

3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016

Location: Adventures on the Gorge – Smokey’s, 219 Chestnutburg Road, Lansing, WV 25862

Chaired: DNR LE Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel, for Director Robert Fala

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Director Robert Fala (WVDNR); Brian Campbell (AWVR); Tim Barton (Alpine); Matt Knott (River Riders by phone); Jeff West (NPS); Chris Ellis (private river user); Jerry Cook (ACE)

Others: Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR); Heather Kessel (WVDNR); Dennis Feazell (WVDNR D-4); Duane Michael (NPS); Will Miller (WV Tourism);

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 13, 2016 was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign.

Approval of June 14th, 2016 Minutes

Brian Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14th, 2016 meeting. Motion seconded by Jerry Cook. The motion carried.

Budget

Matt Knott (by phone) advised that the new amounts provided by the DNR show really large numbers. He explains that the actual year to date income is \$22,605, regular user fees of \$367 for Gauley, DNR personnel \$4,253, Gauley trout stocking (farming) at \$2,275 and computer equipment \$775. Expenses total \$7,305 leaving \$105,804 in the account.

Matt explains that the line items are very high and they change from year to year. The Commission has asked that Jennifer Snow and Keith Wilson attend the next meeting to explain these large line items. Brian Campbell expresses his concerns that the numbers are very unusual.

Discuss replacement names for Commissioner Doug Cooper

Only one name was submitted since the last meeting in March, Ed Wooten (private river user). Colonel Jenkins explains that Heather Kessel contacted Mr. Wooten and he would be willing to serve.

Injury Reporting – Building of Reports

Brain Campbell suggests that reviewing the last contracted statistical report and make note of the data points they thought pertinent. He suggests to map any annual accident reports from those points. Heather Kessel suggests bringing those “points” up at the next LAC – Accident Review Meeting, Mr. Campbell agreed.

Commissioners asked if the data was available to “pull” from the online system. Heather Kessel explained that yes the data is there, the reports need built in order to compile the results. She explained that once the reports are built there are no “pick & choose” available, the reports will remain the same. She suggests

building multiple reports up front to obtain different data sets. Colonel Jenkins suggested inviting the O.T. staff, to the next meeting, to discuss reports options.

Members decided to hold an LAC – Accident Review Meeting on Tuesday, December 13th at DNR HQ's South Charleston, WV – 2nd floor conference room, to discuss injury reports. Scheduled time is 10:00.

Whitewater Injury Study

Brian Campbell asks the members if they feel it necessary to go back and put out to bid another statistical study. Heather Kessel explains that if the cost is under \$2,500 putting out for bids is not necessary, only verbal bids are needed. It was decided to review and discuss more thoroughly before contracting someone to do another study.

Tygart River Outfitters, LLC – Whitewater Application

Colonel Jenkins explains that the DNR has received an application for a whitewater license on the Tygart from Tygart River Outfitters, LLC. The Colonel explains that Tygart River is open to new applicants and there is no moratorium.

Brian Campbell made a motion that the Whitewater Commission reviewed Tygart River Outfitters, LLC whitewater application for the Tygart River and recommends the approval of said application. Motion was seconded by Jerry Cook. The motion carried.

Mr. Campbell mentions that issues may arise from having experienced or qualified trip leaders on the Tygart. He advises that special attention should be taken in regards to finding qualified trip leaders for those sections.

Other Business

Jeff West expresses his concerns about safety issues at McQuery landing. He mentions that individuals are backing up into traffic and walking across 41. His concern is that pedestrians may get struck by motorists unknowingly. He asks if it's possible to separate commercial and private launching in that area.

Colonel Jenkins asked Jeff West about a call from Shawn Robertson with the Park Service needing a permit for video recording on the river. Mr. West advised that issue had been taken care of.

Next Meeting

The 4th 2016 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at WV DNR HQ's on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

An Accident Review meeting will precede the Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m. Members expected to attend Brian Campbell, Jerry Cook and Tim Barton. Heather Kessel will contact Don Beyer and asked if he could attend as well.

Adjournment

Tim Barton motioned to adjourn the June 14th, 2016 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Brian Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.