

1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

March 14th, 2017

Location: River Riders, Clarion Inn, 4323 William L. Wilson FWY, Harpers Ferry, WV

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Brian Campbell (by phone AOTG); Ed Wooton (by phone private river user); Matt Knott (River Riders); Chris Ellis (by phone private river user); Chelsea Ruby (by phone Tourism); Roger Wilson (by phone AOTG)

Others: Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR); Heather Kessel (by phone WVDNR); David Trader (by phone WVDNR); Jenn Fraley (Harpers Ferry Adventure Center); Matt Knott (River Riders); Lyndon Auvil (by phone Tygart River Outfitters)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of March 14, 2017 was called to order at 1:01 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 December 13th, 2016 Minutes

Brian Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13th, 2016 meeting. Motion seconded by Ed Wooton. The motion carried.

Budget

Matt Knott, outgoing commission member, offered to give budget details for this meeting and he would help with "training" the next person to do the budget reports. Matt explains that \$41,488 was collected since July 2016 in user fees and \$6,800 in Gauley user fees. He explains that both are slightly down, but there are still a few months to go. He states that he expects the general user fees to even out but, he doesn't expect the Gauley fees to catch up to previous numbers. Expenses paid out show approximately \$22,000 for DNR personnel out of the \$62,000 budgeted, \$2,200 for Gauley stocking, \$200 for computer equipment; total expenses \$24,426. The account balance shows \$113,224 between the accounts.

Whitewater Injury Study Update

Heather Kessel explains that she had sent out e-mail requests to the previous North Carolina University professor A. Attarian who advised he was not interested in doing another study. She advised that the DNR e-mailed West Virginia University who are interested in doing the study under budget.

Colonel Jenkins explains that WVU will do under the \$2,500 budget so that bids will not be necessary.

Brian Campbell made a motion to agree to the proposed \$2,400 project price by West Virginia University to complete an injury report from last report through 2016. Chris Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Whitewater Commission Appointments

Colonel Jenkins mentions that the appointments are in the packets. He mentions that one of the appointments was found to be ineligible and so that is cause for Brian Campbell to remain as a member until another person can be appointed.

Brian Campbell makes a motion to nominate Rick Johnson of River Expeditions for appointment. Ed Wooton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Colonel asked that Heather Kessel contact Rick and make certain he is interested in the appointment.

Lyndon Auvil w/Tygart River Outfitters – Discussion of “Flat Water” Sections

The Colonel instructs the attendees to take note of the proposed plan presented by Lyndon Auvil with Tygart River Outfitters provided in the packets. Mr. Auvil explains that there is approximately a 9 mile section of the Tygart River that he feels is flat water. He would like to have a waiver to remove that section as whitewater. The Colonel and Brian Campbell explains to Mr. Auvil that the Commission does not have the authority to give waivers. Campbell explains that it would take a thorough evaluation of the sections and then open the code in order to change those regulations section by section.

Mr. Auvil asks what the next step would be to start that process. The Colonel advises that any proposals to change the Rule would need to be submitted in May and ready by last part of June. They would need to go before the Legislature next session. He advises this issue would not qualify as an emergency rule.

The Colonel asks for volunteers to examine the river sections. Brian Campbell and Matt Knott offered to become involved in the process. The Colonel offered DNR resources to aid in the process.

Next Meeting

The 2nd 2017 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at Adventures on the Gorge, Lansing, WV on Tuesday, June 13th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Brian Campbell motioned to adjourn the March 14th, 2017 1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Roger Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.