



General Membership Meeting

01-09-2023

Called to order: 1737 hrs

Present: Doug St Denis, Bob Kratzer, Ryan Gausman, Jon Blank, Camrin Johnson, Marc Bush, Cary Hoffman, Mark Coleman, Greg Kain, Cameron Black

Association Members: Paul Ockerman, Patric Gaffney, David Godfrey, Erik Brigham

Thanks to all who attended, we appreciate your interest and input!

Treasurer Report: Jon Blank \$9106.88 Checking \$4448.24 PayPal

December Meeting Minutes: Doug moved to approve, Bob seconded, minutes were approved

2022 Association Activity Recap:

The Executive Board met each month in 2022.

2022 Accomplishments

- Two eboard members are members of the WDFW Guide Advisory Committee, which WSGA was instrumental in the organization and approval of the WDFW guides Advisory Committee.
- WSGA was instrumental in getting WDFW to create an ad-hoc Coastal Steelhead Advisory Group. One board member was part of the Coastal Steelhead Advisory Group.
- Partnered with Fish Hunt NW for sponsorship & video ad, which run on their show.
- WSGA attended numerous coastal steelhead group meetings as well as all WDFW town halls for this issue.
- WSGA has been invited and attended all three 2022 Recreational Fishing Stakeholder Meetings with WDFW.
- WSGA Board members attending multiple North of Falcon meetings for 2022.
- Members of the executive board have consistently communicated with legislators and senators on fishing issues which affect sport anglers and ultimately our industry.

Bob Kratzer did a video with Fish-Hunt NW on hatchery steelhead, others on coastal steelhead and the WSGA. They request a trip per year as compensation for the publicity

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Regarding hiring a media specialist for WSGA:

Bob, “we are not where we are yet as an association, we need to be more visible through the media. We are all stretched already with little available extra time and little expertise regarding social media. We are working on hiring a person to be our social media specialist who will give us a stronger presence. Thinking about 3-4 posts per week on facebook and Instagram, showcasing what we are doing as an association as well as showcasing our members and their businesses as well. We need to update our website every few weeks to keep it fresh. We also need to start a quarterly newsletter which will keep everyone up to date and will also showcase our sponsors and members. This person will be reaching out to all members for news and will need input and information from everyone in the WSGA. Our budget is \$200-300 per month. Our ultimate goal for this effort is to gain additional members and sponsors.”

Mark Coleman: “It will make Washington guides more aware of WSGA and the activities we are taking on to strengthen our industry. This will result in our being able to gain more members.”

Mark interviewed 4 candidates, 3 of the 4 seemed to be qualified. We need someone from Washington who understands guiding culture and our state. Danielle and Lucas are both great candidates, they were pretty equal overall in general. Mark said he favors Lucas, who agreed to \$300 per month as compensation. Mark feels the outreach should pay for itself with new members and sponsors.

Paul Ockerman: “Have we asked why we aren’t getting the new membership we would like right now?”

Doug: Doug said he speaks to Washington guides all the time who are not familiar with us and what we are doing. Other guides just don’t want to join anything. Other groups have experienced real benefits from social media outreach.

Patric Gaffney: “There are some guides who feel like what we are doing isn’t going to make a difference anyway in the long run.”

Paul: “In many cases we have kept things from becoming much worse than they would have been without us, such as the guide logbooks.”

Camrin: “I totally agree with adding a social media person. The guides need to hear what we are doing.”

The media specialist issue was then tabled for the rest of this meeting. Final interviews will be held with the candidates and the outcome of those will be communicated to the board members for a decision.

2023 Meetings: Doug suggested we schedule June and July board meetings as “tentative”, subject to cancellation. Those months are our busiest and many board members aren’t available to attend meetings, it’s difficult to get a quorum. These two monthly meetings would be held if there are relevant, important issues to discuss otherwise the meetings would be cancelled.

Note: We want to remind all members that all of the monthly board meetings are conducted via Zoom and are open to attendance by any interested members of the WSGA. Reach out to Doug St Denis if you are interested to receive an agenda and zoom link.

Commission Reform:

Cary Hoffman: Cary suggested we put in a real effort to contact or work with legislators and senators regarding reforming the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The process whereby members of the commission are appointed needs to change. Currently members are appointed with no accountability, no connection to hunting or fishing, and the process is subject to manipulation by special interest groups through the governor's office. RCW and WAC requirements may not even be being followed. RCW 77.04.030 deals with the appointment process.

We need to see if we can find lawmakers willing to consider sponsoring a bill to redefine the process and make it more transparent and relevant to protecting the fish and wildlife and the hunting and fishing industry.

Coastal Test Fishery:

WDFW has announced they plan to hire an "angler" to do a coastal test fishery this season in an effort to validate creel samples being collected. This angler would fish the coastal waters using various methods and would be paid for their efforts.

So far WDFW has not hired anyone to do this even though it was scheduled to begin on December 1. They have provided no updates. They also have not defined where all of this persons gear, tackle, and equipment is coming from since they are supposed to use all methods, tackle, and flyfishing, by boat, and on the bank.

Doug: How are they planning to find a person with all these skills and how do they choose them?

Bob: WDFW has not explained any of this, there are so many variables. Bob will make a call to see if he can find out any more about this plan.

Eboard Elections:

Many of the eboard positions are open for reelection currently. Ryan Gausman will no longer be serving as secretary due to changes in the focus of his business. All other incumbents will run for reelection. Voting will be for President, Secretary, Member at large A, Advisory members 2, 4, and 6.

Nominations are open to all members. Email Ryan Gausman, ironspuroutdoors@gmail.com, with any nominations by January 14. Voting will then be open for 15 days electronically, for all members in good standing.

Patric Gaffney has been nominated for Secretary, no other nominations occurred at this meeting.

Open Floor For Input On 2023 Priorities:

Doug: We still need to work on setting up regional sub groups around the state.

Patric: Agrees reorganization of the commission is an important priority.

Also membership growth and connecting guides from around the state are important.

Other outdoor groups around the state have the same vision as we do, it would benefit all of us to work together on some of these issues. It would show unity as well. Patric would like to include LinkedIn in the media focus.

Cary: We should reach out to Amy Grunden of the Wild Salmon Coalition about this. Cary has her contact information

Paul Ockerman: Would like to look into refining the rules for the "crackpipe drift" regarding people with disabilities fishing procedures. Allow fishing from a floating device through the area. Only permanently

disabled persons would be allowed to fish within the closed area. People are abusing the rules now, we should push for enforcement and take better care of people with special needs.

Bob: The newsletter and special media person are important. A presence at PMFD, North of Falcon, and working with regional groups should all be emphasized.

Eric Brigham: Has met with legislators in the past about allowing guide's fishing below the longview bridge with a Washington State guide license. WSGA should take this on as a project.

Doug: Decals will be sent to renewing and new members by the end of the month. He has decal art links available for inclusion on websites or other applications.

Marc: We should do a better job of communicating how to use NACO drug testing services for those who need them. This is re: the drug testing consortium membership which is available to members from NACO.

Puyallup Sportsman Show Meeting: We will be having a general members meeting at the Puyallup show. Doug is working to secure a day and time, he will communicate it to the membership.

Meeting Adjourned: 1932 hrs