



Westchester County Swim Conference
Board of Governors: Minutes
Tuesday, October 15th, 2024 @ 7:00PM
Damiano Recreation Center, Rye, NY

Board members present

1. Phil Johanson, President
2. Jill Staffin, Vice President
3. Jack Demasi, Corresponding Secretary – Minutes
4. Kate Tiedemann, Division Liaison
5. Sunyua Song, Diving Liaison
6. Paul McClintock, Officials Liaison
7. Tom Nangle, Outreach Director (via Zoom)

Board members absent

1. Kate Kennon, Treasurer
2. Kirsten O'Byrne, Recording Secretary
3. Carter McFarland, Coaches Liaison
4. Rob Flannery, Past President

1. Roll call

The meeting was called into session by Phil Johanson at 7:05PM. 7 out of 11 Board members were present, constituting a quorum.

2. Review of 2024–2026 Board of Governors

Phil Johanson officially welcomed the 2024–2026 Board of Governors, whose term began September 1, 2024 and runs until August 31, 2026. The Board welcomed Jack Demasi, a new Board member, as Corresponding Secretary, and Phil Johanson, who has been on the Board for a number of years, as the President for this term.

Phil outlined his goals as President for the 2024–2026 term.

1. Carry on the success of past Presidents: The Conference currently consists of 6 divisions, 34 teams, over 100 coaches, and about 1,000 athletes, which is a testament to the success of the WCSC.
2. Invest in the future evolution and success of WCSC:
 - a. Economic: The Conference is currently solvent. We should think of any areas where spending is needed or would benefit us.
 - b. Broaden involvement: More ideas on this will be discussed.
3. Explore new ways to enhance and potentially expand WCSC: More ideas will be explored between Board members before discussion in a meeting.

One way to broaden involvement (goal 2b) would be to create “Deputy Board Positions” which would serve as non-voting advisors and helpers to the Board of Governors (essentially interns to each Board member). More on this would be explored before the next meeting. We have one person from SHCC and one from LYC possibly interested in getting more involved and we will discuss with them.

3. Financial update

Phil gave the financial update. WCSC has about \$27,000 in its account after the 2023–2024 fiscal year, with a few small expenses left to be paid. After a mishap with the Colorado system at 2024 Finals, and with the Conference in such a strong financial position, the Board agreed to explore an incremental replacement of its timing systems.

4. Recap of 2024 season and Conference Championships

Jill Staffin said that there were a couple of issues handled over email behind the scenes, but that the running of the 2024 season was a major improvement over 2023 which saw a plethora of issues. In 2024, she felt WCSC was now fully “recovered” from the 2020–2023 post-COVID-19 period. This year, there were no major weather issues, and only a small amount of dual meets rescheduled.

Conference Championships, which took place from Friday, August 2 to Thursday, August 8, ran smoothly with the help of our host pools: RGC, LI, and WCC. Unfortunately there was very poor weather at Finals this year – agreed to be the worst experienced at WCSC Championship week – but the session got done with the hard work of all of our volunteers, coaches, and Board.

5. 2025 Conference Championship

Dates for the 2025 Conference Championship were finalized as follows:

- **Diving:** Friday, August 1 (RGC?)
- **12/14 Trials:** Monday, August 4 (RGC?)
- **6/8 Trials:** Tuesday, August 5 (LI?)
- **10/17 Trials:** Wednesday, August 6 (LI?)
- **Finals:** Thursday, August 7 (WCC?)

Jack will email Tom this information to be updated on the WCSC website.

Kate Tiedemann has been Meet Director for some time now and is looking to gradually step away from the role. She had had discussions with Chris Rapisarda from Lake Isle about the role, but he ultimately declined. An idea discussed between Kate Tiedemann, Jack, and Phil was a Championship Meet Committee, led by a Meet Director, instead of one singular Meet Director. Kate and Jack could both serve on the Committee, with Kate willing to help guide the group and “pass the baton” for 2025 and staying on after to be in charge of entries as an “Entries Czar”.

Kate Tiedemann said that her husband Art Tiedemann needed relief from handling all the equipment and timing systems for Championship week. She plans on reaching out to Brian McClintock, Head Coach at Westchester Hills, to see if he would be interested in serving as the Equipment Czar on a potential Championship Meet Committee. He was very helpful as a volunteer in 2024 and can be trusted with the equipment.

Another name floated besides Kate, Jack, and Brian was Tobey Saracino, who has expressed that she is willing to train under Kate in 2025 to take over some responsibility. We will reach out to her to discuss and the group will meet when finalized.

The arrangement for host sites has evolved to RGC for Friday & Monday, LI for Tuesday and Wednesday, and WCC for Thursday. There was some discussion about host sites going forward. WCC charges the Conference a small fee for hosting, and RGC has hinted that it also may charge a small fee going forward which Phil said the Conference is willing to pay, given that RGC hosts 2 days of Conferences now.

6. 2025 WCSC calendar

2025's dual meet season dates will be Monday, June 30 – Thursday, July 31, with Championships beginning Friday, August 1.

The Board will look at the 2025 calendar and will set up another meeting sometime in January 2025. In the meantime, we will also try to get dates on the calendar for the Chairs meeting in mid April 2025 and the Coaches pre-season meeting in early June 2025.

The Hy-Tek workshop/mid-season Coaches meeting in July 2024 was a success with attendance from numerous Coaches, both new and experienced. An idea discussed was to have this meeting annually and have it be required for new Head Coaches, while allowing Assistant Coaches to attend as well to get involved with Conference happenings and learn to use Hy-Tek. Jack said he could block this day as a designated "make-up" day for morning meets and then we can schedule the meeting for the evening. The Board generally agreed on this idea and put it on the list of events to schedule for 2025.

Since Jack took over the dual meet schedule this year, there have been a lot of requests for the Conference to put out next year's schedule in the preceding fall, rather than the spring. The sentiment was that the schedule being out earlier will help people plan ahead and allow any minor changes to be more informed changes, rather than last-minute ones. Jack and the Board decided this would be done going forward.

For 2025: Jack will send out an email this week and ask for requests/conflicts by November 15, 2024. He will then make the schedule and have Tom Nangle post the draft on/around December 1, 2024. All changes will be finalized by May 1, 2025.

For 2026 and future: Jack will send out an email after Conference Championship week; requests/conflicts will be due by October 1 each preceding year. The schedule will be made and posted on/around December 1 of the preceding year. All changes will be finalized by May 1.

7. Recruiting/outreach

The Board of Governors deputies idea was discussed under Agenda Item 2.

The Championship Meet Committee idea was discussed under Agenda Item 5.

8. WCSO scholarship donation from WCSC

Paul McClintock requested that the WCSC donate \$500 to the Westchester County Swim Officials (WCSO) scholarship fund as it has done in the past. All 7 Board members present voted in favor of authorizing the transfer of funds. Phil will have Kate Kennon make the transaction.

9. New business/open discussion

There was a discussion on the WCSO and officials. Paul McClintock said that some meets now require 2 officials and that there are 3 new officials being onboarded for summer 2025. Despite one or two close calls, there was not any meet in 2024 without an official. There was some concern this year about officials availability; Paul said this would be alleviated by more people training as officials.

Sunyua Song, who is now Diving Liaison, and Jack both brought up feedback and concerns regarding diving over the 2024 season and prior. Some clubs do not have diving teams and/or do not have diving boards. Some clubs may benefit or suffer from various arrangements regarding diving at dual meets. Since team invitationals do not count towards the 2-meet competition requirement for Championships, some divers (including one this summer) are not able to make the minimum. An idea is having a mid-season "Dive Carnival" sanctioned by WCSC. This could be hosted at 2 locations, with teams assigned to a location based on division or other factors. Jill Staffin and Jack Demasi said this could be a good way to get some other clubs besides RGC/LI/WCC involved as "host pools" without committing to/having to switch around the Championships week arrangement. Paul McClintock said coaches could even score themselves and not require many officials, or any at all (there are no score requirements for admittance to Championships). This would be discussed further.

Jack passed along a comment from Coaches Liaison Carter McFarland who could not make it to tonight's meeting. He asked about potentially drawing out a map of team spots for Championship Finals at WCC that could be rotated year to year. It has been difficult and frustrating for Coaches the last few years now that the bleachers are no longer used after 2020. This topic was tabled until the January meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM.