

1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2020

Location: National Park Service HQ's -- 104 Main Street, Glen Jean, WV 25846
Phone Conference used due to COVID-19 outbreak

Chaired: DNR LE David Trader, Lt. Colonel, for Director Stephen S. McDaniel

In Attendance (by phone):

Commissioners: Ed Wooton (by phone private river user); Chris Ellis (by phone private river user); Chris Hayes (Adventures on the Gorge); Wendy Hart (Cheat River Outfitters); Thomas Dragan (Sandstone Jetboats); Heather Johnson (River Expeditions)

Others: Heather Kessel (WVDNR); David Trader (WVDNR); Isaac Colvard (Summit BSA); Kara Moore (Tourism); Duane Michael (NPS)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of March 24, 2020 was called to order at 1:09 p.m. by WVDNR Lt. Colonel David Trader. Introductions were made. Verbal roll call taken during conference call introductions.

Approval of December 3, 2019 Minutes

Chris Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting. Motion seconded by Chris Ellis. The motion carried.

Budget

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

New Whitewater Commissioners

Lt. Colonel Trader welcomes the new Commissioners and directs all in attendance to the list provided in the packets. It was mentioned that two of the position term dates will expire June 2020. It was suggested to revisit the term dates at the next meeting.

Whitewater Numbers – 2019

Heather Kessel provided the final total numbers for the annual year 2019. No further discussion.

Whitewater Injuries – 2019

Heather Kessel provided a list of all injuries that occurred in 2019. She mentioned that if Commissioners felt a LAC meeting was needed to discuss injuries and safety measures now would be a good time to schedule that. No further discussion.

Whitewater License Renewals 2020

Heather Kessel explained that all whitewater outfitters had renewed for the 2020 season. She mentioned that outfitter Laurel Highlands River Tours did not renew and forfeited their whitewater license. The applicant Downriver Rafting have not completed their initial license process and to date are not licensed to run on the Cheat. Kessel advised she would keep in contact with them about their plans. Kessel will distribute Downriver's application to the Commission by email for review.

COVID-19 Discussion

Lt. Colonel Trader asked that everyone be safe and continue to be diligent in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Most attendees agreed it's a "wait and see" issue and too soon to make any determinations.

Kara Moore with Tourism advised that their agency has published an industry newsletter that may be beneficial to read. She asked that anyone with questions should email her. Heather Kessel offered to provide Kara's email to the Commission.

Next Meeting

The 2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at River Expeditions located at 900 Broadway Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901, on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Chris Ellis motioned to adjourn the March 24, 2020 1st Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Chris Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.