



Oregon State Marine Board
Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Members: Chris Knutsen, Angela Sondenaa, Todd Logan, Nolan Davis, Jerome Freeman, Jay Yelas, and Mike Kosydar were present.

Staff: Alan Hanson, Environment and Policy Program Manager; Phil Hudspeth, Policy Coordinator; Jennifer Cooper, Executive Assistant

Discussion - 0:00:05

Alan Hanson opened the meeting and started the discussion around the fiscal and economic impact of potential rules.

0:01:28 - Jay Yelas shared that he has friends that are guides and has been informed that there would be a financial impact if there were no motors allowed, due to only being able to take two clients at a time versus three. Nolan Davis shared that he rows with three people in his drift boat and doesn't think there would be a big financial loss. Mr. Hanson asked if changing the rule to electric motor would make a difference. Mr. Davis shared that with an electric motor there could be three clients in the boat just fine. Mr. Yelas stated that when the river has high flows it would be a huge strain physically on the Guides to have to row and they may not be able to fish each day, and it may limit the Guides' income.

0:09:25 - Mr. Hanson asked if the method of fishing when rowing is to drift between holes, or anchoring. Mr. Davis shared that he doesn't think that people will start anchoring, on the Siletz people have become accustomed to moving and covering water, and most cover long stretches of the river. Mr. Yelas stated that people fish in different ways and that if motors were taken away there would be more anchoring. Mr. Davis shared that the Guide fleet moves down the water quickly.

0:12:44 - Mr. Hanson asked the group if there are any additional fiscal impacts to the Guide community if the rules were changed to electric only, nonmotorized, or potential flow rates for motor use. Mr. Davis shared that the Smith River in California has a flow restriction and that would be a possible option. He stated that when the river is big it can be a lot of work to be on oars. Todd Logan shared that he guides part time and there will be an economic impact on Guides, but the resource should be put first.

0:19:18 - Mr. Hanson asked if there are any other financial impacts. Jerome Freeman shared that as a recreational fisherman, when he comes to fish the Siletz he books hotel rooms, eats at the local restaurants, and buys gas. He also shared that there will be a certain number of Guides that exit fishing the Siletz if there is a ban on motors and that will have an economic impact. Angela Sondenaa shared that the nature of guiding the river will change. People utilize the resources but don't spend money in Siletz. Mr. Hanson shared that he saw in the comments that with any rule change there will be use change but there isn't a clear fiscal impact to the community. Mr. Hanson clarified that the community would include the broader Lincoln County. Chris Knutsen shared that if there were an impact to fishing license sales it would be nominal.

0:31:40 - Mr. Hanson shared the background of the rule survey that he sent out to the RAC members and how he came up with the options. Options included no motors above Jack Morgan (petition language), ban gas powered motors, limit to 15 hp motors, hybrid option of small gas-powered motors on lower section and no motors on upper section, no guides, and no changes. Mr.

Hanson provided that the most popular option was dividing the river into non-motorized and horsepower restriction sections, the second was limiting to 15 horsepower, the third option was electric motors only, the fourth option was non-motorized, the fifth option was no change and the last was no guides.

0:37:30 - Mr. Hanson shared that he is presenting the petition option, the no change option and a hybrid option to the Board. He isn't going to provide a specific dividing line, but just opening the discussion for the Board to discuss what they think is appropriate and for the Board to tell staff what direction they want them to move in.

0:43:20 - Ms. Sondenaa shared that looking at gas motors doesn't address the issue as electric motor technology is changing, so that not viable option. She also shared that 15 hp is too big for the river altogether and the splitting the river option doesn't fully address the concerns that were raised. She stated that she doesn't know how one would establish where the dividing line should be.

0:46:21 - Mr. Yelas stated that he is on the river weekly during the fishing season and that there is no conflict on the water. He shared another potential rule option as a compromise of a 15hp restriction from Morgan to Moonshine, and if the river falls below 4 ft, there would be no motors allowed from town to Moonshine. Mr. Hanson shared that if the Board wants staff to explore a flow rate option, staff would investigate that further to find out what is appropriate.

0:54:33 - Mr. Hanson recapped that the goal of the discussion with the Board at the January meeting is for the Board to provide guidance on how they want to move forward and what type of rule they would like staff to look into. At the April Board meeting the hope is to have draft rules, and begin the public comment process, which includes written comments, public hearings and a work session with the Board. At the July Board Meeting there may be a vote on a final rule.

Public Comment – 0:59:33

Scott Amerman shared that the win for the resource is all users continuing to work to make Siletz a better place. The Tribes and Siletz Anglers both do positive things for the Siletz. He wants to find a compromise and come together as a community to make the Siletz the best place it can be. There will be a severe financial impact with a motor ban with boat registrations, gas tax, guide income, and money spent in the community.

Matt Halseth stated that with rule changes people will leave and that he hates seeing when things are taken away from people. Without having people there to fish, they will lose advocates for the resource. There are bigger issues with the Siletz River than gas motors.

Cam Ellis stated that with the financial impact there were no firm numbers on Guide impact and asked if there would be more discussion on that and whether more people would anchor. He also asked about the impact to the brute stock program with a motor ban. He shared that fishing changes and it will be how to adapt and have a resource for everyone to use going forward.

Ty Wyatt stated that this isn't a conservation issue, it's an allocation issue. The Guides provide access to people who may not have the opportunity to fish. Anchoring may be more destructive than using a motor. He is an advocate for anglers, and he would oppose a motor ban on the Siletz.

Buddy Lane Jr. shared that Siletz people consider the river a being and is the heart of their reservation. The petition is a measured reasonable approach, and the petition does not move to restrict a group of users. It takes into account environment, pollution, Salmon beds, and what's best for the resource. Conflict exists in the community, and it stands to increase. Nontribal landowners and tribal members are now working together and are in a good place with a measured approach to protect the resource and eliminate the conflict.

Angela Sondenaa stated that if anchoring is a predictable result of a motor ban than the Board owes it to the resource and user groups to address it in their rulemaking. A motor restriction or ban should also include tributaries and there needs to be a lot of thought put into ramifications and unintended consequences during rulemaking.