



March Eboard Meeting - March 16

Meeting Purpose

To discuss critical access issues, finalize the lobbyist proposal, and plan an ethics initiative.

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 - Present
Advisory Member – Jacob Munden – Present
Advisory Member – Brandon Wedam – Present
Advisory Member – Gabe Miller – Excused
Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present
Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

Key Takeaways

- Lobbyist Approved: The board approved hiring Cary Hoffman as a lobbyist. A \$30k budget (\$10k from WAGuides, Hatchery Wild Coexist, and Washington Fishermen's Alliance) will fund a 3-month legislative session.
- Drano Work Party: A work party is set for Saturday, March 21, to clear brush and improve bank access at Drano Lake, a project approved by the federal hatchery manager.
- Wind River Strategy: The primary strategy is to amend the RCO manual with a permanent commercial use exception, bypassing the county's annual permit process.
- Ethics Code Initiative: The board will draft a code of ethics to improve public perception, starting with a board-only draft in a shared file before seeking full membership approval.

Agenda

Lobbyist Proposal

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Advisory Member 5
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Advisory Member 6
Gabe Miller
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- Problem: WAGuides lacks a dedicated voice in Olympia, hindering progress on critical issues like access and fishery funding.
- Solution: Hire Cary Hoffman as a lobbyist.
 - Rationale: Hoffman's existing relationships and policy expertise make him the ideal candidate.
 - Funding: A \$30,000 budget will be split three ways (\$10k each) between WAGuides, Hatchery Wild Coexist, and Washington Fishermen's Alliance.
 - Term: A 3-month legislative session commitment, with year-round remote work.
 - Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Wind River & Drano Lake Access

- Wind River Strategy (Cary Hoffman):
 - Primary Goal: Amend the RCO manual with a permanent commercial use exception.
 - Why: This bypasses the county's annual permit process and applies to all 300+ RCO-funded launches statewide.
 - Secondary Goal: Secure a temporary permit from Skamania County.
 - Why: As a backup plan for the upcoming season.
 - Public Outreach: A coordinated email campaign will counter negative recreational angler feedback to the county.
- Drano Lake Work Party (Jacob Munden):
 - Context: Drano Lake access is on federal hatchery property, not county land.
 - Work Party (Sat, Mar 21):
 - Goal: Clear blackberries and create new bank access points.
 - Approval: The federal hatchery manager, Bob Turek, approved the project.
 - Logistics: Jacob Munden will manage lunch and expenses.
 - Long-Term Projects:
 - Floating Dock: A \$15k–\$20k project to add a 60–70 ft dock. The hatchery would permit, but WAGuides must fund.
 - Gravel Ramp: Add gravel to an isthmus for better low-water access.

North of Falcon (NOF) Update

- Snohomish River Chinook: The primary constraint for ocean fisheries, with an 8.3% exploitation rate ceiling.
- Skykomish Fishery: WAGuides will push for an in-river fishery to secure impacts, preventing them from being reallocated to other areas.
- Upper Columbia: Jacob Munden will attend the Kennewick meeting and report back.

- Lower Columbia: Patric Gaffney will attend the April 2 Ridgefield meeting if water conditions allow; Cary Hoffman will provide a written statement as a backup.

Professional Ethics & Logbook Enforcement

- Ethics Code: The board will draft a code of ethics to improve guide professionalism and public perception.
 - Process: Start with a board-only draft in a shared file, then seek full membership approval.
 - Input: Incorporate feedback from sport anglers on common guide behaviors.
- Logbook Enforcement: Patric Gaffney received a citation for an incomplete logbook at the boat ramp.
 - Rule: The logbook must be complete before fish leave the boat or the guide leaves the parking lot.
 - Action: Gaffney is contesting the ticket. Bob Kratzer will contact Captain Chadwick about the warden's conduct.

Next Steps

- Cary Hoffman:
 - Present Wind River concessions to Skamania County (Mar 17).
 - Meet with RCO to propose manual amendment (Mar 19).
 - Draft email campaign for Wind River client support.
 - Coordinate with Bob Kratzer and Washington Fishermen's Alliance on lobbyist contract.
- Jacob Munden:
 - Manage Drano Lake work party logistics (Mar 21).
 - Report on Upper Columbia NOF meeting (Mar 17).
- Patric Gaffney:
 - Attend Lower Columbia NOF meeting (Apr 2) if possible.
 - Contest the logbook violation citation.
- Bob Kratzer:
 - Contact Captain Chadwick regarding the logbook citation.
 - Draft email to 46 past Columbia River members.
 - Coordinate with Cary Hoffman and Hatchery Wild Coexist on lobbyist contract.
- Marc Bush:
 - Create a shared file for the ethics code draft.
- Doug St. Denis:
 - Email members about drug consortium compliance.

- All Board Members:

- Share Jacob Munden's Drano work party video.
- Contribute to the ethics code draft in the shared file.