



12-12-2022 E Board Meeting Call to order: 1741

Present: Doug St Denis, Ryan Gausman, Bob Kratzer, Cary Hoffman, Mark Coleman, Greg Kain, Marc Bush

Treasurer Report: \$8866.88 Checking Account \$2641.72 PayPal

Old Business: None

November Minutes: Doug moved to approve, Bob seconded Approved All in favor. Minutes passed.

Update on the recent Commission Meeting: Greg Kaine

The steelhead proviso was the subject. Greg testified that we, WSGA, is in favor, for the majority of it. He added that the process wasn't fair, the people on the committee were not the best choices, and it was jammed through on a limited timeline. We are going along with it because it's better than nothing at all.

Greg said that, as board members for WSGA we should all be familiar with and aware of the provisions of the Proviso, it's an important document for our industry. Steelhead fisheries are changing in our state and, as a board and as an association, we must stay in touch and involved.

The meeting went three days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Greg was able to attend Thursday and Friday. Thursday started with a committee meeting where the Proviso was discussed, and changes were proposed and approved. Greg said the changes were actually good changes.

A Columbia River report came up as well which included Buoy 10. Discussion was around a proposal for every other day guide fishing days and an 08-16 opening day for Buoy 10. There was no public testimony on Thursday.

Friday started with public testimony which Greg joined. He said WSGA does not support guide day closures, he said there are better alternatives such as annual limits and one trip per day options. Later on Friday the steelhead proviso went to public comments, Kelly Cunningham agreed that there were no hatchery production cuts authorized. There were no provisions in the proviso for predator control or brood stock hatchery programs either.

Bob added that PSA and Northwest Steelheaders have been working with the state on the proviso. They helped with maintaining hatchery output for now.

The proviso went to the legislature today, 12-12.

Mark suggested a poll of our membership on important issues in the future.

Non-Profit Update: Doug changing our status from 501 C6 to 501 C3

Dough made some headway on this project. He was able to speak to an attorney. We can change our status, there will be more information coming regarding setting up a PAC. We may be able to change with just a language change and an application to the IRS. The PAC will be complicated, we have to be careful of the rules on that.

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Media Specialist: Bob

In the past Greg suggested quarterly newsletters to the guide community. We need to start doing those. Our association needs to have a bigger presence in the media if we expect to be relevant. This committee is made up of busy people with very little spare time, we should consider hiring someone to be a media communications person and to take on this project. We need the letter but we also need to be in social media and have an email outreach too. Someone who is assigned this could do a lot on facebook, Instagram, our website, and with a newsletter. They could be in touch with our board and membership to solicit photos and news to present.

Bob added, our association doesn't have a lot of spare money but, if we could get this done for \$100-200 per month it seems like it would be worth it, and it could result in membership growth to offset **the** expense as well.

Cary Hoffman said he knows someone who may be a candidate, he will followup. Marc Bush said maybe we should bring it up at the annual meeting as well.

All present approved of the Media Specialist idea

Annual Meeting: Our bylaws state that we will have an annual meeting in January. The sportshow has been moved to February so that doesn't work for it being the annual meeting venue. We will have our annual meeting on zoom in January for all members then, at the sportshow, we will have an in-person meeting as well. This meeting at the sports show will be open to all guides, whether they are a member or not. More information to follow on these.

Coastal Test Fishery: Bob

WDFW wants to start a test fishery on the coast for Steelhead, specifically on the Hoh river. They will hire a person to do the fishing, 2 days a week on the bank, one day in a pontoon boat, and one day a week in a guide boat. This will go on 4 days a week for 13 weeks; the intent is to gather data and to compare to the results of the creel census to validate the data collected there.

Letters To Be Written: Bob

We need to draft several letters to the commission, to wdfw, and to the legislature. Included would be our position and suggestions regarding Buoy 10, the coastal steelhead situation and proviso, and about the Chehalis system. Doug, Bob, and Cary will work on drafting these letters, preferable in the next week or so.

FGOTO:

Bob: We as an association have some things we need to do better, we have some good ideas

Greg: He received an email with the forecasted Chinook returns. The Columbia River returns look good for this year. Some good numbers for many other rivers as well

Meeting adjourned: 1908