

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Championship Interview Committee for Minneapolis, MN	<b>Session #:</b>	1	<b>Report #:</b>	1
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Jeff Roddin	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Kim Crouch/Jim Clemmons		
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Pete Tarnapoll	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 @ 6PM Eastern		

**Motions Passed:**

1. None

<b>Number of committee members present:</b>	14	<b>Absent:</b>	n/a	<b>Number of other delegates present:</b>	0
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Jeff Roddin, Tom Boak, Kim Crouch, Kyle Deery (ExO), Barry Fasbender, Don Gilchrist, Jack Groselle, Mark Moore, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jeff Strahota, Pete Tarnapoll, Charlie Tupitza, Paul Windrath (Bid Ambassador)					
<b>Others in Attendance from Bidder:</b> Krisie Melson , Tom Moore , Linda McKee, Randi Schlicting, Dave Kough, Brian Jacobson					

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. EDT

**Introductions:** Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**Purpose of the Meeting:** Jeff explained the purpose of the call as an opportunity for committee members to get to know more about the bid and ask questions that were left unexplained in the bid or that needed further explanation. It was also explained that the Championship Committee now selects the host for each national championship meet.

Jeff thanked the bid team for submitting their bid and being thorough in its submission.

**Question/Answer Session:**

**PROPOSED DATES**

Bidder submitted two sets of dates (August 3-6 and July 13-17). When questioned the bidder indicated it had a strong preference for August 3-6 and submitted the alternative only because they didn't want to leave that line in the submission form blank. The championship committee indicated that it would strongly prefer those dates as well.

**EMS**

The championship committee indicated there are EMS requirements for any championship host. The bidder responded that since it is a contractual requirement for hosting the championship they will meet the requirements and factor it into its budgeting.

**SECONDARY POOL**

The championship committee noted that it remembered an additional pool on campus and inquired if it could be used as an additional warm-up pool or as a backup, if necessary. The bidder indicated the pool is still there. The championship committee referenced that U. of Maryland (2014 LC Championships site) offered the campus membership pool as

overflow for warm up/warm down and asked if the bidder would have the same capacity for a second pool if its meet had more than 1,000 registered swimmers. The bidder indicated the secondary pool (Cooke Hall) would have some, but not all, lanes available as overflow. The bidder also indicated the pool it would not be its preference since it is not located in a practical location, would require more EMTs, lifeguards and hall monitors (for not slipping and falling).

### **BUDGET**

The Championship Committee shared that USMS doesn't ask bidders to submit a budget to hold the bidder's feet to fire. Rather, it's intended as an exercise for bidder to become familiar what it takes financially to put on a Championship meet. That said, the Championship Committee outlined that under meet logistics there are 4-day requirements and asked the bidder if it was aware that there will also be a contractual requirement for a Day 0 (Wednesday), where the pool must be open for a minimum of 4 hours. The bidder understood and consented.

The Championship Committee noted that the bidder's budget included social and transportation costs that were higher than their associated revenue and asked if the bidder's intention was to provide these as a service to swimmers. The bidder replied in the affirmative, indicating it is not their intention to make a profit off of the meet, but rather to provide a great experience for participants and guests while not losing money.

### **DECK SPACE**

The Championship Committee noted that the picture/drawing of the pool included in the bid looked like there was limited deck space between the edge of the pool and the deck bleachers and wondered if there would be enough space to accommodate swimmers' movement around the deck during the meet. The bidder indicated they would 6 feet to the rope and 8 feet from the rope to start of bleachers. The bidder also indicated that it has run many events with over 1,000 swimmers and not found deck space to be an issue at any of them.

### **STARTING BLOCKS**

It was noted by the Championship Committee that the bid showed blocks at both pool ends and questioned which end would be used for starting at LC Nationals. The bidder indicated that all events except for 50s would start at the diving well end. 50s would start at the opposite end.

### **HOTELS**

The Championship Committee asked the bidder if there would be anything else going on at the same time as the championship meet that would impact availability of hotels and how many hotel rooms would be available at the hotel on campus (by the aquatic center). The bidder said that at this point there are no other large campus events scheduled, but would assume some smaller events (e.g., weddings) at the alumnae center. It indicated those would not be impactful to rooms, parking, etc. The bidder said it is easy to secure a substantial amount of rooms at our time of year and could probably get 150 rooms at the campus hotel. The same was said about other hotels.

### **OFFICIALS**

The Championship Committee asked how MN usually finds officials. The bidder responded that officials are generally assigned by Minnesota swimming. Additionally, MN Masters has a pool of officials they work with who are USS, HS and other certified officials. The Committee commented that a minimum of 12 and an optimum of 20 is what are needed for USMS nationals. The bidder's budget of \$4K would not be enough to attract officials (travel, hotels, shirts, etc.) and would be a concern. It was commented that this year's LC Nationals host (SPIRE) has 23 officials coming in and is providing comp accommodations and that others LMSCs/hosts have had trouble finding officials for this meet (depending on location). Most use hotel comp rooms for officials so accommodations don't show up on their budgets. The bidder said they are fortunate in Twin Cities in that the bulk of population and swim population live in Twin Cities Metro, which provides them with more volunteer officials than they had the need for. The bidder is confident officials won't be an issue.

### **RESTROOMS**

The number of restrooms on deck level was outlined, at the request of the Championship Committee, as follows (in terms of the number of toilets): six male, six female and six unisex. These are in addition to those on the submitted diagram: three male, three female and 5 family. Additionally, there separate bathrooms on the lobby level (10 male and 10 female)

### **BLEACHER SEATING & OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS**

Bleacher seating on deck level for athletes was outlined as being able to accommodate as many as 1,000 swimmers and there would be easy marshaling for swimmers to the fan section. There is traditional “spectator” food in aquatic center and healthier fare in the rec center café through South lobby to rec center.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Championship Committee asked if the travel pass for \$10/person is good on both blue and green lines and the bidder confirmed that it does.

### **REGISTRATION AND VENDOR AREAS**

The bidder said these areas are now different than USMS’s last time at this facility. As part of the build out of rec center, and outdoor patio and long hallway (where vendors would be) now exist. The vendor area is secure area after-hours YES. The registration area would be right in lobby (upper level) upon arrival and then on pool deck thereafter.

### **USMS GROWTH**

The Championship Committee asked if the bidder thought if having the Championship meet would impact USMS membership. The bidder indicated that was their hope; by providing opportunities for members to swim in this type of meet, close to home. Their intent is to run it not to make money per se, but because they want it in their state.

### **MN DEVELOPMENT SINCE LAST CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**

The bidder asked to talk about development in MN. People who have not been there in 5 years would see a lot of new development. Now, they have connected both downtowns with the airport via blue and green light rail lines. Vikings are building new a stadium, which is driving new development in downtown areas. There is a new Twins stadium, a new U of MN football stadium, and lots of new restaurants because of both (50 within walking distance of aquatic center). Beauty of light rail system is lot of hotels to aquatic center, easy and convenient. Visitors now get a range of options as to where they want to stay and still have easy access to pool. Since light rail is at the airport, don’t need car rental – providing cost savings. Family members can take light rail to various attractions, like Mall of America.

### **OPEN WATER EVENTS**

Open water events might be something the bid committee would look into and have submitted a bid to host the 2017 open water committee. It was commented that it is often difficult to hold both in the same location due to attracting of athletes and burnout of meet administration/volunteers.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

The Championship Committee asked about the aquatic center’s schedule for 2017, relative to facility, volunteer, etc. burnout. The bidder anticipates that the age group state championships will be scheduled two weeks before. Should there be another meet the weekend before at the AC (although not currently scheduled), the bidder feels this not to be a concern. It has run two meets this summer with one-day turnarounds and did both well.

### **FOLLOW UP**

The Championship Committee has similar calls with all of the bidders (Sarasota and Houston) and then has a full committee conference call to discuss the bids and ultimately select the winning bidders. This call is scheduled for August, 2, 2015 and it is expected that Jeff will contact all bidders on Monday, August 3rd with the selections. The winners are expected to attend convention in Kansas City and to make a presentation at the USMS House of Delegates.

The bidder left the call at 7 p.m. EDT.

## Summary/Analysis:

### Pros:

- Done homework, enthusiastic.
- Nice that LMSC is very involved in hosting meet. Host willing to share the wealth with those helping with the meet (choosing to disperse the revenue to teams/bringing officials and timers/etc. means they'll have more stakeholders in the meet's success)
- Infrastructure like light rail and accessibility to city/aquatic center.

### Cons:

- Large state meet the weekend before may make it hard to have officials turn around quickly. (Officials there have always been very good at supporting masters' group; some think they'll be okay);
- Is there a risk to the LMSC of losing a considerable amount of money; if the meet runs at a deficit. (Tom Moore of the bidder is confident this won't happen).
- May need to provide more incentives to attract officials.

The call was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. EDT.