

Waterfront Organizations of Oregon (WOOO) - Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Portland Yacht Club & via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Ron Schmidt, President

1. Call to Order

President Ron Schmidt called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call & Director Intentions for the Coming Year

A roll call was conducted, during which directors were asked if they intended to serve again in the new year.

- **Ron Schmidt:** Present will **not** be continuing as President.
- **Kelly Holtz:** Absent
- **Stan Tonneson:** Present, will **not** be continuing as Treasurer.
- **Kellen Gorman:** Absent
- **Quinn Flanigan:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Doug Romjue:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Harry Braunstein:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Marlon Bump:** Absent
- **Spencer McCuddy:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Pascal Le Guilly:** Absent
- **Justin Teutsch:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Don Gire:** Absent
- **Kirk Lance:** Present, will **not** be able to continue.
- **Dan Comfort:** Present, **will** continue.
- **Bob Wilson:** Absent
- **Tracy Robinson:** Absent
- **Abby Boudouris:** Present, will try to continue but has travel commitments.
- **Rick Nelson:** Absent

A quorum was confirmed.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were presented.

- **MOTION:** A motion was made by Quinn Flanigan to approve the minutes as presented.
 - **SECOND:** The motion was seconded by Kirk Lance.
 - **VOTE:** The minutes were approved unanimously.
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4. Officer & Committee Reports

- **Treasurer's Report (Stan Tonneson):**
 - There were no expenses in the last month.
 - **Current Balance:** \$16,933.71
 - **Social Committee & Annual Meeting (Jane Guyer):**
 - The **Annual Meeting and Dinner** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 4th**, at the Columbia River Yacht Club.
 - A formal invitation will be sent via Constant Contact with details on the menu (roast beef, salmon) and cost (estimated at \$40-45 per person).
 - The event will celebrate WOOO's history and feature keynote speaker **Caitlin Lovell**, the new Director of the Department of State Lands (DSL).
 - **Nominating Committee (Doug Romjue):**
 - The committee is actively seeking nominations for the roles of **President** and **Vice President**.
 - It was noted that **Kelly Holtz** is a likely candidate for President, making the Vice President role a key position to fill. Members with interest were encouraged to step forward.
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5. Agency & Partner Reports

- **Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) River Patrol:**
 - Boating season is slowing down, but issues persist at Ross Island. The office is coordinating with other agencies to develop a plan.
 - Boat thefts remain an issue in North Portland Harbor, though a major camp was recently cleaned up. The public is reminded to report any stolen boats to law enforcement and OSMB.
- **Portland Fire & Rescue (Harbor Master Sean):**
 - A new Fire Chief has been in place for a few months.
 - A **three-year process** to replace Fire Boat 6 (built in the 1980s) is underway.
 - **Aquatic invasive weeds (milfoil)** are a significant operational problem, clogging engine intakes and interfering with sonar equipment used for underwater searches.

- **Safety Reminder:** With colder weather, residents are urged to be cautious when using heaters for the first time. Ensure space heaters are plugged directly into wall outlets (not extension cords) and that combustibles are cleared away from heating sources.
 - **Standpipe Testing:** Marinas are required to test their fire standpipes. Records of these tests are available via public records request from the Fire Marshal's office.
 - **Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) - Alan Hansen:**
 - OSMB relies on two key funding sources for its programs, including law enforcement:
 1. **Boat Registration Fees:** Alan urged marinas to work with their tenants to ensure all vessels are properly registered, as compliance can be low.
 2. **Fuel Tax Reimbursement:** OSMB receives a portion of fuel taxes paid by boaters. An Oregon State University survey will be sent out to boaters soon. Accurate completion of this survey is critical for ensuring OSMB receives its full funding allocation.
 - Alan offered to provide a written summary for WOOO to distribute to its members to help with these efforts.
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6. New Business & Major Topics

- **City of Portland Environmental Zone (E-Zone) Overlay Expansion:**
 - **Justin Teutsch** (Columbia Crossings) and **Corky Collier** (Columbia Corridor Association) presented on the City's proposal to expand environmental zoning overlays.
 - **The Issue:** The proposal significantly expands the area subject to E-Zone regulations, potentially applying to all property within 170 feet of the top of the bank in a flood hazard zone.
 - **The Impact:** This change would make development, redevelopment, and even routine maintenance and upgrades on waterfront properties far more difficult, expensive, and time-consuming, requiring a costly and lengthy Type II land use review process.
 - **Discussion:** The city's rationale is tied to FEMA requirements for flood management and the Endangered Species Act. However, it's believed the City is proposing regulations that go beyond FEMA's base requirements.
 - **Action:** It was agreed that this issue is a major concern for WOOO members. A workgroup will be formed to analyze the proposal, collaborate with partners like the Columbia Corridor Association and the Working Waterfront Coalition, and advocate for a more balanced approach.
- **Law Enforcement Funding:**
 - A discussion was held on the critical shortage of law enforcement on the water.
 - Two legislative goals were identified:
 1. **Increase OSMB's budget for wake/safety signage** (currently only \$20,000).

2. **Amend state law to allow funds from the Waterway Access Permit**
(required for non-motorized boats) to be used for law enforcement.

● **CRYA & Public Docks (Doug Romjue):**

- CRYA is actively pressuring Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to repair public docks on Government Island (Winter Landing) and Hadley's Landing.
- OPRD initially claimed a lack of funds and personnel to apply for grants. After pressure from CRYA, OPRD is now submitting an out-of-cycle budget request to begin the repair process.
- **Call to Action:** WOOO will send an email to its members urging them to submit public comments in support of this funding request before the **October 6th deadline**.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was officially adjourned at **1:33 PM**.

Minutes submitted by Quinn Flanagan, Secretary.