



February 2026 WSGA EBoard Meeting - February 09

Meeting Purpose

To review financials, membership, and address critical industry issues.

Executive Board Members

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present
Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present
Secretary – Patric Gaffney - Present
Treasurer - Jon Blank - Present
Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present
Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Absent
Advisory Member – Jacob Munden – Present
Advisory Member – Brandon Wedam – Excused
Advisory Member – Gabe Miller – Excused
Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present
Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

Members Present

Brock Kelly
Jeff Keightly
Wayne Morris

Key Takeaways

- Drug Testing Program Overhauled: The program will be decoupled from NACO due to poor communication. Membership with drug testing is now \$120 (a \$20 reduction), while standard membership remains \$100.
- Skamania County Crisis: A committee will propose solutions for Wind River and Drano access issues, which threaten to close fisheries. Key ideas include USCG safety signage and a temporary floating dock.
- Membership Strategy Refined: The association name will remain "Guides Association." The focus now shifts to professional messaging and corporate sponsorships to increase revenue and political influence.
- Bylaws to be Amended: Bylaws will be updated to formally allow non-guide board members, with a proposed limit (e.g., 2/3 guides) to preserve the association's core identity.

Agenda

President
Doug Saint-Denis
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Vice President
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Advisory Member 4
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Advisory Member 5
Jacob Munden
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Advisory Member 6
Gabe Miller
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Financials & Membership

- Current Funds: Checking: \$27,419.19 | PayPal: \$6,447.95 | Savings: \$1,704.
- Investment: The Treasurer is researching CDs and money market accounts (e.g., 4.3% APY) to earn interest on funds.
- Membership Status:
 - 35 members renewed for 2026.
 - A recent phone/text campaign to ~35 non-renewed members yielded 4 responses.
- Communication Platform: The association will adopt a paid platform (e.g., MailChimp, Constant Contact) for:
 - Text Blasts: For urgent action alerts (e.g., North Falcon comments).
 - Analytics: To track email engagement and refine outreach.

Angler Membership & Name Change

- Problem: The name "Guides Association" deters potential angler members.
- Decision: No name change. The current legal structure is a 501(c)6 for industry advocacy. A name change would require a costly, complex restructuring (rewriting bylaws, refiling with the IRS).
- New Strategy: Over the next year, the association will adjust messaging to attract anglers.
 - Social Media: Shift from "campy" posts to serious updates on fisheries issues (e.g., North Falcon).
 - Messaging Mix: Focus 70% on guide advocacy and 30% on angler recruitment.
 - Revisit: The name change will be reconsidered in 12 months.

Drug Testing Program Overhaul

- Problem: The National Association of Charter Boat Operators (NACO) provides no value for its \$40/year fee.
- Solution: Decouple from NACO. The Drug Testing Consortium will continue offering the same discount directly.
- New Pricing & Action:
 - Membership with Drug Testing: \$120/year.
 - Standard Membership: \$100/year.
 - Refunds: Members who paid \$140 will be offered a \$20 refund or a donation option.

Bylaw Amendment for Board Composition

- Problem: Current bylaws require all board members to be guides and have 3 years of membership, which is not being followed.
- Solution: Amend bylaws to formally allow non-guide board members.

- Safeguard: The amendment will include a limit (e.g., 2/3 of the board must be guides) to preserve the association's core identity.
- Process: Doug will draft language for board review at the next meeting.

North Falcon & BFP Grant Updates

- North Falcon:
 - Day 1: Feb 27, 9am–3pm in Olympia (preseason forecast).
 - PFMC 1 Public Comment: Closes March 3 at 5pm.
 - Strategy: Submit comments at the last minute to prevent counter-lobbying.
 - Goal: Advocate for "days on the water" over selective fisheries.
- BFP Grant:
 - Purpose: Fund boat launch repairs (e.g., White Bridge, Oakville).
 - Action: Cary will draft a public comment letter for the March 6/7 deadline.

Skamania County Access Issues

- Problem: Access is threatened at Wind River and Drano Lake, risking fishery closures and creating safety hazards.
- Wind River Launch:
 - Issue: Kayakers create safety risks for guides/anglers.
 - Solution: Marc Bush is working with the USCG to install safety signage. The USCG can bypass the Columbia River Gorge Commission, which has previously blocked county efforts.
- Drano Lake Access:
 - Issue: The hatchery may close its west road, eliminating the primary client pickup and parking area.
 - Root Cause: Guide behavior (blocking access, leaving fish guts) and crowding at the disabled fishing site.
 - Short-Term Solution: A guide education campaign on courtesy and carcass disposal.
 - Long-Term Solution: Propose a temporary floating dock to Skamania County to ease congestion.
- Committee: Doug, Marc Bush, Jacob Munden, and Bob Kratzer will form a committee to develop and propose solutions.

Future Strategy & Funding

- Sponsorships: The board agreed to prioritize corporate sponsorships over membership fees for revenue.
 - Rationale: Sponsorships provide larger, more stable funding and carry more political weight.
 - Challenge: The association's 501(c)6 status prevents corporate tax write-offs.

- PAC/501(c)3: Doug is consulting an attorney about creating a Political Action Committee (PAC) or a 501(c)3 to enable tax-deductible donations.
- Sportsman Show: The association will reserve a booth for next year's show, with a refund option until December to allow time to find volunteers.

Next Steps

- Doug:
 - Research paid email/text platforms (MailChimp, Constant Contact).
 - Draft bylaw amendment language for board review.
 - Contact Trey Karskadon to reserve a Sportsman Show booth.
 - Follow up with attorney on PAC/501(c)3 setup costs.
 - Send email to members who paid \$140 for drug testing, offering a \$20 refund or donation.
- Cary:
 - Draft public comment letter for the BFP grant deadline.
 - Keep the board updated on the North Falcon schedule and public comment periods.
- Marc Bush:
 - Continue working with the USCG on Wind River safety signage.
- Jacob Munden:
 - Contact Cameron Black to get family permission for the "In Memory" page.
 - Focus on recruiting members from Central/Eastern Washington.
- Doug, Marc Bush, Jacob Munden, Bob Kratzer:
 - Form a committee to develop and propose solutions for Skamania County access issues.
- All Board Members:
 - Review the website's "Contact List for Fisheries" page and email Doug any updates.