

1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2016

Location: DNR HQ's 2nd Floor Conference Room – 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

Chaired: DNR LE Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel, for Director Robert Fala

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Jerry Jenkins for Director Fala (WVDNR); Brian Campbell (AWVR); Chris Ellis (Private Boater); Matt Knott (River Riders by phone); Will Miller for Amy Goodwin (WV Tourism)

Others: Steve Storck (WVU Tech); Isaac Colvard (Summit); Heather Kessel (WVDNR); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Dennis Feazell (WVDNR D-4)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of March 15th, 2016 was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign.

Approval of December 15th, 2015 Minutes

Brian Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15th, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by Chris Ellis. The motion carried.

Budget

Matt Knott advised there is \$42,701 in general revenue, \$6,785 in the Gauley and the expenses were \$12,675. He advised that even with the new reports he was unable to determine exactly what the expenses were for, but appeared lower than for previously.

Colonel Jenkins advised that the budget cuts shouldn't affect the Whitewater budget and that whitewater user fees would not be affected. However, the fund that whitewater license fees go into may be affected.

Reporting Website Update

Heather Kessel advised that the new website had been in production and running smoothly since January 1st. No major issues to report, but that the busy season is coming and issue may arise then.

Request to Upgrade Site to be "Mobile Friendly"

Heather Kessel advised that Rob Dobson with WV Adventures wanted to mention to the Commission that he feels the new website isn't user friendly for mobile users. He wanted to request an upgrade to the site. Brian Campbell mentioned that mobile issues weren't thought of in the initial phases and not something necessary to spend more funds on at this time.

Heather Kessel mentioned that the Office of Technology felt it would be a minimum of 40 hours and maximum of 240 hours at \$90 an hour to upgrade the site. Brian Campbell suggested using the system with the new updates for a year or so and revisit the mobile issues later.

Other Business

Colonel Jenkins mentioned there were technical clean-ups to the new rule 58CSR12. He asked that Heather Kessel e-mail the new version with the clean-up.

Brian Campbell mentions again that we should use the new system for a year and review the data and have the LAC meet. He mentions that the LAC needs to review the data for injury stats, crowding stats and the health of resources.

Colonel Jenkins introduced Lt. Feazell from the District 4 office and explained that he asked him to attend the meeting and take concerns or questions from the Commission. Lt. Feazell explained how officers make contact with outfits on the river and encouraged anyone to contact the District 4 office with any issues. He offered his cell phone number and office number. He assured the Commission his goals are for officers to be more active on the river and more training for the officers in regards to whitewater.

Colonel Jenkins advised the Commission that with the new wvOASIS system specific reports regarding number of hours worked in relation to whitewater activity can be pulled from the system. Brian Campbell asked that a report for the September meeting would be appreciated.

Next Meeting

The 2nd 2016 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be hosted by River Expeditions at Fire Creek Lodge, 900 Broadway Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901 on Tuesday, June 14th, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Brian Campbell motioned to adjourn the March 15th, 2016 1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Chris Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.