



Meeting Agenda
Thursday January 8th, 2015
9:30am – 12:30pm
Youth Maritime Foundation, Tacoma, WA

9:30 am	<p>Welcome & WBA Mission Statement: The mission of the Washington Boating Alliance, an all-inclusive alliance of boating-related organizations, is to develop, advance, and implement consensus positions and proposals to enhance the recreational boating experience in Washington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introductions & How we work • Mauri Schuler – Lead Secretary with secretarial pool
9:35 am	Review and Approval of December Minutes
9:40 am	<p>Legislative Update - Review of Governors Budget and Legislators at work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities or Threats to Boating Interests?
9:50 am	<p>Agency Updates and News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Agencies: DOL, DNR, DFW, RCO, Parks, DOE, PSP • Federal: USCG, US Power Squadron, USCG Auxiliary
10:20 am	<p>Boating Group News and Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayakers & Paddlers, Tacoma Youth Foundation • NMTA, Grow Boating & Clean Boating Foundation • RBAW, NYBA, American Waterways Operators • Sea Grant, Fish Northwest, Shoreline Master Plan, SYC, Legal, CWB
10:45	<p>“Designing a Great Two-way Street: a look inside the new Volunteer Program at WDFW”. <i>Christine Redmond, Manager Volunteer Program, Department of Fish and Wildlife</i></p>
11:05	Break
11:15 am	<p>Other Items and Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCP • RRA backfill of \$3.3m • Derelict Vessel implementation issues (insurance & privacy issues / record keeping by marinas) • Blue Ribbon Task Force on Outdoor Recreation – how to retain the boating recommendations going forward? • Maritime Task Force • Big Tent • WA Maritime Federation – Lobby Day • Westlake Parking Masterplan update process • DOE Petition for No Discharge Zone • Boater Education Card vs. license endorsement conversation • Gas Tax lid lift • AIS • Marine Tourism Bill • Marine Jobs Bill • RBAW legislation on Vessel Owner Records • Boating Safety Inspections Group • Maritime Sector Report
12:15 pm	<p>WBA 6th Annual Boating Leadership Summit Update – Heather Gibbs, Peter S., Steve Sherlock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “New Faces and Opportunities Taking Us Forward” • Wed Jan 28th 2015 at the Seattle Boat Show 8:30am to 12:00pm • Review Draft Agenda, planning • Circulate evite, Boat Show admission is INCLUDED with attendance
12:30 pm	<p>Dates for your calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WBA Leadership Summit: Wednesday January 28th 8:30am - noon @ Seattle Boat Show</i> • <i>February WBA; Thursday February 12th 9:30am to 12:30pm Patrick Moran Room @ Parks HQ in Tumwater</i>
Adjourn	With Many thanks for our Hosts, Tacoma Youth Maritime Foundation



The meeting was brought to order at the Seattle Yacht Club Commodores room at 9:35. This lovely facility was finely decorated for the Holidays. November Minutes approved with one change (removal of Viggo's name as attendee).

In attendance were:

Aaron Barnett (WA SeaGrant), Mauri Shuler (LULUA), Bob Meng(NMTA Grow Boating) Peter Schrappen (NMT A), Pageen Mulhern (Nicoll Black Feig) Paul Thorpe (RBAW), Brittany Jarnot (RBAW), Alan Wolshegal (WA Parks), Toni Wilson (DOL), Viggo Bertelsen (Seattle YC), Leslie Connelly (RCO) Michael Locatell (NYBA), Bob Ranzenbach (SYC)

LEGIS UPDATE was provided by Britany at Doug Levy's office: Governor's budget and transportation budget to be released next week.

Bills: Recreation Resources Account restoration; Marine Tourism Bill, Vessel Owner records privacy, etc. There is some energy around the idea of an Outdoor Recreation "Czar," likely in the Commerce Department.

INTRODUCTIONS and UPDATES:

RCO (Leslie) - Waiting for budgets, but working on two items. 1) Draft update to agency's boating plan to be adopted by their board. They are halfway through the draft and will be released next month for public review. It was last done in 2009. No big changes expected but they look forward to public input. 2) Economic study on outdoor recreation by Tacoma consultants "Earth Economics." She reviewed the draft. A very high percentage of total money in outdoor recreation comes from Public Parks and Public Waters.

Viggo asked that they consider providing a bridge between that study and a study done 4 years ago by JLARC.

VIGGO - SYC took position opposed to the HCP, similar to RBAW's.

DOL (Toni) - Still registering vessels! They are working with RBAW on the Records Privacy idea, seeking to continue to protect vessel owners' records. Seattle Rep. Brady Walkinshaw has agreed to sponsor it.

PARKS (Al) - Eastern WA interest in grants greatly increased this year from nothing to \$700,000 in grant applications. They worked with the City of Pasco and tribes to revitalize a marina ready-for-refit where there was never a pump out facility.

RBAW (Paul) - Extended deadline on comments on HCP. They have submitted comments and a letter in opposition.

NMTA (Peter Schrappen) - Hired a consultant to respond to HCP and working with leases on aquatic lands, RBAW and AmWaterways and others.

WA Marine Federation hired Joshua Berger as staff.

Legis work includes working with human-powered organizations for DOT to think about access to water when building bridges. They are working with the agency, first, to see if this can be done administratively. If not, will try a bill. MD and CA already passed bills. West Marine pulled flares off shelves because selling them would require background checks. Getting young people into the marine trades is priority and CORE-PLUS.org is working on it. Westlake Cycle Track - they have managed to retain 100% of all parking on the north end.

GROW BOATING (Bob M) - Reported on plans for the upcoming NMTA boat show, including efforts to attract a more youthful audience.

LULA (Mauri) - reported they are still working with Seattle DPD on final details regarding the plaques to be attached to Floating On Water Residences and the issue of how to change Best Management Practices that are contained within the SSMP. LULA believes BMP changes should be made only with a public process and a change in the ordinance, made by the city council. The current proposal allows DPD Directors to change BMPs.

SEAGRANT (Aaron) - They are starting to focus more on workforce development. They are certifying 4 new Clean Marinas in Eastern WA. They have funding from the legislature to work on chronic oil spills, such as those in parking lots. He is working with Yacht Clubs to create a communication plan for spills so that YCs can better assure protection for their property in the event of a spill.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Comfort asked for ideas on getting better boating data. Suggested asking members to submit three questions about boating data that they would appreciate knowing the answers to. Viggo asked that the data be accompanied with an assessment of how reliable the data is.

DOL representative Toni suggested as their agency is developing a new system they might take the questions on data forward. For example, boat width might be useful; or county-of-moorage might be refined to discover where trailered boats might be used.

There are 235K registered vessels. 20K fewer did not reregister from 2013. How could they be located? DOL stopped paper renewals and those who dropped off the roles in 2013 could not then renew online in 2014. She suggests DOL might amend this code so that any boaters can register on line whether they are current or not. We learned that there is a "SAW", Secure Access Washington, link that provides the public a one-password way to access all state departments.

ACTION ITEM - Chair Comfort asked for discussion on WBA support for a letter drafted by Doug Levy to key legislators asking for return of \$3.2 Million dollars for the Recreation Resource Account. The letter includes a list of specific projects, approved and vetted by the RCO Grant Advisory Committee, that would be funded by return of those monies which were swept in the 2012-2013 budget. Peter Schrappen pointed out there is nothing controversial about this position. After a short discussion, the group arrived at a decision to support this letter. Attendees from government agencies did not participate in the discussion or agree to support the letter. Martha Comfort and Viggo pointed out that WBA does not normally take positions as the WBA role is primarily to support consideration and conversation around issues relating to boaters. Individual stakeholder organizations then might decide to take positions. In the case of the Recreation Resource Account (RRA), the WBA is in 100% consensus on their support of this Account. The RRA is administrated by RCO through a comprehensive grant review process by committee. RRA funds water access for boaters with money from boaters un-refunded gas tax money.

Leadership Summit announcement - Set for January 28th, 8:30am, Peter Schrappen said this is our biggest event and expects a success with Steve Sewell from the Governor's office as keynote speaker. He agreed to circulate the agenda for the group's pleasure.

DISCUSSION - Habitat Conservation Plan of DNR. There was an announcement that the Comment Period had been extended to 31 December 2014. Attendees pointed to Chapter 5 as a particular area of concern. In addition, portions are retroactive and the endangered species list is longer than the federal list. Some areas of concern with this draft were pointed out and discussed. Viggo suggested that correspondence could be targeted to legislators, as well as DNR. There was an overall consensus among attendees that more people should be encouraged to write in their comments. Mauri Shuler will send a notice to the membership of LULA. Many organizations have already submitted comments, including NMTA, RBAW, SYC.

Yacht Brokers' Association report (Mike Locatell) - Getting ready for the boat show. Their GAC already made comments on the HCP. They are also working with members to get the Gas Tax Lid Lift done and working on the Marine Jobs bill.

DISCUSSION - Chair Comfort asked for input on the succession plan for WBA. Her term is up and the individuals asked to replace her both declined. She asked for ideas to move forward such as a shared chairmanship and a secretarial pool to assign different members the chance to take minutes. Viggo suggested "moderator" might be a better term. The Succession planning committee has work to do with some new potential candidates!

The date for the next meeting is January 8th 2015. Location to be determined.

Minutes respectfully provided by Mauri Shuler



1. On-going Activities

1.1	Develop consensus positions of boating organizations on boating issues.
1.2	Advocate for endorsed boating issue positions.
1.3	Be a watchdog for boating issues.
1.4	Educate, inform, and lobby for boating issues.
1.5	Develop champions for boating issue positions and funding.
1.6	Be a clearing-house for information related to boating proposals.
1.7	Coordinate consensus-building and lobbying efforts of the Alliance's organizations.
1.8	Monitor agencies' performance on boating programs.

2. Specific Functions

2.1	Renew Alliance positions to the Puget Sound Partnership.
2.2	Invite and maintain connection with DOL as a stakeholder with WBA
2.3	Develop consensus on various positions for input to agency boating-related advisory committees and councils.
2.3	Develop background information on what is currently being spent on boating programs.
2.4	Develop background information on what taxes and fees boaters currently pay.

3. WBA 2014/2015 Legislative Proposals / Positions

3.1	<p>Recreation Resource Account: A key priority for WBA is to leave this account to its dedicated purpose of developing and maintaining boating infrastructure. WBA strongly opposes any effort to divert these funds from their intended purpose. If necessary, WBA supports using general obligation bonds on a temporary basis to keep the RRA whole.</p>
3.2	<p>No-Discharge Zone: WBA shares the underlying goal of a cleaner Puget Sound and supports the continued study of the Puget Sound No-Discharge Zone.</p>
3.3	<p>Marine Tourism Bill: WBA supports change to the cruising permit policy that would allow entity-owned vessels visiting Washington State waterways to have the same rights as individual-owned vessels.</p>
3.4	<p>Derelict Vessels: WBA believes commercial vessels also need to pay for removal of derelict vessels.</p>
3.5	<p>WBA supports removal of the lid on Gas Tax allowing unrefunded gas tax money paid by boaters to flow back to the Recreation Resource Account.</p>

4. Ideas for the Future

4.1	Engage an Intern to do outreach on behalf of WBA
4.2	Build WBA as part of the 'Big Tent'
4.3	Develop consensus positions
4.4	How can we improve the current discussion forum?

(Bold items added / changed since last meeting)



Organization Partners

Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW)
Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA)
Northwest Yacht Brokers Association (NYBA)
US Power Squadron
USCG Auxiliary
Seattle Yacht Club (SYC)
Queen City Yacht Club (QCYC)
Rivers Safety Council (RSC)
Washington Water Trails Association
Puget Sound Anglers
Lake Union Liveaboard Association
Kitsap Poggie Club
Tacoma Outboard Association
Tacoma Youth Marine Center /Youth Marine Foundation

Corporate Partners

International Marine Management Institute, Martha Comfort
Nicoll, Black & Feig, Pageen Mulhern

Agency Partners

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Washington Department of Licensing (DOL)
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Puget Sound Partnership
US Coast Guard District 13
Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA)
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)

Advising Lobbyists

RBAW, Doug Levy
NMTA, Cliff Webster
NYBA,
WASPC, James McMahan

WBA Contact Information

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