

3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

September 8th, 2015

Location: Corp of Engineers, Summersville, WV

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Doug Cooper (Private Boater); Chris Ellis (Private Boater); Tim Barton (Alpine); Jerry Cook (ACE); Brian Campbell (AWVR); Patricia Kicklighter (NPS)

Others: Jerry B. Jenkins (DNR); James McClung (DNR); Officer Dennis Fezell (DNR); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Will Miller (WV Tourism); Adam Cantrell (Cantrell Ultimate Rafting)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 8th, 2015 was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign.

Approval of June 9th, 2015 Minutes

Jerry Cook made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by Tim Barton. The motion carried.

Budget

Brian Campbell suggested that the budget report be expanded.

Reporting Website Enhancements

Colonel Jenkins advised the Commission members that on-going testing is occurring with the new site. He mentioned that some outfitters have offered to do testing and once the new site is moved into production outfitters and the Commission will be made aware of the switch. Until then testing will continue.

FERC Relicensing – Hawk’s Nest Dam

Bobby Bower advised that the WV DNR have yet to submit their responses regarding csf levels and FERC. He advised that all other agencies are “waiting” to hear from the DNR via paper or otherwise as to their decisions.

Brian Campbell suggested that the DNR should work with the Commission to change the csf levels. There was further discussion regarding the current csf and the benefits to change the csf levels.

Brian Campbell made a motion to formally recommend a minimum csf level of 1500. Jerry Cook seconded the motion. Further discussion commenced and suggested that the motion be amended.

Previous motion was amended. Brian Campbell made an amended motion that the Whitewater Commission work together with the WV DNR to present a recommendation to FERC for a new down minimum flow. Jerry Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commission asked that Bobby Bower compose a letter and forward to WV DNR Director Robert Fala and ask for a combined effort to obtain a new increased csf level and minimum flow.

Fishing Guides – Procedures to submit numbers

Bobby Bower expressed concern that some outfitters aren't registering nor paying fees when running fishing operations in whitewater zones.

Tubing Operations

Jerry Cook asked about "demo" boat operations and whether they are considered rental operations. Colonel Jenkins explained that demos do not fall under the purview of rental operations in whitewater zones.

Other Business

Bobby Bower requested that the Whitewater Commission fund the Thurmond Gauge in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Brian Campbell made a motion to offer \$1,000.00 to help fund the Thurmond Gauge. Jerry Cook seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

Next Meeting

The 4th quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at the WV DNR HQ's, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, December 15th, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Tim Barton motioned to adjourn the September 8th, 2015, 3rd quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Jerry Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.