



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**04-11-2022**

**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 – Absent
- Advisory Member - Eric Linde – Present
- Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present
- Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

General Membership Invited to this meeting

**Meeting called to order** at 1737 hrs

**Treasurers Report:** Jon Blank, \$9459.36 checking, taking into account the \$250 outstanding check to NACO. \$1626.25 PayPal.

**Sponsor Acknowledgement Photos:** We are still trying to choose the photo for the sponsor acknowledgements. Photos 1,2, and 11 are tied for last place, we need to choose between photos 6, 5, or 4, Doug will email them out again so we can vote for our choice.

**Industry Meetings Idea:** Bob Kratzer has been doing a lot of events recently, podcasts, meetings, group events, involving our association and many others related to the fishing industry in Washington State. He continually hears talk about the division and differences between the various groups. He had an idea, “what if we invite representatives from the various groups to get together and try to find a common idea that we can all support and join forces on to present to WDFW as a united front?” Currently every organization is bombarding WDFW with their pet projects and interests diluting the level of support available for any of us.

Greg Kain: Believes that’s a great idea, currently the dept. has to try to address a lot of issues. Maybe if we could all find a way to be unified we would be more effective at getting at least something accomplished.

Jon Blank: Likes the idea, try to find one idea that is “best for fishing”.

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Bob Kratzer: Maybe it could turn into a quarterly or twice a year meeting.

Marc Bush: Agrees, it could certainly be a challenge to get all stakeholders to agree on something though. In the end we all want more fish.

**Lobbyists/Representation:** To set up a PAC or retain a lobbyist seems to cost in the area of \$80-100,000 per year. This far exceeds our budget. This number represents many of the shared resource situations.

Greg Kain: He’s heard of groups spending \$24-36,000 annually but nobody seems to be doing anything to make fishing any better. Those with lobbyists don’t seem to be generating any good results. We need to explore other options. How would it work to have a paid person, “Executive Director”? This person could devote the time necessary to handling social media, email, letters, and attending meetings. In Alaska they have people in this role who they pay for 20-30 hrs per week. The assignments would vary based upon the instructions they receive from the board and the current issues and opportunities.

Any of these options will require additional sponsor money.

**Ad Hoc Steelhead Group:** Bob Kratzer. They had the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, still working on the details of mission and approach. They are considering tiers of management plans, keyed off of escapement. If the fish are above, at, or below escapement goals it would bring different plans into effect. Each river or system would have an independent plan and action in place as a result, keyed to the specific needs of that system. The overall master goal is to bring a Steelhead management plan to the legislature going forward. He has been a little critical of their progress and has taken some flak for statements to that effect. He believes there are some in the group trying to go too deep in their analysis of the issues, unnecessarily slowing down the overall group progress.

Their next meeting is April 28. These meetings are open to the public, it’s unknown how many people are listening in but comments are open and very few are commenting or asking questions. Bob would like to see a lot more people who are affected by the steelhead plan taking the initiative to listen in and express opinions. It’s going to dictate their future in the end. “Everyone who has a stake in coastal steelhead needs to be a participant in these meetings”.

**Yakima River Status:** Camrin Johnson and Ryan Gausman have been trying to get a solution to the closure of the Bristol Flats river access. Camrin has compiled a list of 50 guides who at some point during the year use this access. The Wallace family has communicated that they wish to work with us but they are being totally unresponsive to our inquiries lately. Ryan has been in contact with a Kittitas County Commissioner regarding this issue and will continue to communicate in the hopes that they can communicate the economic importance of this access to the county.

**NOF PMFC:** Doug St Denis.. The discussions should be further along at this point, it seems that the tribes may be disagreeing with each other regarding the details. A phenomenon has emerged though, in Area 1 there was a lot of public involvement and comments which apparently influenced the final decision regarding seasons and opportunities.

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In the end the result was apparent better fisheries for them. The lesson here is it's critical to be involved and represented. The tribes appear to be developing their own plans without input or cooperation from the state. They announce what they intend to do then go carry out their plan. In the end though the NOF people seem to be listening to public input where it is present. It brings about better results.

**NACO Price Increase:** WSGA uses NACO for random drug testing for those members with USCG captains licenses. We get discounted rates. For 2023 there will be a \$15 price increase which will require a matching dues increase. The question at issue is should we increase our dues across the board or only for those members wishing to participate in the drug testing program. The subject will be addressed later in the year.

**Zoom Renewal:** Our Zoom account is up for renewal. It was generally agreed that we need to renew it.

### For The Good Of The Order:

**Mark Coleman:** Mark plans to contact members who have not renewed regarding renewing for 2022

**Greg Kain:** He had a conversation with WDFW enforcement personnel regarding enforcement of the logbook requirement. They are planning on doing some of that this year. He discussed enforcement of Coast Guard license requirements as well to which they responded they cannot enforce those because that is a federal requirement. Greg also commented that the Kalama River hatchery releases are being severely decreased

**Marc Bush:** The Walleye Willy Shootout event was a success netting approximately \$1500 for the cancer fund it was supporting.

**Meeting Adjourned: 1900 hrs.**

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