



**Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
1-23-2020**

**Executive Board Members and Advisors**

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present  
Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present  
Secretary - Paul Ockerman - Excused  
Treasurer - Jim Stahl - Excused  
Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present

Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Present  
Advisory Member - Cameron Black - Absent  
Advisory Member - Ryan Gausman - Present

**Introductions**

Doug Saint-Denis introduced the Executive Board members present at the meeting, to include Advisory members present.

**Call Meeting to Order – 0845 hours**

**WSGA Association Development – ie. Formerly WA Chapter NWGAA**

Doug asked if there were any questions regarding this transition. There were no questions and we moved on.

Doug gave an explanation of what was left to complete our Non-profit status with the IRS. Doug will have his CPA check our application for a 501 c 6 non-profit status with the IRS. He also explained that while you cannot deduct membership as for taxes but we can deduct professional fees on year end taxes. Check with your CPA about this.

**Review of what we accomplished in 2019.**

Communication with the membership. Doug explained it is important the board hears from the members on issues. One of the ways we do this is by using polls. As an example, banning gill nets bill. Another example is the

This is just one example of polling the membership on issues we have been addressing.

We have spent much of the year working on the logbook issue in Washington State. We are very glad we were part of the process because it was clear to us the WDFW Commission were going to implement log books regardless. This is primarily due to the fact that a majority of guides did not get involved in the meetings and process early. This is why it is so important to get guides more involved. (They are great at complaining, but terrible at doing anything about the issue. If we can get

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them to understand that just being a member will help get their voice heard, we have made a huge accomplishment)

Doug explained that because we were very active in the process, the current logbook looks vastly different from what was proposed. Had the original logbook been instituted, it would have been absolutely time consuming as well as overly intrusive. Our contribution to streamlining and making it workable is a big deal. We have been able to provide support during the transition to using it and our continued assistance to guides will be important too.

In 2019 at the membership meeting in January, members stated the priority was to establish a Guide Advisory Committee. We hammered the importance of starting a WDFW Guide Advisory Committee, which we succeeded! The WDFW Guide Advisory Committee is comprised of 14 members throughout the state to include fly angling guides and conventional tackle guides. Of the 14 committee members, 5 of our Executive Board to include our Advisory Members are part of the WDFW Guide Advisory Committee.

The Guide Advisory Committee has had 4 meetings thus far and while the current focus is getting the log books squared away for 2020, we are also addressing professional standards and more. Guides who are operating correctly will have no problem with this. The guide advisory committee is also trying to address unlicensed guides as well.

In 2019, we held a “Take a Legislator Fishing” on the Cowlitz. In 2019 this event was in conjunction with CCA. In 2020 we WSGA will host this without other organizations interest. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the conditions of our fisheries in Washington State. In 2019, we focused this event on the Cowlitz River. For 2020, we want to have this event occur in the same 7-day period throughout the state. So, you can take your local Legislator fishing in your area. Marc Bush is going to organize this so it can be approved by the state so there is no conflict of interest. If you want to take a legislator in your area in the same time period, Marc coordinate that for you.

Doug addressed the fee structure for the organization. He explained that we need to grow membership so we have the funds to react to special interest groups or be in a position to hire a lobbyist if necessary.

Executive Board members have met with, not only WDFW directors but also Legislators on office visits. (Met with Wilcox and DeBolt about fishing issues.)

**2020 Working Plan**

Prior to asking for input from the attendees for the 2020 working plan Doug and Bob explained that we succeeded in the first two items from the 2019 meeting. Guide Advisory Committee implementation and Brood stocking programs. We accomplished the Guide Advisory Committee and we started the brood stocking discussion. We will continue to brood stocking program discussion.

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Bob also explained that we have asked for stickers to designate those whom actually have a USCG license. This will help enforcement to better enforce non-compliance. We also explained there is a suggestion to the Department from the Guide Advisory Committee that guides have to name the State of Washington as an additional insured on their insurance policy. This will ensure that guides maintain their insurance.

Bob explained there was a time when guides would ask questions to WDFW and we never got an answer. This has changed dramatically. When we call members of the department, they get back to us in a day or less. We get answers.

Doug touched on NOF and that he was planning on being more active with the NOF process for 2020. It was also pointed out that Randy Lato, (WSGA Member & Guide Advisory Member) is also part of the NOF process as well.

Doug asked those in attendance for input on issues they would like to see us address. Afterwards, we prioritized this in the following order. For each of these issues there was good discussion around the room about each issue. Members provided examples of things they see and experience regarding these issues.

1. Predation issues to include tributaries. Pinnipeds, birds and more.
2. Look at carrying capacity on the rivers to see if they can sustain the fish numbers we had in the past. le. Lowering escapement levels.
3. See if we can get a "First 2 Salmon" on the ocean implemented, regardless of wild or hatchery, in an effort to allow more fish to return to the gravel.
4. Recycle programs. Maybe use the logbook information to get better recycle programs.
5. Pike Minnow program expansion in other water bodies
6. Charter license movement in regards to opening a portion of the Columbia River to either the Astoria bridge, Buoy 10, Tongue Point, etc.

Doug emphasized dues need to be paid. Members in good standing receive the "inside scoop" such as communications and meeting minutes.

Doug explained that several times throughout the year, we get issues from members that we are able to address very quickly and it does not detract from the work we are doing for the membership as a whole. Ray Vermillion pointed out that he feels that sometimes we are having to react to issues too quickly and cannot act appropriately. Doug pointed out that now that we have a Guide Advisory Committee, we are privy to these issues in advance, so we should see some improvement.

A question was brought up, do charter boats have to complete the logbook. The answer is no. Bob explained that the logbooks were started due to a legislator that wanted this done for guides, not charters. Thus, WDFW had marching orders to implement logbooks for guides only. There is a plan

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to discuss with this particular legislator to add all who charge for sportfishing be required to complete a logbook.

**Input for the good of the order**

Bob said he wanted to share some ideas about moving forward because our salmon fisheries are not what they used to be and we need to find ways to have more days on the water. He brought up some points that would give us more opportunity. He explained that he wanted input from all those in attendance to see if we are going in the right direction or just wasting time.

Item#1 No retention for the guide. I.e. Fish limit is 2 per person. When 4 fish are retained in the boat, the trip is done for the day. The guide cannot retain while guiding and the guides fish cannot be retained and given to the client. One guide asked if it meant the guide could not fish. We explained the guide can fish, but they cannot retain a fish.

One guide explained that party fishing should be allowed until the boat limit is achieved. In their area, when a person caught and retained a steelhead, they had to sit down.

There was not a single guide or charter in the room that thought this was a bad idea or objected.

Item#2 Yearly limits on wild salmon, specifically species specific. I.e. wild chinook, wild Coho, wild steelhead, sturgeon. Also, break it down by region or zone. As an example; a person is allowed 5 wild kings and 5 wild Coho in one area. If they wanted more, they would have to fish another zone or region. This would still provide plenty of opportunity to anglers and allow more fish to return to the gravel. This would be state wide for all anglers. This does not apply to hatchery fish. Just wild.

There was not a single guide or charter in the room that thought this was a bad idea or objected.

Bob pointed out that these are ideas. We would have to present it to WDFW and Legislature. There might be pushback, but for biological and conservation it is a good idea.

Bob explained that the Executive Board meets monthly. He suggested that perhaps once per quarter we would open the board meeting to the membership to listen and provide input.

**Elections** - Paul Ockerman is stepping down as Secretary. We took nominations or volunteers for secretary. Ryan Gausman put his name in for the position. There were no other nominations. Doug asked how many paid members were in the room at the time. About 10 members raised their hands. Doug asked for all in favor to elect Ryan as Secretary. 10 Yea 0 Nay.

Doug explained we will be seeking nominations for Treasurer and that we would be sending this out for nominations and votes could be cast via mail.

We are also looking for additional advisory members.

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# WA State Guides Association

Representing WA State Sport Fishing Guides & Charters

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Meeting closed at 1050 hours.

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