021-2022.

Voting Colonies Zone Delegates Present: 23

Voting Zone Delegates Absent: 16

Guests: 12

Voting Zone Delegates Present:

Adirondack: Bob Singer

Connecticut: Sarah King, Ally Sega, Ben Wykoff

Delaware Valley: Jeremy Gross

Maryland: Rand Vaillancourt, John Zarkowsky

Metropolitan: Craig Saint-Amour, RC Saint-Amour

New England: Emily Cook, Homer Lane, Douglas Sayles, Jason Weis

New Jersey: Chris McGiffin

Potomac Valley: Charles Cockrell, Mollie Grover, Jeffrey Strahota

Virginia: Kyle Ahlgren, Caycee Buscaglia, Jim Miller, Patty Miller, Chris Stevenson, Heather Stevenson

Voting Zone Delegates Absent: Joseph Boris (DV), Guy Davis (NE), Laura Dennison (NE), Rob Duguay (CT), Stephanie Gauzens (PV), Paul Grecco (PV), Anna Jordan (NI), Bob Kolonkowski (MR), Leo Letendre (NE), Kevin Loughlin (NE), Crystie McGrail (NE), Ray Novitske (PV), Gerald O'Mara (NJ), David Robinson (PV), Jeffrey Roddin (PV), Ed Tsuzuki (NJ). **Non-Voting Zone Delegates Absent:** Jessica Reilly (Senior Director, Business Operations)

USMS Guests: Alana Aubin (NE), Bill Brenner (Senior Director, Club & Coach Development), Eric Gordon (CT), Tracy Grilli (NE), Peter Guadagni (President), Laurie Hug (PV), Geoff Meyer (DV), Al Prescott (NE), Jayne Saint-Amour. **Non-USMS Guests:** Dave Henderson (Hampton VA Aquaplex). **Unknown Guests:** Ben's iPhone, Zoom User

Minutes:

1) Roll Call / Introductions

- a) The chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. EDT via Zoom.
- b) Quorum present.
- c) The chair welcomed the attendees and made introductory comments.

2) Reports

- a) The chair referenced this previously published [2022 Colonies Zone report](#) and invited brief LMSC updates.
- b) Virginia – Caycee Buscaglia: First Nationals held in Virginia this summer (LCM meet in Richmond). To generate interest, conducted two coached swim clinics at the same pool during the year with socials after.
- c) Potomac Valley – No update.

- d) Maryland – John Zarkowsky: Annual Carol Chidester Memorial Swim Series planned again for 2022 (29th year). Running one meet per month for six months. See info [here](#).
- e) Delaware Valley – Jeremy Gross: Membership grew by ~80 members to 787 versus last year. Several traditional meets did not take place during the pandemic. LMSC is offering subsidies to try to get five or six meets on the schedule in addition to the March LMSC championship.
- f) New Jersey – No update.
- g) Metropolitan – Jayne Saint-Amour: Membership and activity still depressed due to COVID and people not returning to the office in the city. City pool still restricting hours. Many Masters programs have been cut.
- h) Connecticut – Eric Gordon, Ally Sega: Net gain on meets versus last year (three meets held so far). At LMSC annual meeting earlier this week, good support for coaches’ clinic scholarship and grants for regional programs. Sent three people to Volunteer Relay.
- i) Niagara – No update.
- j) Adirondack – Bob Singer: Many Masters Swimming programs have not restarted. Good open water season — 2 mile cable swim, USMS 10k national championship in Lake George.
- k) New England – Alana Aubin: Held the 2nd NELMSC Hall of Fame award ceremony. Three mini-meets scheduled for the fall/winter. December SCM Champs held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA), expecting to host SCM again this year. The zone chair noted the end of an era now the popular NELMSC SCY Championship known as the “Harvard Meet” will no longer take place at Harvard.
- l) Website – Douglas Sayles for Ray Novitske: Ray has transferred the Colonies Zone website’s DNS to a new host and built a new site at <https://colonieszone.org>. Site is a work in progress but live with core content:
 - i) Zone and LMSC text and graphical boundary descriptions and links.
 - ii) Zone records updated per the most recent USMS Top Ten listings and posted on the Zone website as PDF files. Chris Stevenson is working on saving them in Meet Manager format.
 - iii) Will add an Events page that links to the USMS event calendar and other useful calendars.
 - iv) Zone members and constituent LMSCs should send Ray graphics, photos, or other media for the site, especially of zone championships or other pool and open water events.
 - v) Will make additional “look and feel” improvements. Goal is for site to be useful and a gateway to other resources, not duplicative of other existing resources.

3) USMS Board At-Large Director Candidate Endorsement

- a) The chair thanked Jeff Strahota for his work as the outgoing at-large USMS director from the Colonies Zone.
- b) The chair introduced Charles Cockrell as the sole nominee and candidate for the at-large BOD seat.
 - i) Charles’ [nomination package](#) was distributed to all annual meeting delegates as part of the pre-read information. A forthcoming candidate video will be posted on the [USMS 2022 elections page](#) shortly.
 - ii) Charles provided a brief, verbal candidate statement.
- c) As the endorsement vote was about to occur, CT LMSC Secretary Sarah King declared her intention to nominate Ally Sega as a competing candidate for the BOD at-large seat.
 - i) In response to the chair’s inquiry, Ally declared her intention to accept the nomination.
 - ii) The chair clarified that Ally must submit an official nomination package to the Elections Committee per USMS Election Operating Guidelines.
 - iii) Discussion ensued. The sense of the delegation was to defer the endorsement vote on Ally’s candidacy until an official nomination packet is available for review.
- d) **MSA (Rand, Caycee) to vote to endorse Charles Cockrell as an at-large BOD candidate.** Vote conducted via Zoom poll: 65% (13) in favor, 30% (6) against, 5% (1) abstain.
- e) Following Charles’ endorsement vote, Ally provided a verbal candidate statement.

4) Colonies Zone Championships

- a) George Mason University (Cheryl Ward) hosted the annual Colonies Zone SCY championship meet from 2003-2019 but has informed the chair that she will no longer run the meet and that GMU is not available to host this coming season. Cheryl ran all aspects of the meet, as a fundraiser for the GMU swim team, with no oversight by the Colonies Zone other than approving the bid.
- b) WPI has hosted the Colonies Zone SCM championship meet since 2016 (in conjunction with the NELMSC championship) and hosted the 2022 Colonies Zone & NELMSC SCY Championship. The meet director is Alford Green (NEM-WAM).

- c) 2022 SCM Championship:
 - i) WPI intends to submit a bid to host the SCM meet.
- d) 2023 SCY Championship:
 - i) Rutgers plans to submit a bid to host the SCY meet on April 14-16 and hopes to be the long-term meet host and run the event as a college team fundraiser like the GMU model.
 - ii) Rutgers can provide two 8-lane courses plus a warm-up/down pool and plenty of seating.
 - iii) The chair has introduced Rutgers Coach Jon MacColl to key NJ LMSC board members via email.
 - iv) The chair thanked DV LMSC member Geoff Meyer for his work contacting potential host facilities. Geoff noted that if Rutgers does not submit a bid, Princeton may be a possibility.
- 5) 2023 LCM Championship
 - a) Dave Henderson – Rep for Hampton, VA Aquaplex opening in October. 50-meter pool with 8-lane competition pool plus a 25-yd warmup pool. Facility can accommodate 760 on deck and 1500 spectators in an L-shape seating configuration. Five hotels next door or across the street, and five others within a half mile. There are 70 to 80 restaurants and two airports in the area: Newport News (15 min) and Norfolk (25 min). They plan to submit a bid for the zone LCM meet in summer 2023 and are keen on bidding to host a USMS national championship meet in the future.
- 6) No bid submissions in hand yet.

7) Colonies Zone Dorothy Donnelly Service Award

- a) The chair announced “Big Al” Prescott as the 2022 recipient and coordinated a surprise toast and delivery of two etched commemorative mugs at Al’s residence during the Zoom meeting.

8) New Business

- a) Zone Records
 - i) Chris Stevenson described his manual process for updating the zone records once per year per course (SCY, SCM, LCM).
 - ii) The chair stated that, based on communications with the national office, USMS does not plan to automate this process or provide API access to its times database anytime soon.
 - iii) Ben Wykoff is developing an automated process for scraping meet data from the USMS website to more frequently update club, LMSC and/or zone records. Timeline for beta testing TBD.
- b) Communication Between Annual Meetings: The chair proposed a mid-year virtual zone delegate meeting.
- c) Championship Committee
 - i) Jeff Roddin (past chair of the USMS Championship Committee) has agreed to structure and initially lead a Colonies Zone Championship Committee if other volunteer committee members agree to reach out to prospective host facilities. Jeremy Gross and Geoff Meyer volunteered to help.
- d) Zone Policies
 - i) The chair asked participants to consider if and what type of policies the zone needs but deferred discussion due to time constraints.
- e) Vice Chair Appointment
 - i) The chair appointed Jeremy Gross as Colonies Zone Vice Chair without objection. Jeremy accepted.

9) Budget / Expenses

- a) New England LMSC is covering the 2021-2022 expenses for the zone website and service award (less than \$200). Metropolitan LMSC agreed to assume these expenses for 2022-2023 up to \$250.

10) Adjournment

- a) The chair adjourned the call at 8:11 p.m.