



Guide Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Introduction: Outfitter Guide Coordinator Cyndi Bolduc called the May 14, 2024 meeting of the Guide Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 2:06 pm. Cyndi stated that while this is a public meeting, the committee will not be requesting or receiving any public comment or testimony on any item on the agenda for today.
2. Attendance:  
Present: Marine Board Staff: Cyndi Bolduc, Brian Paulson, Naomi Stephens, Board Rep. Valarie Early; Acting Sgt. Joe Dezso, OSP; GAC Members: Jack Craven, Kory Mahr, Grant Scheele, Megan Selvig, Bill Monroe Jr, Jeff Miller, Jeff Keightley.  
Absent: Cody Cole, Jason Schultz, Mia Sheppard, Cliff Agocs
3. Approval of Minutes: Cyndi asked for review and approval of the minutes for the January meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Renewal Update:
  - a. Stats: There are approximately 1394 guides and 70 Charters for the 2024 season. Approximately 100 June 30th expirations that will soon be expiring. There are presently 25 guides that are pending waiting on current documentation. 20 applications are in the queue to be processed. Processing is taking three to four days instead of the two-week time frame. There are 283 guides from 2023 who have not yet renewed this season.
  - b. Issues: The renewal season has been smooth with a new more streamlined process. A new duplicate application has been launched at the on-line Boat Oregon Store to make it more convenient for the guides to apply for additional or duplicate decals or registration cards.
5. Enforcement Update was delayed until 2:45 due to Sgt Dezso being in a conference. He joined the meeting at 2:50 and gave a brief description of what he does and how long he has been with the unit. He is filling in for Sgt. Clint Galusha as acting sergeant for a limited time.
  - a. Current cases: Joe gave a brief report and noted that it has been extremely active with numerous cases in all three regions in the last year, some of which that have finally been adjudicated- initiated as far back as fall 2022. One of the bigger cases is Outfitter Guide Eric Swanson's case. Delays are present due to prosecutors' offices being overwhelmed with other cases. Another is the time to process cases. Joe gave a description of a few other cases that were worked on and one of the cases the Coast Guard assisted with.
  - b. TIP Program: Joe commented on the TIP program and stated that it was overwhelming at times with the volume of tips. Cyndi gave a brief description of the funds currently in the fund or expected. Joe said that the funds given are greatly appreciated and it is a great motivator.
  - c. Complaints: Cyndi gave a brief discussion regarding complaints and the process they go through. Joe requested that guides stop putting their decals on social



media due to forgery. Bill asked that there be a rule to prohibit anyone from posting their decals on social media and that he and a few others are petitioning to make it a regulation.

Jack asked how many of the tips coming in are relevant or worthwhile complaints and serious violations. Cyndi stated that she receives the complaints and determines if there is any criminal element, which would then be forwarded to OSP SIU. Non-criminal complaints go through a separate process within the Agency. Joe stated that 8 out of 10 complaints are worth looking in to and that about half are a viable criminal case. Val thanked OSP and the SIU for their hard work and dedication. Everyone present agreed with Val and stated their thanks as well.

Bill had a request regarding the Swanson case. He asked that Eric's license be revoked with no option to renew. He stated that he and a large number of others want the Marine Board to be aware of their stance on what they would like to see happen. Cyndi thanked Bill for his comment and stated she would make note of it.

## 6. Old Business

- a. Tip Program- Four rewards were sent out each at \$200. Five restitution checks were deposited in the account. As a reminder the account is managed by the Oregon Outfitter Guide Association. They take in the requests from the court through OSP and issue a check to the reward recipient. It's a great way to keep the rewards anonymous. The goal is to keep the account funded through the restitution from the courts. There are thoughts of raising the reward amount. The reward amount for other organizations are as follows: OHA- \$200- \$2000 (Rewards or Preference Points), and OWC- \$ 500 - \$1000. Any feedback from raising the reward amount to \$500 would be welcome. There would only be one reward per each conviction or arrest.

Bill commented stating that it is beneficial, and he likes it very much. He does not believe the amount is too crucial. If there is an ability to make it more attractive, then he is for it. Other members agree that it would be beneficial.

- b. Guide Fees - Brian Paulsen gave a brief presentation of the preliminary Guide Fee restructuring and why it is necessary. He spoke of how the decision to increase fees is made. The process starts with looking at a six-year period and seeing where revenues and expenditures are coming in. The Outfitter Guide program continues to exceed expenditures and the fees have not changed since 2014. Brian also gave a quick rundown of the revenues and budget and what that means for the outfitter guide program and OSP's contract. Fees continue to increase and current fee structures are not able to keep up. There is also the issue with the non-resident fee reciprocity being contrary to inter-state commerce law.

Grant Scheele asked what the OSP contract entails and what they are doing. Brian answered stating that OSP has five members under the special investigative unit which are undercover officers. There are five positions, one of which the Marine Board funds and specifically for Outfitter Guide issues. The other positions are funded by ODFW, and DEQ. Brian gave a brief description of what the expense is



for each and that he and Cyndi work very closely with OSP.

Val, our board representative with the GAC, stated that there was a lively discussion at the last board meeting. She brought up her concern which was the impact to the fisheries near the borders. Val agrees that there needs to be a fee increase but there is no equality between the states that border Oregon. Bill wanted to know what the disparities are that Val was bringing up. She commented that it has to do with the fisheries closing down in California which leads to such an influx of California guides in Oregon. Bill feels that the main issue is overcrowding and access to the resource. Jack commented on Bill's thoughts and said that he does feel California guides coming in and guiding in Oregon has made a significant impact on the fisheries in Oregon. The impact of non-residents is greater than what anyone might think due to reduced resource limits. Bill expressed his concerns on the differences between California and Washington guide issues. Cyndi clarified what the difference is and what the Marine Board is and is not able to do regarding over-pressured resources. Val also commented stating that the board is not against a fee increase, but that it needs to be vetted out a little more on the GAC.

Megan stated that her concern is the Outfitter Guide rate verses an employee fee. She agrees that the increase is necessary but also asks if a flat rate for employees makes sense. She stated the per employee fee is where the gains should be instead of the main fee.

- c. New GAC Members- Cyndi noted that the recruitment for new members went very well with a total of 34 applications being received. After thorough review, we accepted six new members: Jack Kraven of Yaquina Bay Charters as our Charter representative, Kory Mahr of Orange Torpedo as our representative for the Wild Rogue Outfitters Association, Megan Selvig of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center, Grant Scheele of Grant's NW Guide Service, Jeff Keightley of Astoria Fishing Charters, and Jeff Miller of Field N Marsh Outfitters & Kennels. Appreciation was voiced for our members who had termed-out: Gary Earley, Joe Rohleder, Brian Sykes, and Bob Rees. Cyndi thanked them all for their service, and also stated that Randy Turney and Jim Blount had stepped down from their member positions.

Brian Paulsen gave a brief on-boarding presentation of the GAC and what it represents and the member responsibilities.

7. New Business: None

- 8. Round Table: Because of technical difficulties, some members were unable to comment during the meeting. They were given the opportunity to belatedly comment on any of the previous items. Jeff Keightley asked what would be determined as an actionable guide complaint. Cyndi stated there were a lot of aspects to consider and gave a brief description of what she learned from law enforcement over the past 6 years. Jeff Miller asked about the fee structure. Jeff Keightley commented stating that the fee needs to be increased. Jack suggested that creating a fee for employees is a good idea. Jeff Keightley stated that the fines are way too low in his opinion. Brian reiterated that none of the changes can be made until the current fee structure which violates interstate commerce law is changed. Cyndi



and Brian are open to further discussion on the fee increase and welcome any suggestions.

Next meeting will be held sometime in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

DRAFT