

2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2022

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

Chaired: Lt. Col. David Trader

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chris Ellis (private river user via Zoom); Bobby Bower (Sandstone Jetboats via Zoom); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom); Duane Michael for Jason Newman (NPS via Zoom); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Emily Hatfield for Chelsea Ruby (Tourism via Zoom); Ed Wooton (private river user via Zoom); Don Beyer (private river user via Zoom)

Others: Amy Lucas (WVDNR); Cpl. Whittington (WV DNR via Zoom); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom); Wendy Greene (Deputy Director WV DNR)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of June 7, 2022 was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Lt. Col. David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of March 10, 2022, Minutes

Bobby Bower made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2022, meeting. Motion seconded by Chris Ellis. The motion carried.

Budget

Lt. Col. David Trader noted the budget that was included in the electronic packet sent to Commission members. No discussion was made. No motion needed.

Old Business

- Don Beyer and Bobby Bower reappointment letters have been sent to the Governor's office and we are waiting on approval letters.
- Replacement is needed for Wendy Hart, single license holder. Several attempts have been made to contact George Heffner of Harpers Ferry Adventure Center with no response from him.
- A follow-up meeting has been scheduled by Duane Michael for the Gauley River Emergency Protocols. This meeting has been scheduled for June 16, 2022, at 12:00. Duane Michael will send out invites.
- The Commission has approved to move forward with the \$2499 bid by Jinyang Deng, Ph.D. to compile an injury report for 2017-2021. Amy Lucas will reach out to Professor Deng to start this.
- Deputy Director Brian Bolyard gave an update on the whitewater website. WV DNR is working with WV Office of Technology, and they have been notified of the error messages that many outfits are receiving. WV OT has stated that these error messages are coming from the website being on an old server and will be eventually moved to a new server. This should alleviate the error issues.

New Business

- Intentional Adventures has applied for a whitewater license to operate on the Cheat River. As of this date, we have only received the initial application, letter of intent and the \$250.00 license application fee. Chris Hayes made the motion to approve the application. Motion seconded by Bobby Bower. The motion carried.
- New River Gorge Outfitters has applied for a whitewater license to operate on parts of the New River. Since this is in the moratorium zone, Cpl. Whittington has spoken to him about it. Bobby Bower has also spoken to him, and he states that he only wants to operate as a guided fisherman. This will need to be added to the next meeting agenda pending clarification on whether he wants to withdraw his whitewater application and just move forward with a general outfitter & guide license instead.
- A special whitewater Commission meeting will need to be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, to discuss changes and updates that need to be made to 58CSR12 regarding rental section on the Tygart and Cheat Rivers. All changes will need to be made for the following deadlines: June 29, 2022 for public comment and July 29, 2022 for final file. Topics for discussion will be amendments, flow rates and conditions.

Next Meeting Date and Place

The Special Whitewater Commission Meeting on the Tygart and Cheat Rivers will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The 2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 1:36pm. Bobby Bower made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes.