



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**3-8-2021**

**Executive Board Members**

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present

Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present

Secretary - Ryan Gausman - Present

Treasurer - Jon Blank - Present

Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present

Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Present

Advisory Member - Cameron Black – Absent

Advisory Member - Camrin Johnson – Present

Advisory Member - Eric Linde – Present

Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present

Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Excused

**Call Meeting to Order: 1733 hours**

**Guest Speaker: Brett Rossum Fish NW**

Brett Rosson is a Washington charter owner, guide, President of Fish Northwest

Brett gave a presentation to the board

In 2010 he became involved in the North of Falcon process. Over time he recognized the dysfunction in the system and tried to change things from inside of the organization. He had little success. He decided the only way to successfully bring about change was from outside of the NOF organization. He became involved with Fish Northwest as the president in May 2020. Since then they recognized that provisions of the Boldt decision involving the tribes and WDFW are not being observed or adhered to and Fish Northwest has filed a lawsuit requesting adherence to all of the provisions and regulations of the decision. The suit is currently awaiting action by federal judge Martinez. There is no estimated timeline for a decision.

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In January 2021 they recognized that rules from the ESA permit system are not being followed. WDFW and the Tribes are required to file for separate permits for fishing. Currently, and since 2014, WDFW has failed to take their own action but, instead has been filing under the Tribal permits issued by the BIA. This is a violation of the rules by WDFW. They are using the wrong permit which supersedes the check and balance in the system, allowing manipulation of the process by one stakeholder group, which appears to be happening. Since WDFW has been unwilling to obtain their own permit, Fish Northwest has filed a lawsuit aimed at enforcement of the correct legal process by WDFW. Fish Northwest believes that Chinook salmon fishing will end if no action is taken.

Fish Northwest has raised approximately \$130000 in donations to assist with legal fees so far. Approximately half has been spent so far.

Fish Northwest aims to get away from the legal/lawsuit approach and become involved in more positive areas such as fish production which will benefit all stakeholder groups.

Discussion: The board discussed alignment with and donation to Fish Northwest. There was concern among board members that, in light of the form cooperative working relationship we have been trying to build with WDFW, it may not be our best choice to be part of the adversarial relationship which Fish Northwest is using. Whereas we appreciate the work Fish Northwest is doing, and agree that the abuses they are targeting need to be resolved, WSGA chooses not to get involved in the legal efforts of Fish Northwest at this time. This decision will be revisited in the future depending on how our efforts to bring about change via a cooperative partnership with WDFW progress.

**Member Report: Doug Saint-Denis**

Member report: 3 new professional members since last meeting.

Mark Coleman spoke to a number of past members who have not renewed their membership for 2021, Almost all have said they intend to renew but so far have not actually done so. He will continue to monitor that

**Treasurer’s Report: Jon Blank**

\$6561.23 checking, \$1757.32 PayPal

Greg Kain suggested we consider charging extra to cover credit card fees if people pay membership fees with a card. Doug provided the information regarding our fees for credit cards, electronically and manually entered. They are 2.45% for PayPal and 3.5% for manually entered cards. This comes to an expense of \$2.45 and \$3.50 respectively on a \$100 membership fee.

No action was taken on this matter.

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**Old Business: Sport Angler Lifetime Membership Proposal: Doug Saint-Denis**

Sport Angler Lifetime Membership: This subject has been under discussion since previous meetings. Greg and Cary are currently involved in developing membership proposal which will address multiple issues, this one will be included in that process to be presented to the board when it is completed.

**Possible Closure Spring Chinook Coastal Rivers: Robert Kratzer**

Coastal Steelhead Closures: Bob Kratzer reported that the closures will now affect all steelhead fishing in the system until May 28. Some rivers will be closed for all fish, including Spring Chinook. Many of these rivers are already listed in the fishing regulations as open for Chinook so this would be classified as an emergency closure. Apparently WDFW has decided to wait until North Of Falcon is open to decide on Spring Chinook regulations. This is a change of policy for them. When paired with the current steelhead closure, a closure of Spring Chinook fishing will be a devastating blow to many guides and coastal communities.

**Status on Amendment of By-Laws: Doug Saint-Denis** – None are ready to be presented at this time

**Sponsor Plan Update: Cary Hoffman & Greg Kain** – This will be included in the membership proposals to be presented by Greg and Cary at the next meeting or two.

**Hatchery Wild Coexist Donation: Robert Kratzer** –

Bob reported that this project seems to be a good one for WSGA to consider becoming involved with. He believes it is a good campaign with a good message and that it is forward-looking. They support strong broodstock hatchery programs. Their message is that, with proper management hatchery fish and wild fish can coexist without harm. They have made presentations to state legislators, senators, and non-angler groups so far. It seems like we should be a part of this effort since it aligns directly with the position WSGA has taken regarding broodstock hatchery programs.

Ryan moved that we donate \$500 to Hatchery-Wild Coexist, Doug amended the motion suggesting that we donate \$1000. Marc seconded the \$1000, the motion passed unanimously.

**For the good of the order:**

Marc Bush reported that former legislator, Brian Blake, told him proposals are still being brought up to the legislature regarding fishing regulations. He said we need to continue to reach out and build strong relationships with those in our state government.

Greg Kain: He heard that a request has been sent to WDFW requesting that all North Of Falcon information and data be made public prior to the meetings. It was sent in the form of a disclosure request. Unknown who sent the request.

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# WA State Guides Association

Representing WA State Sport Fishing Guides & Charters

waguidesassociation.org

Eric Linde: Discussed the Fish Northwest group and Brett Rosson. He said Brett is very highly regarded among guides who know him. He makes some people nervous because he is taking some “big action” to bring about change in the systems.

Mark Coleman: He has spoken to anglers who asked for the reason WDFW closed the coastal steelhead fisheries. He said so far nobody has seen the true source of their statistics. Bob said he will check his sources to see if anybody has anything to offer.

**Close Meeting: 1901 hours**

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