

VI Regional AGM Minutes, Sept. 28, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Regional Board -

Sheila Coogan - RD

Gill Fehr - ARD

Kate Palmer - Treasurer

Mark Duffell - Registrar

Brent Postlethwaite - RDO

Bruce Moore - ARDO

Kurtis Scriba - Regional Coach

Laurel Laturnus - High School Zone Coordinator (was there very briefly before most people arrived)

Shelly Johnson- Regional Secretary

Club Reps -

Laurel - NAN

Paul Mazzulli - JDF

Tim Defert - CRSK

Jon Siebert - SPSC

Sarah Bonner - ORCAS

Laura Hagen - CVB

Helen Lemon-Moore - PDI

Kelly Lefler - POW

Gabi Vindish - GHG

Janine Fernandes-Hayden - SSS

Others -

Janice Gill - ORCAS

Sarah Siu - ORCAS

John Jacques - ORCAS

Maggie Parker - ORCAS

Elisabete Costa - ORCAS

Amanda Larkin - ORCAS

Reports

Regional Director: submitted by email and copied below:

Well, this is usually where I would reflect back on our Regional accomplishments, and on our Summer Competitive season, but of course, this year has been exceptional in all the wrong ways!

Our Regional Board started out full of hope and excitement during our Fall and Winter Maintenance, looking forward to presenting a training opportunity for our coaches in the Spring. Gareth Saunders and Ian Mattock, both long-time VI Region coaches, were

ready to present their Coach Training Pilot Project for our Region, but unfortunately Covid-19 had other ideas. We will definitely move forward with presenting that training when Provincial Health regulations allow us to.

After many years of being thwarted by scheduling issues, we were also looking forward to being able to return to Commonwealth Pool for our Regional meet. Hopefully we will be able to do that in the summer of 2021. We were also looking forward to Provincials at the new UBC pool – again, we are hoping that may be a possibility for next year.

It seemed very strange indeed not to be spending most Summer weekends at swim meets. Indeed, each weekend would be marked by the phrase “Well, we should have been at _____ this weekend” uttered with genuine sadness. We love spending time with our VI Region swim family, and it just seemed wrong not to be able to renew those friendships in person. Most teams were kept out of the water for the bulk of the Summers season, and had to make do with dryland activities or open water swimming. The Saltspring Stingrays were fortunate to be able to return to the pool in early July, but most teams were unable to return until late in August or early September. There are others, my own club included, who won't be back in the water until nearly mid-October, but the kids are just happy knowing that they will finally get to swim in a pool!

While I wasn't kept busy poolside this summer, I spent a lot of hours on BCSSA business. Our Provincial Board met via Zoom weekly through May and June, and quite regularly after that, developing the Return to Swim workbook and Covid-19 waivers for our clubs to use in preparation for returning to activities. We made the decision to set the Provincial BCSSA fee at \$5 for all swimmers registered by the second Thursday in July (traditional cut-off point for eligibility for Regionals), in order to try to keep swimmers engaged with their clubs. We debated the idea of some sort of virtual Provincials (impossible as most teams were not able to swim at all), and looked at the possibility of waiving the 2-hour rule for the Winter this year

(unpopular due to inequalities in pool access, and the potential for a very un-level playing field when going into next Summer). Our Provincial Coach, Lee Vanden Ham, with the assistance of our Office Manager Penny Bartel, presented the online Covid Cup programming, which many of our Island swimmers participated in. Our Provincial AGM was held on August 17th, and I was pleased to see representation from so many VI clubs. I was also very pleased that the TAS Coach Award this year went to Alex Jevons of the Powell River Aquatics Club, and that one of the two recipients of the Ian Allen Award was Aramis St-Gelais of the Saltspring Stingrays, with Myia Dunn of the Comox Valley Blue Devils being the recipient of our VI Regional Scholarship. Well done to all of you!

The next few months will continue to be a “wait-and-see” period for all of us in BCSSA. We hope that by the time our next Summer season arrives, that we will see life approximating something more like “normal”. The biggest question of course is whether we will be able to return to swim meets – will gatherings that large be permissible? Or will we need to explore the possibility of virtual meets, and what could that look like?

Only time will tell, but I now that both the Regional and Provincial Boards will continue to work hard to make things happen for our swimmers.

Many thanks to all of the members of the Regional Board that I have had the honour and very great pleasure to work with this year. Your hard work on behalf of all VI Region swimmers continues to be an inspirations to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Coogan, VI Regional Director

Assistant Regional Director: not much to report; haven't ordered medals; happy to help

Regional Registrar: submitted by email and copied below:

There were 920 swimmers registered to swim over the 2019-2020 Winter session. 301 of them were new swimmers that hadn't swum in the Summer session, so the number of swimmers was looking positive heading into the 2020 Summer session. Then the pandemic hit and brought any chance of Summer swimming to a halt.

Pools across the Island were closed which prevented a normal Summer 2020 session from taking place.

The BCSSA provincial office did host some online activities, that many across the VI Region took advantage of. Swimmers were encouraged to register with their clubs for the Summer session so they could take advantage of the online activities. The VI Region paid the \$5 BCSSA insurance fee which covers swimmers' insurance until April 2021. There were 492 swimmers registered by July 9th that took advantage of this opportunity.

With the pools still closed throughout the Summer, most clubs couldn't run any events. However, some clubs managed to run dry-land activities in July and August once health restrictions were eased. Tight social distancing protocols and planning was required for these to be held. These activities attracted 7 additional late registrations, for a total of 499 swimmers registered for Summer swimming in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Duffell

Regional Director of Officials: submitted by email and copied below:

With the pools being shut, and the loss of our Summer season, there is really nothing to report for this year. There may be the opportunity to try some online training provided by the Provincial Director of Officials.

Regional Secretary: no report

Regional Treasurer:

Not much happened. WM fees from last year have been paid. Summer registration paid and updated. Only a couple of minor expenses this year. Oct. 31st is year end. Please submit any outstanding invoices before Oct. 31st. I am putting my name forward for president of Nanaimo White Rapids. If elected, I will step down as treasurer. I will help the next treasurer and will finish the financials.

Regional Coach:

- not much to report
- focus on personal mental health for coaches
- Brandon and I worked on a document for Regional coaches
- would like the vote for Regional Coach to happen at Regionals instead of Provincials, more coaches are present
- will stay on if coaching in the Region, but if I am not in the Region, someone else can do it.
- Cassidy Fraser hosted an anti-racism workshop
- Kurtis has composed a letter to the Region to promote racial diversity. It will be submitted at another time.
- Recommends land acknowledgement at meets, scholarships for BIPOC, outreach

High School: no HS swimming this fall; Van Island will need a zone rep.

Club Reports:

CBD:

- cancelled summer season
- WM happening at full capacity

CRSK:

- no summer season
- WM starting Oct. 13
- anticipating up to 20 swimmers
- AGM tomorrow
- Tim's last meeting

CVB

- pool still under construction
- May and June, online zoom dryland and then outside dryland
- lake swimming div 3 and up
- pool will open after Thanksgiving
- securing coaches
- getting COVID plan

GEE-GEEs

- not present at time of club reports
- later reported that water polo is a great a way for summer swimmers to get another day of training; lots of opportunity for water polo players

JDF

- no summer season
- JDF pool not opening until Jan. 1st
- lost 75% of membership
- opened up for WM but having trouble filling it, starting Thursday
- hopeful for summer

Nanaimo White Rapids Swim Club: submitted by email and copied below 2019/20 Annual Report

Submitted by: Laurel Laturus

This was a year like no other. White Rapids 2019/20 Fall and Winter Maintenance experienced a decline in enrollment, particularly with senior swimmers. The season was cut short in mid-March at spring break due to COVID-19 and our Annual Splash and Dash for SD68 elementary students was cancelled. In May & June we offered Virtual Dry Rapids and had over 125 kids register and participate in weekly online Zoom sessions with our head and assistant head coaches. In July and August we offered Dry Rapids In the Park for 6 weeks. This in-person 3-day per week program had 86 athletes participating, including several new members. Both swimmers and parents alike were happy to see one another, have a regular schedule and be moving and active.

Nanaimo Aquatic Centre re-opened on September 10 and White Rapids swimmers were excited to be back in the water for Time to Get Wet! Lane rental space is severely curtailed so that we have only 144 spots whereas last year we had over 500 spaces for fall and winter maintenance. As a result over 95% capacity is filled.

Due to safety distancing protocols, no in-water support is available so swimmers must be able to swim independently. Our general guideline is the swimmer must have swum 50m in two strokes at a sanctioned meet. This has drastically impacted and limited the number of young swimmers that can take part in fall maintenance.

One bright area is we have been able to retain a large number of our coaching staff by keeping them engaged for one hour per week. Ten coaches pursued NCCP Community Coach or 101 training over the summer. We are excited about the future of Nanaimo White Rapids coaching.

The City of Nanaimo has indicated they intend to open Kin outdoor pool next summer as long as nothing catastrophic occurs with Covid-19. We are ecstatic about this unofficial information! We are however, concerned about athlete retention and future interest in the sport of swimming and the club if things do not change in the new year. Covid-19 poses many challenges; operations are not normal and require additional attention and care by all.

Oak:

- 50 swimmers this summer

- dryland 3x/week, starting mid-July
- started in the pool August 16
- extended summer season; still in the water 4x/week in September
- Wm starting this Friday
- families supportive

PDI

- March 13th last swimming in the pool
- April, Cassidy did dryland by Zoom 1x week
- In the summer, Stretch with Cassidy in person 1 x/week
- got in the pool in the last 2 weeks of August
- Sean and Ryan will return as coaches in the Fall
- Cassidy will return in the summer
- WM start with Fridays (12-2); five lanes, max. 30, sitting at 15
- successful in gamin grant
- successful Mayne Island PARC and Rec grant

POW

- not much to report
- pool is still closed
- hoping to open in Nov, but will not be open until Jan.
- tried to do open water, but could not secure coaches
- open water for about 4 weeks for Senior swimmers
- worried about registration numbers
- AGM coming up, worried about retaining exec.

SID

- dryland program in the summer
- late August-Sept. one month swim program
- additional expenses with running program with COVID protocols
- increasing fundraising; 1st bottle drive last week
- WM about 60 kids
- AGM soon, exec agreed to stay on.

SSS

- pool opened July 1st
- ran a 7 week season
- limited # of swimmers
- now in process of organizing wm
- only 12 swimmers at a time
- trouble finding coaches in the winter
- kids can only swim 1x/week to accommodate more kids

Elections

Regional Director: Sheila Coogan by acclamation

Asst Regional Director: Gill Fehr by acclamation

Treasurer: open, Amanda Larkin will consider it

Secretary: Shelly Johnson by acclamation

Registrar: Mark Duffell by acclamation

Regional Director of Officials: Brent Postlethwaite by acclamation

Assistant Regional Director of Officials: Bruce Moore by acclamation

Regional Director of Water Polo: Gabi Vindish.

Adjourned 8:41