



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 12th, 2021

Executive Board Members

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present

Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present

Secretary - Ryan Gausman - Excused

Treasurer - Jon Blank - Excused

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 – Excused

Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

Meeting called to order: 5:40pm

Treasurer Report - Jon: Checking \$4,223.66 PayPal \$2,158.18 (Jon was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent the treasurer report in advance of the meeting)

Old Business: Meeting Minutes from August. All in favor of approving the minutes, approved unanimously.

New Member Report - Doug: Capt. Robert Riley out of Sieku.

Coastal Steelhead Update via Guide Advisory Meeting – Bob: There was a guide advisory meeting last week. The coastal steelhead issue was discussed during this meeting. It should be noted there are a couple more town hall meeting coming up and WSGA members should attend if at all possible. The department is creating a Coastal Steelhead Advisory

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group at our request. The department is still working preliminary data. James Losee provided the update. The message we got was doom and gloom in regards to coastal steelhead. It also appears the department wants to regulate the fishery back into existence. (That is with more regulation, the steelhead run will improve.)

There were comments in the GAC meeting that the department would not share tribal data, which appears to be different than past practice. (Bob & Doug are looking into this with WDFW) WDFW is also leaning heavily on the data used from the Hoh River, because they have a fairly good monitoring system in place. That same person has been monitoring the Sol-Duc and the Quileute for 20 plus years, so they should be able to use that too. The concern is if just the Hoh River information is used to manage all the rivers, it may not be good.

The department is looking at managing the coastal rivers separately, rather than as one.

Questions / Comments

Greg Kain, when is there going to be a plan implemented? This could take a while and it will likely be a painful issue. Two WSGA members asked this same question during the Guide Advisory Meeting, but did not get an answer.

Bob – in the past we were able to ask for the tribal numbers and it was not a problem, but something has changed.

Doug – is this something that will require a PDR?

Marc – is there a reason the department is against broodstock.?

Bob – there are those who think you might be mining fish. There was a plan in place, but part of the plan was to build the broodstock and then phase out the Chambers Creek stock. But if we did that it would eliminate Steelhead fishing from November to January. The question is, why can't we do both? It was this issue that put a kink in the plan.

Greg – We would like to have consistent opportunity rather than no opportunity.

Conservation Considerations for WSGA – Cary: This is a discussion on conservation steps WSGA can take or who we can partner with for this. Cary is a graduate of the UW and has a background in ecology and is a natural resource specialist. He is currently working with non-profits to map streams and work on restoration projects. He believes WSGA should develop a stewardship plan and focus on re-building habitat on rivers we fish on. It would allow us to be taken a little more seriously. We need to establish a model of conservation and re-building, rather than just takers.

This would not cost WSGA any funds. The funding comes from grant funding. It would require time from members and WSGA supporters. We would start with small scale restoration projects. Moreover, it would actually help our river systems and the fish.

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We could do quarterly events, annual events, such as tree planting, tree harvests, etc.

Doug asked the group if they would support this plan. The group supports this conservation plan. Doug and Cary will work on the stewardship plan and start talking to the groups we need to partner with to move forward.

Membership Rally: (prize package?) Tabled until next meeting.

Sponsor Plan - Greg: 2022 is fast approaching and all of our current sponsors will be asked to renew. We need to have a plan in place for renewals and new sponsors. Greg returns from Alaska at the end of September. He said he can have an outline at the October meeting and a final proposal at the November meeting.

For the Good of the Order:

Bob – Bob submitted his application to the Steelhead Advisory Group. Has put out a request to some folks for input into an informational video he is developing for the legislators and senators to see, in hopes it will open their eyes to some fishing issues. If you have comments or ideas, email Bob.

Marc – At fish camp and legislator Barkis is at the camp and seeing what is going on with fishing. Industry folks, fishing guides, all talking to the legislator. Barkis is also head of the Sportsmen Caucus in the House.

Greg – Bristol Bay had the largest return of Sockeye Salmon ever. Over 60 million fish. That begs the question, how healthy are the ocean conditions? Is it because of stream management? etc.

Camrin – we have huge issues in the Yakima basin. Folks are using illegal gear, killing fish, even a guy dredging the river for gold. We call enforcement and they do not show up. Lots of folks on the Yakima. It’s difficult to help WDFW enforcement if they do not respond.

Eric – Buoy 10 was good! Boatmanship is bad. Guys running to close to others, etc.

Cary – Nothing else to add.

Bob – Discussed some numbers the department shared in regards to guides who are submitting logbooks. This entire discussion occurred because the state is trying to define what a full-time guide and what a part time guide is in a report to the commission. WDFW said there is only 42% Compliance. Only 12 guides have submitted over 100 logbooks. We all know there are way more than 12 full time guides. We could name off over 100 guides who are full time. That means the participation rate is way lower than 42%.

Bob has seen 10 guides lined up at the boat ramp and a game warden was with 100 yards of them and never asked about logbooks. Camrin echoed the same sentiment in his area.

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WA State Guides Association

Representing WA State Sport Fishing Guides & Charters

waguidesassociation.org

This begs the question that if it is not being enforced, why are we doing the logbooks?

Eric Linde. I fish full time, but I pick up the majority of my clients are being picked up on the OR side because I am also licensed in Oregon.

If it cannot be enforced and guides won't use it, then it is a waste of time and money for the department to continue with logbooks.

Greg – In AK, the logbooks are backed up a creel data weekly, to make sure everything matches and can be a benefit to fish management. AK also send out an angler survey. They put all 3 together to ensure solid data. I love here and would like to fish here full time. I have to travel to make a living. It comes down to opportunity. I have to have opportunity to make a living.

Bob – This was only brought up because Camrin brought up the issue of enforcement. If enforcement is non-existent, then why are we doing logbooks, because logbooks won't be done if there is no enforcement.

Meeting End: 6:37 PM

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