

1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2022

Location: WV DNR Headquarters – 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

Chaired: Director Brett McMillion

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chris Ellis (private river user via Zoom); Bobby Bower (Sandstone Jetboats via Zoom); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom); Duane Michael for Leslie Reynolds (NPS via Zoom); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Chelsea Ruby (Tourism via Zoom); Lt. Col. David Trader (WV DNR via Zoom)

Others: Amy Lucas (WVDNR via Zoom); Cpl. Whittington (WV DNR via Zoom); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of March 10, 2022 was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. Introductions were made.

Approval of December 14, 2021 Minutes

Chris Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.

Budget

Director McMillion noted the budget reports in the packets for review. Brian Bolyard gave an update on the online reporting system: trip leader reports will roll up to “River Management” report; admin here at HQ will have the ability to edit and make changes if necessary; Tourism will update and clean up the current site; \$16,000 will be the cost from OT to repair; there is no established date on a “new” website yet, but Tourism states that it will be a Google environment that is user friendly and may possibly create an app; Chelsea Ruby explained the need for Google instead of a “custom website” that only OT can access; Heather Johnson wants to totally eliminate Trip Leader reports, but Brian explained the need for them. Chris Hayes made a motion to accept the budget. Motion seconded by Bobby Bower. The motion carried.

Old Business

- (Gauley River Protocols Update) – Duane Michael has not had the meeting yet. He is hoping to schedule by the end of March, possibly March 21, 2022, outfitters will be invited, as well as Cpl. CJ Whittington.
- (Trip Leader Reporting) – this topic was discussed with the budget.

New Business

- (Injury Report Preparation) – Jinyang Deng, Ph.D. with WVU has shown interest in preparing another injury report for 2017-2021. The last reporting was done for 2011-2016. Bobby Bower asked if this would be published on the whitewater website. Motion was made to have Professor Deng prepare the 2017-2021 whitewater injury report by Chris Ellis. Motion seconded by

Bobby Bower. The motion carried. Amy Lucas will reach out to Professor Deng to make sure his cost will still be \$2499 as it was in the past.

- (Members with Expiring Terms) – there are three (3) members with expiring terms: Bobby Bower, Don Beyer and Wendy Hart; Bobby and Don can continue but a replacement is needed for Wendy. Chris Ellis made a motion to ask Bobby and Don to serve again. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.
- Attached to the meeting packet was a list of single license users that would be good candidates to replace Wendy Hart.
- Chris Ellis made a motion to nominate Mr. George Heffner, Jr. with Harpers Ferry Adventure Center. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.
- Amy Lucas will reach out to Mr. Heffner.

Next Meeting Date and Place

The 2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Chris Ellis made a motion to accept this date. Motion seconded by Chris Hayes.

Adjournment

The 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.