

**Southern California Swimming
Open Water Committee
Meeting Minutes and Discussion Notes**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Attendees: Robin Smith (Chair), John Abrami (Coastal OW Rep), Ron Aitken (Desert OW Rep), Colin Geer (Athlete Rep – Metro), Mark Johnson (Metro OW Rep), Alex Nieto (Orange OW Rep), Paul Szuszkiewicz (Eastern Officials Rep and Officials Liaison to OW Committee)

Guests: Michael Kinross (Western Zone OW Chair, Desert), CJ Wanser (Official, Orange)

Absent: Iman Khadembashi (Pacific OW Rep), Paige Kuwata (Athlete Rep – Desert), Rodney Pilman (Eastern OW Rep)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:31 PM

MSP – To approve July 8th meeting minutes. (Motion by Paul Szuszkiewicz, Second by Mark Johnson, Motion passed)

COMPETITION:

1. Reviewed the SCS Open Water Calendar. Discussed latest event cancellations and new tentative open water meets.

2. Coach Michael Kinross (Western Zone OW Chair) and Head Coach Ron Aitken (SAND) presented preliminary draft meet information and answered questions regarding two proposed open water meets to be hosted by Sandpipers of Nevada:

- Las Vegas Open Water Invitational (tentatively scheduled for Saturday September 12th)
- USA Swimming Western Open Water Championship (tentatively scheduled for Saturday October 17th to Sunday October 18th)

The venue for both meets is planned for Lake Las Vegas in Henderson, NV. This is a private artificial lake 15 miles east of downtown Las Vegas and the airport. The meet information is being finalized and sanction applications are in progress. It was mentioned that there is also a tentative USA Swimming Eastern Open Water Championship currently being proposed in the Virginia LSC for October TBD.

3. Robin presented a proposed USA Swimming Open Water Series planned for 2022 with a possible soft-opening in 2021. This series of open water meets will include Elite, Futures, and Age Group competitions across the country. The Committee discussed potential opportunities for SCS participation in the Series.

EDUCATION:

1. Reviewed next steps for SCS “Introduction to Open Water Swimming” webinars. These include reviewing updated draft presentation slides and finalizing the over-all presentation plan.

Action Item(s):

- **Robin Smith to send out revised webinar presentations and updated presentation plan to committee for review.**

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2. Robin mentioned a potential opportunity to collaborate with USA Swimming Open Water Development to share local SCS processes regarding specific aspects of planning open water meets using a webinar format.

SUPPORT:

No items for discussion.

******NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for Wednesday September 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM Pacific Time******

Meeting adjourned: 8:16 PM