



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Guide Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 6th, 2025
Virtual Teams Meeting

State Marine Board
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The meeting was called to order at 05:46 p.m. by Cyndi Bolduc. Technology issues delayed the start of the meeting.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Present: OSMB: Brian Paulson, Cyndi Bolduc, Naomi Stephens; GAC Members: Grant Scheele, Dana Burwell, Megan Selvig, Jason Schultz, Jeff Keightley, Bill Monroe Jr; OSP: Sgt. Joe Dezso; Member of the Public: Nathan Heng.
 - b. Absent: Cliff Agocs, Mia Sheppard, Kory Mahr, Jack Craven, Cody Cole, Jeff Miller
2. Life Saving Award: Brian Paulsen presented a lifesaving award to Outfitter Guide Nathan Heng for his efforts on July 12th pulling a man to safety who was struggling to stay above water as he attempted to swim the Columbia River, thereby saving the man's life. Nathan graciously accepted the award and said that he just happened to be in the right place at the right time.
3. Approval of Minutes: Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2024 were approved with no changes or comments.
4. Renewal Update: Cyndi gave a brief update on this season. There are currently 1497 active Outfitter guides for 2025. There are 128 new guides to date, 94 of those provide fishing services, 12 are hunting, 8 are whitewater, and there are a significant number of "Other" services. Approximately 86% of the applicants have been completed online.
5. Enforcement Update:
 - a. Recent Enforcement- Sgt. Joe Dezso gave a quick update on the dispositions he and his team have been working on. He went on to express how COVID continues to be an issue with scheduling and availability for defense attorneys. Sgt. Dezso gave praise to his team of detectives for creating the solid relationships they have with the counties in Clackamas and Columbia and working with the prosecutors. Joe said all of the SIU detectives are working on 10-15 cases at a time, most of which are guide and outfitter cases.
 - b. It was mentioned that Sgt. Dezso has taken a job working for OSP in the Portland area and he was thanked for his services and would be missed.
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. OG Fee Restructure: Brian gave a brief overview of the legislation process that's taken us nearly a decade to successfully pass. In July of 2024 the Marine Board approved LC0344 which was reviewed by the Guide Advisory Committee at last August's meeting. Public comment was encouraged throughout the process. The legislative concept became HB2558 and multiple

Legislative work sessions and hearings were held from March through May. Votes passed and the Governor signed the bill into law on June 20th. Fees are now the same as required, for both residents and non-residents. The annual registration fee will be \$350 for Outfitter Guides with an additional \$150 for Charter Guides. The new Crew Member registration will be \$50 annually without the requirement of an individual Outfitter Guide registration. It was clarified that the crew member is required to work under the direct supervision of a Charter Guide, for fishing only, and a USCG license is not required.

- b. ODFW Meeting: Meeting with ODFW staff and management, they voiced their concerns regarding Buoy 10 pressure on resources, angler experience, and the impacts on the habitat. OSMB discussed the perceived challenges versus reality, including what past as well as future data details. OSMB's concerns are boating safety, access and facility impacts. Both sides agree that there needs to be some form of regulation implemented, whether it's limitations or allocations. Future discussion will be held.
- c. Outdoor Recreation Summit Presentation: Brian and Cyndi gave a brief overview of the Pre-Summit Outfitter Guide workshop that included federal land managers and OSMB on a panel. OSMB also gave a Summit presentation along with Megan Selvig of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center titled "The Changing Dynamics of Outfitter Guides." The presentation gave a broad look at guides in Oregon, starting with historical references and showing the changes in requirements, public perspective, evolution of services offered, the impact of COVID in 2020, the increasing importance of networking and social accountability, and the future impacts of guiding upon resources and inclusivity.

Brian went on to thank Megan Selvig for the amazing job she did with her informational presentation on the post-fire transformation of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center (OCAFC) integrating their youth backpacking expeditions into six national forests in Oregon.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Legislation Implementation & Rulemaking: Now that HB2558 has passed the legislative process, administrative rules are required to implement the statute changes. OSMB staff have drafted the language for the new rules which will be voted on at the October 30th Board meeting. Content includes the fee structure and increased fees, crew member credential, and civil penalty fines. The rules have been sent to the Secretary of State, and all interested party list members have been notified of the public comment period. Time frame for approval and implementation is very tight as we need them active on November 1st when renewals begin.
- b. Charter Guide Decal Changes: The oval Guide decals have been updated for clarity and enforcement. Area of operation as determined by the guide's USCG license is spelled out. All decals will now have 6 as the maximum number of passengers. Overloading laws apply as always.
- c. Non-Resident Hunt Tag program certifications: Changes at ODFW have necessitated restructuring how OSMB conforms with our statutory rights within the certification process in the Non-

Resident Hunt Tag program. ODFW has doubled the number of units and federal permitting does not reflect any of the changes. OSMB rule changes will now fall back to certifying the program participants based upon our statutory requirements of education, training, and experience. We will not be collecting information on permitting. Brian offered to make a brief presentation to the committee on the Non-Resident Hunt Tag program if they would like more information.

- d. Professional & Ethical Standards: OSMB staff has noted omissions in the standards that keep us from acting in several common complaint scenarios. To mitigate this, we have updated the standards to include misuse of social media, guide upon guide slander, drug and alcohol use while guiding, and disposal of animal waste. The intention is to keep the standards current and applicable to ensure professional guided activity.
 - e. Boating Access: Brian spoke on the OSMB strategic plan initiative of boating access challenges with regard to Outfitter Guide use. OSMB is continuing to see facility operators and managers impose large fees for commercial operations including outfitter guide use. Brian stated that it is the result of some “bad actors” guides not demonstrating the best behavior when utilizing facilities on a daily basis. Brian requested GAC volunteers for a work group to help find positive solutions and formulate some best management practices to address the problem.
 - f. GAC Membership Terms: Cyndi explained that the membership term for a GAC is four years and that five of the current members are at term. Cyndi also mentioned the option of a second four-year term which those members can choose whether or not to accept.
8. Round Table – Comments included the implementation details of the crew member designation, reciprocity rules on the Snake River, and booking services. Explanations were given, and OSP will be included in the discussion on reciprocity.

Next Meeting – It was suggested that the next meeting be held in January, and a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting be held somewhere around the state. Technology issues have been a concern and OSMB staff will look into possible solutions.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.