

4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

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

Chaired: DNR LE David Trader, Lt. Colonel, for Director Stephen S. McDaniel

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chris Ellis (private river user via Zoom); Chris Hayes (Adventures on the Gorge via Zoom); Bobby Bower (Sandstone Jetboats via Zoom); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions by phone); Chelsea Ruby (WV Tourism via Zoom); Ed Wooten (private river user via Zoom); Wendy Hart (Cheat River Outfitters via Zoom); Stephen McDaniel (WVDNR via Zoom)

Others: Amy Lucas (WVDNR via Zoom); David Trader (WVDNR); Greg Berry (Camp Berry via Zoom); Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR via Zoom); Cpl. C.J. Whittington (WVDNR via Zoom); Wendy Greene (WVDNR via Zoom)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of December 15, 2020 was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by WVDNR Lt. Colonel David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of September 8, 2020 Minutes

Bobby Bower made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by Ed Wooten. The motion carried.

Budget

Lt. Colonel Trader noted the budget reports in the packets for review. No discussion on the budget. Chris Hayes made a motion to accept the budget. Motion seconded by Bobby Bower. The motion carried.

Upper New CFS Levels – Cpl. C.J. Whittington

Cpl. Whittington explained that CFS levels needed to be raised on the four rental sections due to dam construction at Bluestone. The subcommittee decided that the original section above Sandstone Falls, suggested by Greg Berry, would need to be changed from 5,000 cubic feet per second to 7,000 cubic feet per second for inner tubes and that 7,000 cubic feet per second be changed to 10,000 cubic feet per second for vessels or watercraft. The section below Meadowcreek would be changed from 7,000 cubic feet per second to 10,000 cubic feet per second for vessels or watercraft. No inner tubes permitted in this section. The committee also decided that there would be no increase on the remaining two sections. Motion was made to accept these changes by Ed Wooten. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.

Discussion was made on the re-wording of the cfs levels in the following areas: The confluence of the Greenbrier and New Rivers to the top of Brooks Falls. Inner tubes are not permitted at river flows more than 7,000 cubic feet per second as determined by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Discussion was made to raise the 7,000 cubic feet per second to 10,000 feet per second for vessels or watercraft in the area of Sandstone Falls to Meadowcreek, as well as the topic of “cleaning up” the reading of gauges in all sections, including the rental section, to read “US Army Corp of Engineers”. Motion to accept was made by Chris Ellis. Motion was seconded by Bobby Bower. The motion carried.

Sub-Committee on Re-Wording of CSRs

Discussion was made on forming a subcommittee for the re-wording of the CSRs to reflect the new cfs levels, as well as the study of flow rates, gauges, terminology, re-ordering of rental groups and sections. This subcommittee will report findings back to the Commission at the March 9, 2021 Whitewater Commission meeting.

Subcommittee members are as follows: Lt. Col. David Trader (WV DNR), Amy Lucas (WV DNR), Wendy Greene (WV DNR), Cpl. C.J. Whittington (WV DNR) and Bobby Bower (Sandstone Jetboats).

Motion was made to accept this subcommittee to study flow rates, gauges, terminology, re-ordering of rental groups and sections by Ed Wooten. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.

Next Meeting

The 1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at WVDNR HQ's located at 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Chris Hayes motioned to adjourn the December 15, 2020 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Ed Wooten seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.