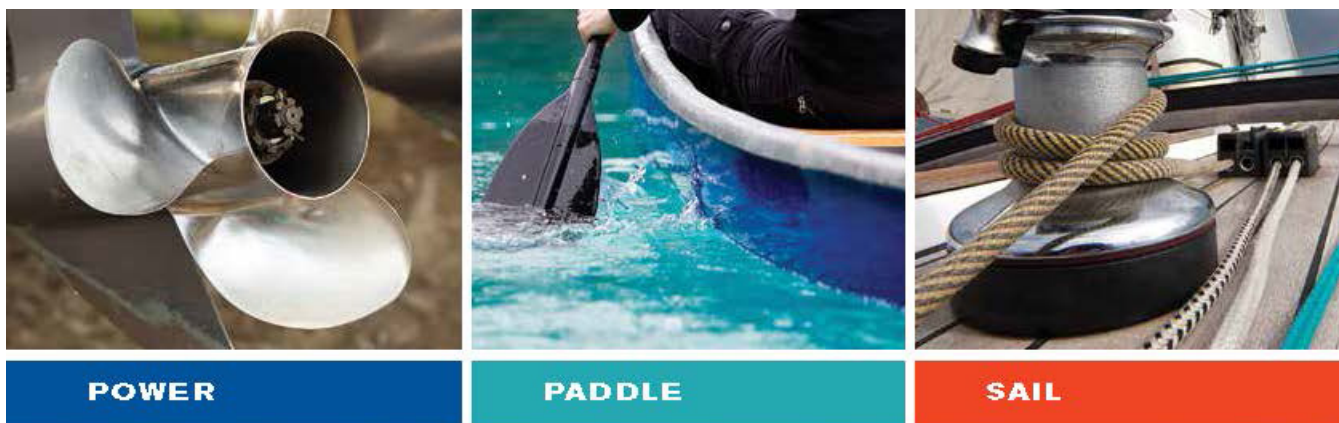




Watercraft User Group Spring Summit

April 19, 2019 Minutes

Members in attendance:

Gordon Boon, Greg Pelton, Ken Rice, Andy Meyer, Mel Wishan, Brad Howton, Karen Jacobson, Larry Payne, Dan Pence, Renee Morgan, Mary Fleishman, Ken Tennefoss, Nicole Vertner, Cal Mason, Shawn Karambelas, Beth Biggs, Darby Collins, Brian Bay, Joe Zody, Larry Brandt and one member of the public.

Agency staff in attendance:

Board member Vince Castronovo, Director Larry Warren, Josh Mulhollem, Ed Persichetti, James Cogle, MariAnn McKenzie, Janine Belleque, and Ashley Massey

The meeting was held at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, in Salem, Oregon.

The meeting began at 10 am with introductions and preceded into a legislative update by Director Warren, a policy and rules update by James Cogle. Members then broke for an early lunch at 11 am. Upon returning, Ed Persichetti discussed the 2019 boating season, various statewide law enforcement training, in addition to special emphasis patrols for Operation Dry Water and the new Newberg Pool rules. Additionally, the education, outreach via signage, tear off information flyers, buoys and QR code/app regarding the new rules were discussed. Members were pleased by the planned outreach and expressed a desire to carry over these interventions into future areas where conflict is identified.

At 12:15, members participated in sharing their personality results (16 Personalities) in a conversation about group dynamics, synergy, and finding ways to improve communication based on different personality strengths. The breakdown revealed members fell within 9 of the 16 Myers-Briggs personalities:

INFJ = 2, ISTJ = 2, ISFJ = 1, ISFP = 1, ENFJ = 2, ENTJ = 2, ESTJ = 1, ESFJ = 7, ENTP = 1

The A designation is for "Assertive" and T is for "Turbulent" in reference to how confident we are in our abilities and decisions. What we can glean from the group is there are a lot of extroverted and assertive members which can be beneficial entering the "performing" phase for the strategic plan.

The letters making up each personality type mean the following:

1. Extroverted/Introverted
2. (N) Intuitive/Sensing
3. Thinking/Feeling
4. Judging/Prospecting

From 12:45 to 2:15, members participated in a group activity/discussion led by Janine Belleque for Project 1 of the strategic plan. Members were asked to determine activities and competing interests that cause user conflict on a generic waterway and were asked to rank the key action items from the strategic plan in order of importance. Members were each given a blue dot for their #1 priority, and an orange dot for #2 priority on the following action items:

- Increase enforcement interventions (2 blue, 3 orange) with a comment to implement volunteer patrols and education.
- Promote boating etiquette and education interventions (7 blue, 8 orange)
- **Improve signage and messaging** (9 blue, 8 orange)

Based on this exercise, members prioritized improving signage first, then promoting boating etiquette and expanding education interventions, and finally, increased enforcement.

Members were also asked to evaluate the overlap with Project 2, Access, with the following question and rate with their dots for priority:

- Work with facility providers to disperse activity through improved access design to meet diverse needs (1 blue, 4 orange) with a comment to provide better design and construction of interface elements.

Members were also asked if they had ideas for other approaches with the provided scenario and offered the following suggestions:

- Relocate entry to widest place on lake
- Set a speed limit
- Create incentives for paddle boats to utilize nonmotorized sites
- Create specific time periods for non-motorized to use motorized launch site (with someone writing on the note that they "agree!")
- Increase fund participation by non-motorized users
- Develop new access point by bridge
- Form a user group to seek solutions/recommendations
- Seek other purpose designed access pilots
- Make non-motorized access better so that they will prefer using that facility over the developed ramp
- Better simple signage
- Use an outside facilitator to work with user groups
- Move paddlecraft to the southern end of the waterway
- Question: What is the city zoning for area with end of bridge?

Discussion continued about the cumulative impacts on area waterways, master planning and the agency's traditional involvement with local facility providers, which often times, is not until after facility improvements or master planning are complete. The agency is working on being more proactive in planning discussions to mitigate increased congestion and user conflict through improved facility design, taking into account new technology, new activities, increase in population, and dispersing activities based on time of year, traditional uses like angling, and skill levels to waterway conditions.

The members took a break from 2 pm to 2:15 and began a discussion on Project 6, improved two-way dialog with current and prospective boater and other stakeholder groups through face-to-face interactions and social media.

Staff researched and presented a pilot program created by Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, called ["Trailhead Ambassadors Program."](#) Seasonally, booths are set up on Saturday and Sundays near ten of the busiest trailheads in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

The goals of the program are to reduce trailhead and trail congestion, have fewer searches and rescue incidents, improve visitor experiences, reduce the spread of invasive plant species, and encourage responsible hiker ethics. Volunteers also answer questions, offer alternative hikes, and provide information on leave-no-trace ethics. In addition to providing print material, they also provide gear to borrow and offer suggestions on how hikers can improve their experience with the right gear for the time of year.

Specially trained volunteers welcome hikers and offer recommendations on how to become a better steward of the trails.

The Trailhead Ambassador Program uses local volunteers and school programs by offering public service hour credits. The Friends group created special training and messaging and encourage partnering and a growing cadre of Trailhead Ambassadors.

This program was pitched as a model that Marine Board staff can mirror, in order to achieve all of the action items identified in Project 6 of the strategic plan. The group was asked if anyone would be willing to be part of a sub-group to help develop a pilot program to include training materials, messaging (with a focus on safety, etiquette, and how to have a good experience), and potential boat ramp locations. Members expressed an interest in having a pilot for the Willamette River Newberg Pool, in addition to member participation as Ambassadors.

The following members volunteered to participate in the Project 6 and the Boating Ambassador Program Development: Greg, Mary, Dan, Gordon, Andy, Brian, Ken T. Sub-committee members agreed to email exchanges and potentially a meeting or two as staff develops materials, messaging, and locations for member input. Staff will also ask for assistance from sub-committee members to identify volunteer groups or other entities to reach out to for potential partnering once a pilot program location is identified.

Members also provided the following feedback:

- The Marine Board needs to provide more background when doing facility planning and public hearings
- Include ODFW Fish Checkers and OSMB Volunteer Boating Instructors as future Ambassadors
- "Adopt-A-Facility" –encourage clubs or boating groups to adopt and become Ambassadors
- Tie in Marine Events with education/outreach resources
- Share grant opportunities with clubs for funding for outreach
- The agency needs to "toot our horns" more
- Keep informing boaters about various processes (rulemaking, legislative, other)
- Do more to encourage boaters to do their part to educate friends and family
- Focus on safety, etiquette and how to have a good experience

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

AAM:aam