



WATERFRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF OREGON

WATERFRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF OREGON-May 3, 2023

Noon WOOO Board Zoom/Live/Hybrid Meeting-FINAL

<https://waterfrontoregon.com/>

Call to Order / President Ron Schmidt

Thanks and recognition of PYC for their Support

Board Roll Call / Secretary Maura Hayes QUORUM PRESENT (4 minimum)

WOOO 2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

X Ron Schmidt (The Planning Group/Oarboard)

VICE PRESIDENT

X Kelly Butler Holtz (Oregon Yacht Club)

SECRETARY

X Maura Hayes (Macadam Bay Moorage)

TREASURER

X Stan Tonneson (Rocky Point Marina)

TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Bryrick Shillam (Portland Realty Services, LLC)

DIRECTORS

X Doug Romjue (CRYA)

X Harry Braunstein (Portland Yacht Club)

Marlon Bump (Riverplace Harbormaster)

Mark McCuddy (McCuddy's Marinas)

Pascal Le Guilly (Schooner Creek Boat Works)

Kyle Downs (Columbia Crossings, Inc.)

Don Gire (Tomahawk Destiny)

X Tom Ulrich (McCormick Pier Marina & HOA)

Welcome & Introductions / Ron Schmidt

We began with some introductions of members from various organizations who expressed interest in these topics of concern: security, derelict boats, best practices, wake reduction.

Cpt. Steve Bevins, is a new transfer to the MCSO (Multnomah County Sheriff's Office) River Patrol. He has 25 years of experience on patrol, including homeless outreach and administrative experience on budgeting issues. He is focused on the current Budget.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Stan Tonneson to approve March 2023 Meetings.

Seconded by Kelly Butler Holtz. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report / Stan Tonneson

Past balance \$10,366.37

Current Balance \$9708.27

Spring Brunch reception for the Sheriff cost \$658.20 less donations=\$498.80 Total cost.

Many dues payments are delinquent. 40 members have paid thus far.

100 current and past members will be contacted for payment.

We may need an easier method for paying dues, likely via electronic bill payment transfer. Ron wants to increase our membership numbers into the thousands.

NEWS AND INFO FROM OUR GOVERNMENTAL ALLIES

CRYA Doug Romjue - Opening Weekend May 6

CRYA Columbia River Yacht Association:

This weekend is the opening day of boating season. Sheriff, OSMB representative and WOOO Members will be on the review boat.

It starts at 1 PM at Salty's. Expect cannon fire.

This year's dress theme is TIKI-inspired attire for fun. Expect 200-250 boats out on the water this year in formation, with straight lines, good

timing, with many overlapped themes to the Rose Festival “Fun” theme.

Committee Reports

Legislative Update

Stan Tonneson: HB-198 (HouseBill) Boat houses filing form passed the first phase.

The Governor’s budget of \$18.7 million includes funding for derelict boat issues. Another HB requires an 18 person task force, which seems stalled. DSL (Dept of State Lands) has created their own task force to evaluate funding needs that will meet the requirement for the money from the (one-time) Monsanto Settlement.

Kelly asked about Senate Bill 1071: Increases the loading weight on wake boats. Update needed.

Tom Ulrich (via chat): HB-3501 Right to Rest was pulled from review

To follow Legislative agendas:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1071/Introduced>

Stormwater Committee

“Rain Tax II”

Cathy Evanson & Tim Gorman (not present) will be meeting soon with BES (Bureau of Environmental Standards) to discuss the new rate structure proposals.

Ron : 2015 City charged the stormwater fees for floating homes even though they do not add stormwater. This was rescinded. Now, they are reorganizing the rates to possibly charge \$20 per home per month in perpetuity. We will be called into action soon to appear at hearings to resist these charges.

ADVAC

Existing and new legislation/funding to cover:

“Good Samaritans”

Ron: Current laws say if we do not tie off a derelict vessel, we can be responsible. If we tie it on, we become financially responsible for its removal.

“Innocent Victim Marinas”

If a derelict vessel sinks in our area, we become unfairly financially responsible for its removal. Waterfront individuals and businesses cannot afford the financial hit that these boats create, it needs to be shared by all.

Security

Multnomah County Chair 2023-24 Budget reduces River Patrol by 2 deputies: a 25% deputy reduction. River Patrol coverage is seasonal. River Patrol will have 6, current budget allows for 8. They are trying to hire two right now from the academy.

Law enforcement coverage will be drastically changed, with a likely reduction of 6 to 14 hours daily. Coverage will drastically reduce deputy coverage if the budget is cut by 25%. Shifts require two officers per boat. Deputies may lose day shifts. 3 crew members and a sergeant for afternoon coverage.

In early June, budget decisions will be decided by County Chair Jessica Vega Peterson. We should consider inviting her to WOOO to persuade her of our river patrol coverage needs. Public meetings will be held on May 10, 17, 21.

Captain Bevens

MCSO Captain Steve Bevens 503-988-7300 steve.bevens@mcsso.us. He has worked with DSL in the past, with a contract for certain services. He is new to this river patrol position. Lt Bob Stewart is also a new hire, (introduced to us at last meeting), who will understudy with Sgt Steve Dangler.

He is surprised that the River Patrol is in this budget situation. Because river usage is seasonal, the incident numbers have a lot of

variability; in the winter the river patrol is slow, but then bursts into action during the warmer weather. OSMB was given lower numbers for service needs. They need revision to reflect the high-season needs, the real usage numbers. OSMB monies have been stagnant since 2014, resulting in underfunded utilities and enforcement.

The budget chair will not make any changes this month. Early June is a good time to be quite vocal about our needs for WOOO.

He discussed various departments that are likely to have reduced funding.

Ron: Does the commissioner know that three positions are fully funded by an outside agency?

Bevens: The budget cuts may create undesirable staffing pressures and awkward shifts that could affect deputy retention. There are difficult staff/shift decisions to make.

Discussion ensued about how to affect these decisions.

Question: ___(PYC) He still needs the specific legal answer as to what he can do re: encroachment of derelict boats. What can we do about it?

Bevens: You have a right to protect your property.

Stan: **You have a right to protect your property.**

Pushing off a boat is equivalent to pushing logs off.

Ron asked his lawyer about this. There is no law that makes a person financially responsible for pushing off another's boat if it was already floating. Maritime law has its own parameters.

Bevens: Is that dock private property? Tow it. Property owner would be responsible for the tow.

Others: Who would tow it, where? Tow to a boat ramp?

We had a long discussion about the correct options. PENDING.
Good Samaritans want to protect property downstream without taking on financial risk (ie.vessel sinking, reclamation, property destruction, etc)

Salvage cranes cost about \$50,000 a day.

If someone is *living* on a boat, even if it is not seaworthy, nothing can be done about it. It becomes a huge liability for all.

Social Committee

Jane Gire Chair - Excused absence

Mark your calendars: Annual Dinner date reserved 11-4-2023

Other Committees

Old Business

Floating Home Insurance - Don Gire - excused

Outreach: more waterfront organizations - industrial, commercial, etc?
We need more/better communications.

Rental Boats Concerns

Tom Uhrich: Boating has begun. Buoys needed. Cost \$100 each. They made some alternative buoys to combat vandalism.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned.

ZOOM WILL CONTINUE FOR BEST PRACTICES MOORAGE
LEADERS GROUP