



Government Affairs Committee Meeting Agenda

February 12th, 2026 – 10:30 AM

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome / Call to Order**
Tarin Todd
2. **Boat Show Recap**
George Harris, CEO, NMTA
 - Attendance highlights
 - Exhibitor feedback
3. **Boating Day in Olympia – January 29th, 2026**
Roman / Jay
4. **Maritime Day in Olympia – February 5th, 2026**
5. **Olympia Update**
Jay / Roman / JayB
 - **HB 2131 – Sea Lion Predation Control Account**
 - **HB 2199 – Derelict Vessel Reforms**
 - **SB 5851 – Companion to HB 2131**
 - **Budget – DVRA, WDFW,**
 - Any additional bills introduced since last meeting
6. **Updates from Jay**
Jay Jennings
7. **Next Meeting**
March 12, 2026 @ 10:30AM
8. **Adjourn**

Meeting notes:

- **Seattle Boat Show Attendance and Metrics:** George provided a comprehensive recap of the Seattle Boat Show, sharing detailed attendance figures, website analytics, and the impact of weather and concurrent events, with input from Marsha and Katy regarding data sharing and weather effects.
 - **Attendance Figures and Trends:** George reported that the nine-day attendance at Lumen Field Event Center was 32,521, a 15% increase over the previous year, and 3.3% above the three-year average. Bell Harbor Marina saw 6,902 attendees, a 12.7% increase over last year but 10% below the three-year average. The team turned away about nine boats due to space limitations.
 - **Impact of Weather and Super Bowl:** Marsha inquired about the influence of weather on attendance, to which George explained that good weather generally helps outdoor

- events like Bell Harbor, while last year's snow and ice significantly reduced turnout. The Super Bowl weekend saw a dip in attendance and website traffic, as anticipated.
- **Digital Guest Ticketing System:** George described the successful implementation of a new digital guest ticketing system, which replaced paper tickets and allowed member businesses to distribute tickets electronically. Of 290 businesses, 148 used the system, and it contributed to the attendance increase.
 - **Website Analytics and Ticket Sales:** George shared that the show's website had 801,000 page views and 164,000 unique users, with online ticket sales occurring in 45 states. The team narrowly missed the 2023 ticket sales number by 100 tickets, indicating strong performance.
 - **Data Sharing and Surveys:** Katy asked about sharing the data outside the organization. George clarified that attendance and survey data would be posted in the members-only section of the website, and exhibitors would receive attendance data. Exit surveys were sent to attendees to gather feedback and calculate the Net Promoter Score.
- **Boating Day and Legislative Advocacy:** Tarin and Jay summarized the Boating Day event and legislative advocacy efforts, highlighting discussions on budget defense, derelict vessel legislation, and networking with elected officials, with additional updates from Roman and Jay Blaspus on legislative developments.
 - **Boating Day Event Overview:** Tarin reported that Boating Day was well attended, with over 40 participants from NMTA and ARBA, and included lunch and networking opportunities. The event focused on legislative defense, particularly regarding budget issues and derelict vessel funding.
 - **Derelict Vessel Legislation:** Tarin and Jay discussed support for House Bill 2199, which aims to improve derelict vessel removal processes. The bill passed the House and moved to the Senate, with Roman confirming the timeline for further action.
 - **Networking with Legislators:** Jay and Tarin highlighted the presence of numerous legislators and staff at the Olympia Yacht Club reception, with special thanks to the National Marine Manufacturers Association and individuals like Clay Crabtree and Julia Lane for their involvement.
 - **Washington Maritime Federation Lobby Day:** Jay described the Washington Maritime Federation's lobby day, which included 14 small groups and about 80 meetings, emphasizing the importance of keeping maritime issues visible to legislators.
 - **Legislative and Budget Updates:** Roman, Jay, and Jay Blaspus provided updates on legislative and budget matters, including the status of derelict vessel funding, proposed taxes, and the overall budget process, with questions from Monique and Mary about specific tax proposals.
 - **Budget and Revenue Forecasts:** Roman explained that the budget process is ongoing, with a revenue forecast expected next week and a budget release on the 22nd. The team is monitoring for any changes to derelict vessel funding and other maritime interests.
 - **Proposed Taxes and Legislation:** Roman detailed the status of various tax proposals, including a new income tax with a \$1,000,000 threshold for couples and \$500,000 for individuals, as well as payroll and wealth taxes, which have less momentum this year.
 - **Payroll Tax and Other Proposals:** Mary asked about a payroll tax affecting large employers, and Roman clarified that while such a tax was proposed, it is unlikely to move forward this session. Jay added that legislative focus has shifted to the income tax.
 - **32-Hour Work Week Proposal:** Monique inquired about a proposed 32-hour work week, and Roman confirmed that the proposal did not advance, partly due to lack of support from state employees.
 - **Deficit Management and Budget Tactics:** Jay described the use of account sweeps and budget adjustments to manage the short-term deficit, noting that the income tax would not generate revenue until 2029, so interim measures are being considered.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Email Distribution List Update:** Send an email to Jay requesting to be added to the email distribution list for future communications. (Mark)
- **Attendance Data Sharing:** Share the final exhibitor attendance data with all exhibitors this afternoon as planned. (Katie (show director))
- **Survey Data Publication:** Publish the exit survey data and a high-level view of Seattle Boat Show attendance in the members-only section of the website when available. (George)

Name

Jay Jennings

Wyatt Asbury

George Harris

Monique Webber (Unverified)

Tarin (Unverified)

Mark Crandall (Unverified)

Matthew's Notetaker (Otter.ai) (Unverified)

Matthew's Notetaker (Otter.ai) (Unverified)

William's Notetaker (Otter.ai) (Unverified)

Ryan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) (Unverified)

TeamsMaestro | AI notetaker (Unverified)

Roman (Unverified)

Brad Johnson (External)

Marsha McGruer

Dennis Halpin (External)

Abbey Smelcer

Katy Bevegni (External)

Bill DeVoe (Unverified)

Brandon Baker (External)

Jay Balasbas, JMB Strategies

Tabitha Simonetti (External)

Sam LeClercq

Matthew Dortch

Mary LaFleur (Unverified)

12065793623 (Unverified)

Jon Keiser (External)