



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**12-07-2020**

**Executive Board Members**

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

**Meeting begin:** 5:35pm

**Old Business:** None

**Treasurer Report:** (Randy Lato) 445.20 in Pay Pal, 3648.55 in bank, total: \$4093.75

**Membership Report:** We have 3 new business sponsors, Defiance Marine, Integrity Construction and Pautzke bait. 2 new sport angler sponsors.

**Survey Results Discussion:** We received a good response to the survey regarding the issues being discussed by the guides advisory committee to the commission, the results are available on the survey response form. Most of the responses support more emphasis on ethical, legal guiding in Washington.

**Discussion:**

Cameron Black: We seem to operate in a reactive mode frequently, it would be good to be able to take the offense more often by being in a position to control things, or prevent problems in the first place rather than trying to play catch up after the fact.

Greg Kain: The issues addressed on the survey make every guide on an even playing field by ensuring we all go by the same rules. They address unethical, illegal guiding.

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Eric Linde: Oregon already does most of the things on this list.

Bob Kratzer: The survey responses, other than guides retaining fish, were overwhelmingly in favor of the items in the questions. Maybe we should share the survey with other groups such as the Grays Harbor guides, and others to see how their members feel about these issues.

Doug St Denis: We should share the results with WDFW Guide Advisory, but maybe wait till we hear how the other groups respond first.

Eric Linde: If it comes to us giving up something, such as guide retention of fish, maybe we should ask for some consideration in return.

**Coastal Rivers Discussion:**

Cary Hoffman: We've received no new information since the original announcement. The rules would eliminate any guides who use boats. 80% of our guide clientele would be unable to fish any more on the because they can't access fishing water on foot. He and others are in conversation with Kelly Cunningham.

Bob Kratzer: In our conversations we are still not close to what we want. The WDFW biologist, James, has provided no actual stats or any real data or information upon which to base any of this decision. There are no numbers to support any of the models he is using. He is unable and so far, unwilling, to support a position that states guiding has made a relevant or significant contribution to low fish numbers.

Cary Hoffman: It appears that the commission may be more subjective. We know other user groups are still going to take their full allotment of fish. James, the biologist has never fished any of the rivers in question here so has no personal knowledge of how they could be fished without use of a boat.

Bob Kratzer: This current battle has nothing to do with the tribes. It's all coming from WDFW and this biologist alone. Letters from every fishing organization have gone to almost every involved person in Olympia. Up until last Saturday the commission had not even heard of his proposal. Tomorrow Bob is meeting with representatives from the City of Forks, Olympic Guide Association, and lawmakers in Olympia. They will request a legislative hearing with WDFW on the issues. The economic damage to communities would be enormous if this proposal came into being. We've also sent a letter to the commission requesting a hearing. The City of Forks is considering assigning two city attorneys to the issue.

Currently the Quillayute system fish escapement is above minimum requirements but James is still proposing that it be included in the closure. This issue has built a large number of people who are following it region wide.

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The contents of James’ proposal are the exact same proposals previously put forward by Trout Unlimited and the Wild Steelhead Coalition and are stated in their agendas. It all relates to how “encounters” relate to steelhead mortality but is supported with no data, documentation, or research. It is all theoretical and appears to follow their agenda clearly.

Of the rivers included in this proposal the Bogachiel is the only one with significant wade fishing opportunity and it would be overrun with anglers from all the other rivers if this proposal went into place. Snyder Creek hatchery was doing a tremendous amount of good for fish populations until the same special interest groups mentioned earlier got it shut down. That had a really significant impact in reducing fish numbers.

**Annual Meeting 2021:** Since the Puyallup show is questionable, our annual meeting will be held virtually. We need to pick and announce a date and time. It appears that weekday evenings, after dinner time, is the best option to allow most people to attend. A date and time will be announced to the membership soon.

**Membership Committee Updates – (Bob, Greg, Eric)**

**For the Good of the Order:**

Bob: Keep sending letters to the commission

Randy Lato: Had a conversation with a local game warden. He wondered why they never ask to see guide licenses during their checks. The warden had no answer.

Ryan Gausman: Camrin Johnson and I are planning to meet with wildlife enforcement people in Kittitas County regarding their lack of enforcement of any regulations on the Yakima River. There are clear and obvious violations ranging from littering to killing fish to unlicensed guiding happening on a regular basis but there appears to be no interest in any enforcement. In the past when WDFW enforcement was contacted regarding issues it was clear they did not understand the river itself, the rules, or our industry. We are going to ask for more attention.

Greg Kain: In the Wild Steelhead Coalition Instagram they have made it clear that they plan to continue their current efforts on the Columbia and Snake River systems next.

Mark Coleman: Clarified that WSGA board members in attendance at meetings related to our industry may officially represent WSGA if it appears there is a reason to speak out or to do so in some way.

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Doug St Denis: Restated that the current issues reinforces our need to be proactive on issues. When we are reactive, only becoming involved after the issue has gained momentum, it is a difficult battle. We need to find ways to identify and address issues ourselves before others jump in. We need to build our membership, both guide and supporting, to raise money to be able to contribute to legal and other expenses when these needs come up.

Doug recently had a conversation with an attorney who has done quite a bit of work involving WDFW. He will ask if there is a way to get him involved in the current issues if necessary. Cary Hoffman also knows people who may be willing to help if needed.

**Meeting End:** 1845 hrs

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