



Eboard & General Membership Meeting Minutes

01-30-2025

Executive Board Members

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present
Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present
Secretary – Patric Gaffney - Present
Treasurer - Jon Blank - Excused
Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present
Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Absent
Advisory Member - Cameron Black – Absent
Advisory Member - Camrin Johnson – Excused
Advisory Member - Eric Linde – Absent
Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present
Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

2025 General Membership Meeting for the Washington State Guides Association to discuss key issues and updates.

Key Takeaways

- The Rucklehouse report proposes 3 options for the WA Fish & Wildlife Commission, including abolishing it - a concerning development for guides/anglers
- Limited entry for guides is no longer being actively pursued by WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- The association needs more member engagement in social media content creation to boost visibility
- The annual kids' fishing derby at Summit Lake will continue, with WSGA doubling its sponsorship to \$1,000 for 2025

Agenda Items

Called Meeting to Order: 0816AM

Old Business: None

Treasurer Report: (Jon Blank) Savings \$17.00, PayPal \$1,000, Checking \$31,630.08

What WSGA Accomplished in 2024

- WSGA active participation in regulatory meetings has led to positive outcomes for anglers, such as rescinding an unpopular steelhead rule. This includes NOF.
- WSGA is an active member of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Northwest States – Addressing issues specific to fishing. They are on top of commission decisions, as well as legislative activities. We meet monthly.
- WSGA continues to advocate for fishing guides and address concerns regarding potential limitations on licenses. We have not taken a stance one way or another this year, but rather ensuring that any limitations on license were fair and equal.
- GAC – WSGA has 5 executive board members and one WSGA member as part of this active advisory committee.

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Advisory Member 6
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- Community engagement initiatives, such as the Fish Hunt NW Kids Trout Derby, highlighting the association's commitment to youth involvement in fishing.
- The WSGA was ahead of discussions regarding limited entry and will continue to advocate for its members while monitoring developments in fishing regulations.
- The board voted to lower the lifetime sport angler membership fee from \$1,000 to \$250 to encourage participation.
- WSGA worked to fix the suspended status with the IRS 501 C6
- WSGA started using the Fathom AI subscription which aims to enhance the quality of meeting notes and save time in preparation.
- Multiple letters to WDFW leadership, to include a letter encouraging the proper selection of Region 6 Director.

Social Media Engagement

- Wheeler Marketing reports slower but continued growth in 2024
- Critical need for more member-submitted content, especially 30-60 second videos
- Content promotes both the association and individual guide businesses
- Members encouraged to share client photos/videos, fishing tips, landscapes, etc.

Rucklehouse Report & Commission Changes

- Report commissioned to evaluate WA Fish & Wildlife Commission
- 3 options proposed: status quo, reform, or abolish and replace with governor-appointed position
- Abolishment would consolidate power, likely negatively impacting sportfishing interests
- New anti-consumptive conservation groups pushing for changes
- Members urged to contact representatives and stay informed

Guide Advisory Committee Update

- Limited entry for guides no longer being actively pursued by WDFW
- Focus shifted to other priorities, reasons not fully clear
- Possible changes to non-resident guide fees being considered
- New definitions for guiding/chartering to aid enforcement
- Proposal to make guides responsible for client violations in their boat

Fish Northwest Kids' Fishing Derby

- 6th annual event to be held May 17th at Summit Lake
- 170-180 kids participated last year
- Need 3-4 guide boats to take kids fishing
- WSGA voted to increase sponsorship from \$500 to \$1,000 for 2025

Board Nominations

- Positions up for election: President, Secretary, 2 Advisory Member Positions

- Current members willing to run again, Brandon Wedam was nominated for Advisory Member 2
- Voting to occur via email in coming weeks

Next Steps

- Members to increase social media content submissions
- Educate clients/public about WDFW Commission changes, encourage engagement
- Volunteers needed for May 17th kids' fishing derby
- Watch for board election emails and vote
- Consider participating in podcasts to discuss industry issues

Meeting Adjourned: 0950 Hours