



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board

BRAD LITTLE
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Board Meeting Minutes of 7/6/2023

Board Members Present: Brad Compton - Chair
Dennis Skinner
Louise Stark
Erik Weiseth

Division Staff: Anne Lawler, Executive Officer
Greg Loos, General Counsel
John Price, Investigative Unit Supervisor
Allegra Earl, Licensing Unit Supervisor
Zac Clifford, OGLB Program Coordinator
Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist

Board Members Absent: Tammy Overacker

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Brad Compton.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 4/11/2023 and 5/17/2023 minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD BUSINESS

Public Comment:

Henry Jones stated his opposition to the proposed increase of outfitters on the Priest River, stating ecological issues with the river temperature and hatcheries as reasons to retain the current limits.

Erin Plue stated her opposition to the proposed increase of outfitting on the Priest River, stating ecological issues and the negative impact of increased outfitting on the river.

Jeff Bitton commented on the artificial tag growth issue, stating the position of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) and its proposed solutions.

John Watts commented in agreement with the proposal by the IOGA addressing artificial tag growth. He stated that he wants the transferring outfitter to retain credit of the tag use.

Jeremy Patterson commented to oppose the proposed increase of outfitters on the Priest River. He reiterated the reasons Ms. Plue and Mr. Jones gave for retaining the current limit.

Tara Reichert commented that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is supportive of preventing artificial tag growth.

Rule Changes for 2024 Session:

A motion was made and seconded to set the CF1 outfitter limit to two outfitters and create a new designation, CF2, with a limit of two outfitters, with dates restricted to Memorial Day through September 30. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to set the PR1 to a two-float outfitter limit. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to limit Hayden Lake to two outfitters. The motion was amended to remove Hayden Lake from Rule 259.04, effectively setting Hayden Lake's outfitter limit to two as defined in Rule 259.05. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to add a section c to IDAPA 24.35.01.257.09 as proposed by legal counsel. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clifford and Mr. Loos informed the Board that it cannot engage in a competitive review of financial fitness when assessing outfitting applicants for new opportunities.

2022-23 ZBR Rule Change Implementation, Communication:

Mr. Clifford updated the Board on the newsletter that was sent to all outfitters outlining the noteworthy rule changes that went into effect in late March.

Mr. Clifford informed the Board that land managers have been updated on river rule changes.

Mr. Clifford informed the Board that guide licensure will be implemented when the new licensing system goes live. Ms. Lawler stated that guide licenses will have a biennial renewal.

OGLB Work Plan Update: Ms. Lawler updated the Board on changes to the OGLB work plan. She also updated the Board on the Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) MOU. She stated that the Department of Lands MOU is being put on hold and the Parks and Recreation MOU is expired and will be updated. Ms. Lawler also provided a website update.

GIS Mapping Update: Mr. Clifford stated that he has identified approximately 20-25 outfitter operating areas not on private land that need mapping. He stated that many hunt areas are mapped well and he is researching the bandwidth needed to map poorly mapped areas. He stated that he is also working with IDFG to put map information into the hunt planner.

Consolidating Licenses: Ms. Lawler stated that the Division Administrator is supportive of consolidating licenses and if the Board consolidates all hunting licenses, the Board's revenue would reduce by approximately \$8,000 per year. Ms. Earl stated that the Board would see a \$28,000 reduction in revenue if outfitters consolidate all of their licenses. The staff will discuss license consolidation with the land managers and bring that information back to the Board.

Overlap Policies: Mr. Clifford stated that there are outfitters interested in signing a predator overlap agreement with each other. Mr. Compton stated that the Nez Pierce and Clearwater overlap agreement can be used as the basis for new overlap agreement implementation, and Ms. Stark stated that these agreements would act like a hot pursuit agreement. Mr. Clifford proposed adding a predator overlap section to the existing major amendment form.

First Aid Course Provider Approvals: The Board discussed first aid course providers for licensure. The Board decided that the Red Cross first aid course should be used as the standard, that classes must be at least three hours, and that in-person or virtual courses are acceptable.

Non-Use Report/Update: Ms. Lawler stated that the Division will send letters to outfitters with demonstrated non-use and provide the Board with a list of those outfitters and any responses to the letters at the next meeting.

May 2023 BLM Meeting Report: Mr. Compton stated that the annual Bureau of Land Management (BLM) meeting he attended in Idaho Falls was dedicated to water levels. He also stated that the BLM requested coordination between the Board and BLM when guide licensure is implemented.

Licensure Report: Ms. Earl presented the licensing report to the Board.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Financial Update: Ms. Lawler gave the financial report, which indicated that the Board had a cash balance of \$628,643.91 as of April 10, 2023.

DOPL Updates: Ms. Lawler stated that the Division is focusing on updating the strategic plan, the performance report on the strategic plan, and evaluating the results of the statewide employee engagement survey.

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to retain a license or registration. The vote was: Mr. Skinner, aye; Mr. Weiseth, aye; Ms. Stark, aye; and Mr. Compton, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously. No decisions were made in executive session.

Discipline

A motion was made and seconded to close case numbers I-OGB-2023-16. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to close case number I-OGB-2023-15 with an advisory letter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Order in case numbers I-OGB-2023-10, I-OGB-2023-19, and I-OGB-2023-20, and I-OGB-2023-21 and to allow the Board chair to sign on behalf of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ELECTIONS

A motion was made and seconded to nominate and elect Mr. Compton as Board chair. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate and elect Ms. Stark as Vice chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

The next meeting is on 09/28/2023.