

3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

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); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Don Beyer (private river user via Zoom); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom); Ed Wooton (private river user via Zoom)

Others: Amy Lucas (WVDNR); Cpl. Whittington (WV DNR via Zoom); Roger Wilson (AOTG via Zoom); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions via Zoom)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 12, 2023 was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Lt. Col. David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of March 7, 2023 and June 13, 2023 Minutes

Motion was made by Bobby Bower to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2023 and June 13, 2023 meetings. Motion was seconded by Chris Ellis. Motion carried.

Budget

Motion was made by Chris Ellis to approve the budget and was seconded by Heather Johnson. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Emergency Channel Funding: Bobby Bower has nothing new and has reached out to them. He will follow up with any information received.
- Members with expiring terms: Heather Johnson and Chris Hayes' terms expired June 30, 2023. Heather Johnson recommended Rick Johnson to replace her. Chris Hayes recommended Shannon Highlander of AOTG to replace him. Motion was made by Chris Ellis to recommend Rick Johnson and Shannon Highlander to replace the members with expiring terms. Motion was seconded by Ed Wooton. Motion carried. Amy Lucas will send names to Wendy Greene, who will then forward to Governor's Office.
- Gauley emergency shutdown procedures: Rick Johnson stated concerns about Army Corp turning water off for recovery of body during the beginning of Gauley Fest. He asked for help with making the Army Corp understand the DNR is in charge and not them. Everyone needs to be on the same page for protocol. The Corp defers to the NPS and not DNR. First Sergeant Whittington stated that there may be a delay in flow on Friday morning.

Next Meeting Date and Place

The 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.