

3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

Location: US Corp of Engineers – 2981 Summersville Lake Road, Summersville, WV 26651

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chris Ellis (private river user by phone); Chris Hayes (Adventures on the Gorge by phone); Bobby Bower (Sandstone Jetboats); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions by phone); Chelsea Ruby (WV Tourism by phone); Don Beyer (private river user by phone); Stephen McDaniel (WVDNR by phone)

Others: Heather Kessel (WVDNR by phone); David Trader (WVDNR); Duane Michael (NPS by phone); Stacey Carroll (Cantrell); Greg Berry (Camp Berry); Lisa Myles (Camp Berry); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions by phone); Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR by phone); Cpl. C.J. Whittington (WVDNR); Zack Mills (WVDNR)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 8, 2020 was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by WVDNR Lt. Colonel David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of June 23, 2020 Minutes

Chris Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by Heather Johnson. The motion carried.

Budget

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

Upper New CFS Levels – Greg Berry – Officer Zach Mills

Greg Berry with Camp Berry's, Inc addressed the Commission and suggested the cfs levels be raised on the sections of the Upper New. Mr. Berry explained that the water levels are not consistent and has affected his business. Chris Ellis asked how many clients he feels he has lost due to the current cfs levels. Mr. Berry stated he has lost many.

Officer Zach Mills explained to the Commission that due to dam construction the water flow does fluctuate often. He feels raising the levels is possible and safety issues are foreseen.

Chris Ellis made a motion to reach out to whitewater outfitters, general outfitters and NRPO officers and form a sub-committee to evaluate and study the upper New River sections, to include confluence to Sandstone, Sandstone to Meadow Creek and Railroad Bridge to the confluence to determine if cfs levels can be increased and maintain safety standards. Motion was seconded by Don Beyer. The motion carried.

Those names generated for the sub-committee are: Duane Michael, NPS; Bobby Bower, Sandstone Jetboats; CJ Whittington, WVDNR Law; Stacey Carroll, Cantrell; Sammy Pugh, New River Trophy; representative of US Corp of Engineers to be named at a later date.

Next Meeting

The 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at WVDNR HQ's located at 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Bobby Bower motioned to adjourn the September 8, 2020 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Chris Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.