

4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021

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); Ed Wooton (private river user via Zoom); Duane Michael for Carmen Chapin (NPS via Zoom); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Chelsea Ruby (Tourism); Lt. Col. David Trader (WV DNR)

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

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of December 14, 2021 was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by WVDNR Lt. Colonel David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of September 14, 2021 Minutes

Ed Wooton made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Bobby Bower. The motion carried.

Budget

Lt. Col. David Trader noted the budget reports in the packets for review. No discussion on the budget. Heather Johnson made a motion to accept the budget. Motion seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.

Old Business

- Duane Michael of NPS will schedule a meeting for the Gauley River emergency protocols and send out invites.
- Duane Michael states that the old agreement was found and dated for November 29, 1982. A revised agreement would need to be made in the future. He will scan and email a copy of the old agreement to Amy Lucas. This will be forwarded to the Director's office for review.

New Business

- Lt. Col. Trader explained the ongoing issues regarding online reporting of numbers to the whitewater website. Heather Johnson states that she would like to just have an "Admin" reporting feature and discontinue the Trip Leader reporting section. She would only like to report user numbers and injury reports to make it more "streamlined" instead of having the trip leaders come off the river after each trip to report their numbers since over-crowding is no longer an issue.
- Bobby Bower explained the use of the trip leader reports.

- Chelsea Ruby explained that it will *not* be a “new” website, but a Google form within the current DNR website.
- Lt. Col. Trader stated that WW rule 58CSR12 had to be pulled due to discussion on the penalty section in the Legislature. This will need to be resolved before presenting to the Legislature again next year.

Next Meeting Date and Place

The 1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Ed Wooton made a motion to accept this date. Motion seconded by Chris Ellis.

Adjournment

The 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 1:36pm.