



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Guide Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 14th, 2024
Virtual Teams Meeting

State Marine Board
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The meeting was called to order at 05:03pm by Cyndi Bolduc.

1. Introduction: An introduction was read by Cyndi, welcoming everyone, and explaining the format for the Teams meeting.
2. Attendance:
 - a. Present: OSMB: Brian Paulsen, Cyndi Bolduc; GAC Members: Bill Monroe Jr, Jason Schultz, Jeff Miller, Jeff Keightley, Grant Scheele, Megan Selvig, and Cody Cole; OSMB Board Member Val Early; and OSP Sgt. Clint Galusha
 - b. Absent: Cliff Agocs, Mia Sheppard, Kory Mahr, Jack Craven
 - c. New Member: Dana Burwell was introduced as the representative for the McKenzie River Guide Association. He briefly shared some of his background as a MRGA member and former guide.
3. Approval of Minutes: Cyndi asked if anyone had any comment from the May 14th, 2024, meeting minutes. None were received and the minutes were approved.
4. Renewal Update: We currently have 1,527 registered guides. There are currently 202 2023 guides that have not yet renewed. We have 157 that are brand new guides but not up to 2023's numbers yet. We have 196 guide registered employees which are typically fishing, deck hands, or rafting guides. Charter boats are up to 70 with a new one on the Snake River. We're transitioning into the Hunt program. This year has gone much smoother due to updates including the hunt tag program's new renewal application online and the online Duplicate/Replacement Registration and Decal application.
5. Enforcement Update:
 - a. Recent Enforcement- Sgt. Galusha filled in for Trooper Joe Deso and gave a quick overview of what he and his team do and how they operate including keeping track of all complaints received through OSP, Federal partners like the Coast Guard, and OSMB. His team has been very busy for the last four or five months. Buoy 10 has been one of the bigger issues. Ethics complaints have been ongoing regarding drug and alcohol use, guides not having permits to guide in the desired areas, or illegal client solicitation. He gave a quick description of his current position for the TIP Program, acting as liaison for OSP and touched on the Eric Swanson case awaiting an Administrative Hearing.
 - b. Illegal guiding signage- The "You Are Being Watched" sign has been resurrected. Cyndi asked for suggestions on where the signs would be best posted, and for those suggestions to be emailed to her. There will be a social media presence as well.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. OG Fee Restructure – LC0344 – Brian gave an update on the fee restructure that was brought up in May. Since then, OSMB has been building a budget around the new fee structure and working with the Legislative Council. Brian reviewed what the new fee structure may look like and addressed some of the problems that they are trying to solve. The current structure violates interstate commerce law, thus any kind of fee change would have to treat every resident or non-resident the same. The fee would need to be raised for a larger portion to compensate for the non-residents who paid a disproportionate amount of the revenue. Previous attempts to update Outfitter Guide statutes have been blocked due to being in violation of Interstate Commerce Law. Brian listed some of the changes that we've tried to make in the past that were blocked. GAC survey feedback shows that 82% are for the fee increase. 63% said yes to an employee fee. 85% said yes to restructuring OG fees.

GAC members' comments included being in favor of the fee, the decision on what amount would be appropriate, whether the fee was sustainable and for how long, and questions around the employee fee. There was discussion on whether a fishing guide employee would continue to be required to register individually, and that was being looked into. There was also comment regarding the First Aid/CPR requirements and how important they are.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. ODFW Meeting- Brian, Cyndi and OSMB Policy Manager Alan Hanson met with ODFW in June regarding the ongoing complaints of guide overcrowding and taking too much of the resources. The large ODFW participation at the meeting was welcomed. Brian and Cyndi explained that guide statistics have remained relatively stable in the fishing guide services, contrary to public perception. ODFW presented a Buoy 10 case study showing that for the last decade that the total angler trips for guided anglers versus the percent of total chinook that are kept has been increasing on both sides. There was discussion regarding educating guides and online quizzes for the identification of rock fish. Overall, the sentiment was that the meeting was a great start to hopefully many future meetings.
- b. Southern Resident Orcas: Oregon Endangered Species changes – ODFW has asked the Marine Board to work with them on possible future regulations to protect this species. The orcas are endangered through noise, environmental, and one other type of pollution. This may be taking place in the next few years and ask that everyone share any information if they have any.
- c. Outfitter Guides as Booking Agents- There is some information that guides may be misrepresenting themselves as the guide when they've actually booked the trip for another guide. When the client is not notified of this, this appears to possibly be a false advertising issue. Consensus of the committee members was that if they clients are having this type of issue, it needs to be reported to OSMB. The Marine Board will be investigating and contacting the guides directly.

- d. Outdoor Recreation Summit Presentation- OSMB will be participating in the Summit in Sunriver on December 5th-7th. We will be presenting on the changing dynamics of Outfitter Guides, the evolution of services and increasing importance of networking and social accountability, and future impacts. Attendance at the Summit was encouraged.

8. Round Table – No Comments

Next Meeting – Second week of December, 2024

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.