

4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

December 12th, 2017

Location: WV DNR HQ's – 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Chaired: DNR LE Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel, for Director Stephen S. McDaniel

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Ed Wooton (private river user); Chris Ellis (by phone private river user); Roger Wilson (AOTG); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Patrick McCann (by phone Blackwater Outdoor); Don Beyer (private river user); John Gonano (by phone River & Trails Outfitters)

Others: Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR); Heather Kessel (WVDNR); Roy Blankenship (by phone Son Dad's New River Outfitters); Larry Nibert (West Virginia Experience); Rob Dobson (WV Adventures); Sammy Pugh (by phone New River Trophy Outfitters); Bo Wolfe (by phone New River Bronzeback Outfitters); Bobby Bower (by phone WVPRO); Kara Moore (by phone WV Tourism)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of December 12th, 2017 was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign; attendance by telephone noted during introductions.

Approval of September 12th, 2017 Minutes

Roger Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12th, 2017 meeting. Motion seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion carried.

Budget

Colonel Jenkins noted that the budget reports could be found in the meeting packets.

No discussion on the budget.

Reports – Trip Guests to Users

Heather Kessel explained that a report was built to compare totals for trip guests to user numbers. She explained that there has always been a slight discrepancy between the two when they should match exactly. She explained that she will monitor the report each month and advise the Commission of any large differences.

DRAFT Summary -- WVU Injury Report

Heather Kessel asked if all Commission members received and reviewed the DRAFT Summary report proposed by Jinyang Deng at West Virginia University. There was confirmation from those present that they had reviewed the report and all were in agreement that it was thorough and precise. Chris Ellis commented that this report was everything the Commission had asked for and exactly what has been needed to detail whitewater injuries.

Heather stated that Jinyang plans to attend the next quarterly meeting to present the final report.

Sandstone to Meadow Creek – Chris Ellis

Chris Ellis explains that he along with NRPO Lyons and Bill Parker with the National Park Service floated this section of river and provided a summary of notes which was included in the commission packets. He advises they would like to recommend to the Commission to make a decision based on his findings noted in his report. Chris asked that Heather read the summary aloud in order to include those on the telephone that did not have a copy of the summary.

The question was raised regarding private tubers in that section and Chris advised there were some, but not excessive and in his opinion there wouldn't be a need to add more sections. Don Beyer asked about metal canoes and Chris advised he felt it wouldn't be advisable. Chris asked Sammy Pugh his opinion on the tubes in that section, since he uses it frequently, Sammy advised tubes should be okay and he agreed with their findings on that section.

Colonel Jenkins explained that if the Commission wants to make changes to that section it should be discussed and a motion made at the March meeting in order to make changes to the rule in time.

Safety Training Requirements for General Outfitters in Whitewater Zones

Roger Wilson posed the question that general outfitters, putting in at Summersville to Jody or Cunard to Teays, should they have the same training and qualifications as whitewater guides. Roger explains that guides basically have 15 training trips, 2 evaluation trips and CPR training.

Chris Ellis suggested that a group of general outfitters develop a plan and summarize suggested qualification requirements. Larry Nibert agreed to work together with Bobby Bowers & Robert Seay to develop a detailed summary of the sections and present suggestions at the March meeting.

Next Meeting

The 1st 2018 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at the J.W. and Hazel Ruby WV Welcome Center, 55 Hazel Ruby Lane, Mt. Hope, WV, a Boy Scouts facility, on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Rick Johnson motioned to adjourn the December 12th, 2017 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Ed Wooton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.