

4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2015

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: Bob Fala (WVDNR); Don Beyer (Private River User); Brian Campbell (AWVR); Tim Barton (Alpine); Matt Knotts (River Riders by phone)

Others: Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Steven Storck (WVU Tech); Isaac Colvard (Summit); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Richard Cantrell (Cantrell Rafts & Canoes); Adam Cantrell (Cantrell Outdoor Adventures); Jerry B. Jenkins (DNR); Heather Kessel (WVDNR); Will Miller (WV Tourism); Teeya Mills (Private Boater)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of December 15th, 2015 was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign.

Approval of September 8th, 2015 Minutes

Brian Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8th, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by Tim Barton. The motion carried.

Budget / WVOASIS Reports

Matt Knott advises there is \$85,000 in the account. Since July 1st there has been \$42,000 of user fees collected. \$6,600 of Gauley user fees and \$11,075 expended thus far and there's no explanation of the break down in the current reports.

Brian Campbell asked if the Commission needed to submit a budget. Colonel Jenkins advised that he spoke with Jennifer Snow (WVDNR Financial Section) and she advised they had already submitted the spending authority this past fall for 2017.

Matt Knott advises that his understanding is the same budget was submitted as the year before. He advised there is still \$65,000 sitting in the contingency fund and budgeted as "Miscellaneous" and that gives a wide leeway on how it's spent. Colonel Jenkins explained that currently there are no funds paid out to a DNR administrative employee as the position James McClung held is now vacant.

Reporting Website Update

Heather Kessel explains that after all of December's numbers and trips are entered, around January 15th, the new website can be put into production. The site now allows for her to make changes that previously could only be edited by O.T. The new site will load faster and more user friendly. General outfitter & guides will be able to choose "0 guide" as an option on the trip leader reporting section, before it was mandatory to pick at least 1 guide. She mentions that all login ID's and passwords would remain the same, but would have to be manually reset before outfitters could use the site.

Brian Campbell mentions that by this time next year new reports should be developed and available to pull data entered into the system for the LAC.

College Programs

Colonel Jenkins introduces Steven Storck from West Virginia University Tech who asked to address the Commission about his proposed college program. His project focus is adventure recreation with key components on training students to have a base in management and getting them on the water to learn. His project will mostly run in Spring & Fall months, 15 students, swift water rescue and 30 – 40 days of “river time” per year.

Colonel Jenkins asked Mr. Storck who would be the trainers for his program and would they be paid employees. Mr. Storck advised he would be the initial coordinator, he planned to hire more staff and recruit guides at a later date. He mentions that the staff would be paid and students would pay tuition.

Brian Campbell explains that he feels there is an absolute need for these types of programs, but that the Commission doesn't have the authority to issue a license, on the New River, under the parameters Mr. Storck had suggested. Mr. Johnson states that if an entity takes any type of payment for service (such as tuition), they are considered a “for profit” entity. He goes on to stress that current whitewater license holders would be willing to help their program by working with WVU Tech by allowing them to work under an existing license(s).

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

The 1st 2016 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at the WV DNR HQ's, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Tim Barton motioned to adjourn the December 15th, 2015 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Brian Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.