

The Fix is In!!

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Today, before 10 AM the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) voted 4 to 1 to adopt the staff recommendations to make Waldo Lake free of internal combustion engines, which includes floatplanes.

Oregon Administrative Rule

250-020-0221

Boat Operations on Certain Waters in Lane County

(10) Use of internal combustion motors in boats and floatplanes operating on the surface of Waldo Lake is prohibited year round. "Watercraft" includes boats and floatplanes operating on the surface of Waldo Lake. Official use of internal combustion motors in watercraft operated on the surface of Waldo Lake by local, state or federal governmental officials or agents is allowed for the following activities: search and rescue, law enforcement and fire suppression. Previous approval by the Willamette National Forest Supervisor is required for other activities undertaken by local, state or federal government officials or agents that involve use of internal combustion motors in watercraft operated on the surface of Waldo Lake. Emergency landings of private or governmental floatplanes on Waldo Lake are allowed without previous approval.

The Oregon State Marine Board consists of 5 members who are appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. They are Trey Carscadon (Chairman), Rick Allen, Brian Carroll, George Tinker and Deborah McQueen. The Meeting was called to order at 9 AM this morning and after a brief introductory presentation by the City of Portland the agenda moved to Item B, Waldo Lake.

At the very beginning several pointed questions were asked by Board member Rick Allen over the process which had brought this rule and its expected outcome to the Board. I believe that it was also at this point when he said that it was this sort back room lawmaking that little by little chipped away at citizen rights and was why so many people were disenfranchised with government. Then the OSMB Executive Director (ED) ,Paul Donheffner, read excerpts from the

rather voluminous staff report into the record. It was obvious from his remarks that he was focusing on the reasons why this rule was not needed. The only slightly positive references were as he made the necessary recommendation to the Board that the rule be adopted to satisfy the Memorandum of Understanding that the Governor had directed him to sign with the Forest Service calling out the language that the Board would be voting on.

The Board Chairman, Trey Carscadon, then called for a motion to consider adopting the rule. It took almost a minute before there was a motion on the floor as all members looked at each other hoping the other would make the motion. After Brian Carroll made the motion, and it was seconded" with reluctance" by George Tinker, the discussion began.

Rick Allen did most of the questioning regarding the process again this time drawing out the ED to the point of admitting that the whole process, of which he knew the ED didn't agree with, was directed by the Governor and orchestrated by the Assistant Attorney General. He was gravely concerned about how the public input was withheld from the board to the point of saying that several people had asked him if he had seen their letter but that because of the way this process had proceeded it hadn't been necessary to view the public comments because the outcome was predetermined.

Deborah McQueen spoke about her coming to the Board not to be a bobble-head and in the end was the only no vote. She spoke passionately about the way government should conduct its self and not be a taker of rights and instead be a protector or giver. Bravo Deborah!

George Tinker and Brian Carroll both spoke about the box that they had been put in through political arm twisting. Several comments were made with respect to the past good stewardship of the Marine Board and that this was a low point and that they hoped that this sort of thing would never happen again. Trey Carscadon spoke last and his was the only positive spin in that he referred to the Governors vision for a motorless experience for his constituents. (Not an exact quote)

In several of the members comments it became obvious that they had been in consultation with one another and several references were made to the fact that this decision, even before the vote, would probably end up in court.

At that point the chairman called for the vote and after Deborah's emphatic no vote the other four cast their vote to pass the rule as worded by the staff recommendation and MOU. They then went on the next item on the agenda.