

Underwater Society of America

2023 Board of Governors' Meeting

7 October 2023
11:30am-12:30pm CST

The Board of Governors' is composed of the voting representative from each active USOA Council or Club, Society Officers, the Elected Directors and Regional Vice Presidents. (USOA By-laws Section 3.2.1)

1. Call to Order (5 minutes) 11:30am CST
 - a. Attendees: Karen Thullner, Bill Van Deman, Ray Tucker, Carol Rose, Anne Giesecke, Jenny Mohn, Phil Hickey, Katrina Finley, Megann Largent, Doug Beach, Anatoliy Pak, Diego Rodriguez, Evan Frost, Mike Gower, Scott Turgeon, Cristian Parra, Evan Brown
 - b. Establish quorum: 258 present or proxy out of ___ members
2. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Meeting (5 minutes): Approved.
3. Approval of Agenda: Approved.
4. Reports (20 minutes)
 - a. Artificial Reefs – Position Vacant
 - i. Do we want to continue this?
 - ii. Bill Van Deman has a meeting with a reef monitoring group.
 1. Volunteer and/or financial support.
 - b. North American Catch Records – Phil Lamm
 - i. No new records?
 - ii. Scuba and fresh records
 - iii. This will be moved to Spearfishing and see if this would be a better fit there.
 - iv. Bill Van Deman will follow up with some of the records.
 - c. CMAS – Karen Thullner
 - i. CMAS would USOA to host world championships
 1. Spearfishing
 - a. PanAmericans 2026?
 - b. World Competition 2027?
 2. UWH
 - a. Age Group 2025?
 - b. Zone Qualifiers 2026?
 - d. Historian – Charlie Matthews
 - e. IBSRC – Terry Maas
 - i. World wide organization - Blue water hunters.
 - ii. Terry is not with the organization anymore
 - iii. USOA had been a partner, but less so in the last few years.
 - f. Insurance - Wendy Okafuji
 - i. Wendy and Tom Hauber (LA UWH) have secured a \$2million policy with SAM
 - ii. Insurance renews in July.

- g. Legislation – Anne Giesecke
 - i. The United Nations statement is on a 10 year plan.
 - ii. Congress hasn't been doing much.
 - iii. A California Sanctuary is still in process. It will be the first tribal sponsored sanctuary.
 - h. Membership - Close to 800 members
 - i. NOGI – Mike Gower.
 - i. Nominees will be announced at DEMA.
 - j. Ocean Pals - Carol Rose
 - i. There will be nothing for 2024.
 - k. Safety – Position Vacant
 - i. New documents on website.
 - l. Scuba - Tom Leard
 - i. SCUBA is handled by CMAS USA
 - m. Technical / Shipwrecks – Ray Tucker
 - i. Nothing new
 - n. Women's Divers Hall of Fame – Carol Rose
 - i. WDHOFF gives grants and scholarships (2023 \$68,000)
 - ii. Member supported
 - iii. Nominees are under consideration, usually 6 per year.
5. Officers' Reports:
- a. Vice President:
 - i. Started to take post competition surveys, currently spearfishing worlds
 - b. Secretary:
 - i. Official documents have been uploaded
 - c. Treasurer:
 - i. Financials are posted online.
 - d. President:
 - i. Busy year with teams going to worlds.
 - 1. MM UWH Gold
 - 2. Womens Spearfishing Bronze
6. Old Business: (10 Minutes)
- a. Updated SCR
 - b. Uniforms
7. New Business: (10 Minutes)
- a. Sports Commission meeting held prior to this meeting
 - b. Fundraising
 - i. Sustainable giving
 - ii. Continuous giving - Patreon
 - iii. Most fundraising has been adhoc for a specific event.
 - 1. USOA needs a short document on terms for needed funds and how the money will be used.
 - a. Scholarships
 - b. Uniforms

c. Social Media

8. Visual

- a. New sport
- b. Visual competition
 - i. Still photography
 - ii. Entry fee is a USOA membership is good for one submission
 - iii. Panel of judges
 - iv. Hopefully sponsors for winner
 - v. CMAS rules will apply

Adjournment: 12:28pm CST

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9. Call to Order (5 minutes)
 - a. Attendees: Karen Thullner, Diana Madden, Mike Gower, Wendy Okafuji, Ray Tucker, Carol Rose, Scott Turgeon, Diego Rodriguez, Timmy Burke
 - b. Establish quorum: 28 present or proxy out of 61 members
10. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Meeting (5 minutes): MS Approved
11. Approval of Agenda: MS Approved
12. Reports (20 minutes)
 - a. Artificial Reefs – Position Vacant. Scott will check with Katy Cummins to see if she would be appropriate.
 - b. North American Catch Records – Phil Lamm
 - i. No requests were received for any potential record(s) in 2021.
 - ii. Carol will request the records list from Phil to post on the USOA site.
 - c. CMAS – Karen Thullner
 - i. Worked with CMAS on Finswimming at the World Cup.
 - ii. Have become more in tune with CMAS Americas (with Diego's help)
 - iii. Potentially next year KT can attend the CMAS general assembly
 - d. Historian – Charlie Matthews: not present
 - i. Carol has put together a history of some of the sports. We need to add to the website. Also working on a history of USOA.
 - e. IBSRC – Terry Maas
 - f. Insurance - Wendy Okafuji
 - i. We have two new policies - separate for UWH & UWR.
 - ii. Coverage is expanded \$2M/\$4M GL plus SAM
 - iii. Combined premiums are lower than previous policy.
 - iv. Separate event insurance for Spear. Coverage is available for freshwater events but not open ocean. We are still waiting for confirmation that we need this for Nationals.
 - g. Legislation – Anne Giesecke: not present.
 - i. Some of the things in her report that she is working: Ocean pollution, estuaries, floodplains, Drift Net & Bycatch Reduction Act, NOAA & marine sanctuaries.
 - ii. Per Carol, mid-California sanctuary is being worked on.
 - iii. Per Ray, Lake Ontario sanctuary is in NOAA's court right now. Hoping for designation next spring.

- h. Membership - Position Vacant. 705 members currently. Increased membership due in large part to sport directors being diligent about ensuring all nationals participants are USOA members.
 - i. NOGI – Mike Gower
 - i. Presentations & banquet coming up in November at DEMA. Expecting 200 attendees.
 - ii. Election is coming to an end and results are forthcoming.
 - iii. Board meeting usually occurs at the show, but it has been replaced by a video conference in December.
 - j. Ocean Pals – Carol Rose: No contest in recent years due to BTS being cancelled. Hoping for a contest starting in May 2023 with awards in 2024. Proposing that CenCal take responsibility for West Coast contest. Theme needs to be selected by the spring before the fall semester starts.
 - k. Regional Vice Presidents
 - i. NE – Charlie Matthews: Not present
 - ii. SE – Bill VanDeman: Not present. Scott reported:
 - 1. FL State Championships were scheduled for next weekend but cancelled due to hurricane.
 - iii. Midwest – Phil Lamm: Asked to get the catch records on the website
 - iv. NW – Carol Rose: Report is on the website. Currently California is split in two regions, suggested that going forward we move California entirely to the NW.
 - v. SW – Mike McGuire: Working toward bringing Freshwater Spearfishing Worlds under CMAS. The next Freshwater spear tournament in May will not be under CMAS.
 - l. Safety – Position Vacant
 - m. Scuba - Tom Leard: not present
 - n. Technical / Shipwrecks – Ray Tucker: No updates
 - o. Women’s Divers Hall of Fame – Carol Rose: New member induction for 3 classes will be at DEMA. Tickets available at wdhof.org.
13. Officers’ Reports:
- a. Vice President: Thank you to the EC & Sport Directors. USOA is coming along :)
 - b. Secretary: Proposed Finswimming Nationals has been postponed to next year.
 - c. Treasurer: USOA is in a good position financially after struggling for a few years.
 - d. President:
 - i. Documents/policies have been updated with update from the EC, sport directors and our legal counsel.
 - ii. Sport nationals have happened for all sports except Fin.
 - iii. Finswimming went to TWG.
 - iv. Thank you Diego for all of your help with translations & CMAS liaison.
14. Old Business: (10 Minutes)
- a. Harassment Policy - Finalized and on website
 - b. Sexual Abuse & Molestation Prevention Policy - Finalized and on website
 - c. Concussion Protocol - Finalized and on website

- d. Pandemic Procedures going forward: Following local protocol.
 - e. NY Lake Ontario Marine Sanctuary: See notes above.
15. New Business: (10 Minutes)
- a. Sports Commission meeting held prior to this meeting
 - i. Reviewed Standardized Competitive Rule updates
 - 1. Harmonized language
 - 2. Bring Nationals events under Sanctioned Events
 - ii. USOA covering World uniforms

Adjournment: