

2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2018

Location: ACE Adventures, 1 Concho Road, Oak Hill, WV 25879

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chris Ellis (by phone private river user); Roger Wilson (AOTG); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Patrick McCann (by phone Blackwater Outdoor); Samantha Holiskey for Chelsea Ruby (by phone WV Tourism); John Ganano (by phone River & Trails Outfitters); Ed Wooton (by phone private river user)

Others: Jerry Jenkins (WVDNR); Heather Kessel (WVDNR); David Trader (by phone WVDNR); Clarence Whittington (WVDNR); Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Brian Campbell (AOTG); Christopher Carnefix (ACE); Thomas Dragan (New River Jetboats); Jerry Cook (ACE); Stacey Carroll (Cantrell); Dion Carroll (Cantrell); Tyler Bussard (River Expeditions)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of June 5, 2018 was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Lt. Colonel David Trader. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign; attendance by telephone noted during introductions.

Approval of March 13th, 2018 Minutes

Roger Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13th, 2018 meeting. Motion seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion carried.

Budget

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

No discussion on the budget.

Permission to publish WV University Whitewater Injury Report 2011 – 2016

Heather Kessel explained that the author of the whitewater injury summary, Jinyang Deng, had requested permission from the Commission to publish his summary at the conclusion of his work.

Roger Wilson made a motion to grant permission for WVU Professor Jinyang Deng to publish his final summary of the 2011 – 2016 WV Whitewater Injury Summary. Motion Seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion carried.

Payment of WV University Invoice

Heather Kessel presented the invoice from Professor Deng for the WV Whitewater Injury Summary 2011 -2016 and requested permission to pay the invoice.

Roger Wilson made a motion to make payment on the invoice in the amount of \$2,499.99. Rick Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Whitewater injury report form – re-visit structure & content

Heather Kessel reminded the Commission that at the last meeting Jinyang Deng stressed the inconsistencies of reporting certain injury occurrences when conducting his summary report. He mentioned that most of the time the trip leader reporting the injury indicated the injury occurred “during the swim” when most likely it occurred in the raft or when falling from the raft. He suggested at that meeting that the report may need updates to represent the reporting better.

It was decided to table the form until the next meeting and to ask a select few guides, trip leaders, e.g. to review the form for the next meeting and make a final decision then. Heather Kessel, Roger Wilson, Rick Johnson, Cpl. Whittington, Chris Carnefix and Stacey Carroll offered to review the form and to give feedback.

58CSR12 Proposed Rule Changes

Copies of the proposed changes to the rule, 58CSR12, were provided in the packets. There was general discussion about the rule and no other changes, deletions or additions were requested by the Commission. Some items mentioned were out of state guides’ training, coast guard specifications on floatation devices and “under the influence” changes made and rentals allowed on the New from Sandstone Falls to Meadow Creek.

Roger Wilson made a motion to present the changes as proposed. Rick Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tygart River Outfitters section update – Tygart River use of jetboats

Heather Kessel advised the Commission that at their suggestion, she reached out to Tygart River Outfitters regarding sections of the Tygart they had requested zones changes. Ms. Kessel explained that she spoke with the outfit and they were no longer interested in those changes and felt the zones should remain the same.

Cpl. Whittington explained to the Commission that Tygart River Outfitters were interested in obtaining/purchasing a motorized jetboat type craft to use on the Tygart. Colonel Jenkins advised he would take back the specs of the vessel and discuss with counsel at WVDNR about Coast Guard and navigation on “streams”.

General Discussion

Stacey Carroll with Cantrell Canoes & Rafts asked to speak on behalf of her son Dion Carroll. She explained that her son is 16 (sixteen) and wished to begin training as a whitewater guide. She presented records showing his time on the river as a private boater and provided written recommendations from whitewater outfits. The Commission explained that the WVDNR Director McDaniel is the only entity that could grant the waiver for anyone under 18 (eighteen) to train and become a whitewater guide. She was asked to write a letter to the Director requesting the waiver. Rick Johnson mentioned that he was in favor of the waiver and supported the training. Patrick McCann mentioned that if someone wanted to train on the Cheat Narrows he would support that as well.

Samantha Holiskey with WV Tourism announced they are working on promotions and partnerships in relation to West Virginia’s 50th Anniversary of whitewater, including promotions on their blog and social media. She explained that Tourism is partnering with US Rafting Association and they plan to hold their National Championships in West Virginia for the first time...in early September 2018, in Fayetteville. She mentioned they will post the schedule, how vacationers can extend their stay in WV, restaurants, e.g. on the Tourism website.

Next Meeting

The 3rd 2018 Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at Corp of Engineers, Summersville, WV on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018.

Adjournment

Roger Wilson motioned to adjourn the June 5th, 2018 2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Rick Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.