

# **3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes**

## **September 6, 2022**

**Location:** WV DNR Headquarters – 324 4<sup>th</sup> 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); Frank Sellers (NPS via Zoom); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Chelsea Ruby (Tourism via Zoom)

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

### **Call to Order**

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 6, 2022, was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Lt. Col. David Trader. Introductions were made.

### **Approval of June 16, 2022, and July 25, 2022, Minutes**

Chris Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2022 and July 25, 2022 meetings. Motion seconded by Chris Hayes. The motion carried.

### **Budget**

Lt. Col. David Trader noted the budget that was included in the electronic packet sent to Commission members. Lt. Col. Trader noted that the only expense that would be coming out soon would be for Prof. Deng in the amount of \$2499.99 for the 2017-2022 injury report study. He reminded the Commission members that this will be a six month study from September 2022 through February 2023. No motion needed.

### **Old Business**

- Cpl. Whittington gave an update on the Gauley River emergency protocols and stated that this season is agreed on what is in the packet.
- Frank Sellers spoke about recovery protocols and also stated that the Gauley River emergency protocol meeting was very productive.
- Lt. Col. Trader pointed out that NPS would be first responders to any emergency, and then “on down the line”.
- Cpl. Whittington stated that although DNR is an affected party, DNR would need to be listed as an affected party in the document. He also stated that the document would need to be amended to read as such.

## **New Business**

- There was public comment made on behalf for the Cheat River. Friend of Cheat wants to remove the definition of a whitewater zone from Pringle Run down to Muddy Creek and pick up again below Muddy Creek down to Cheat Narrows.
- As of now, the whitewater zone is from Rowlesburg to bridge at Albright and then to Cheat Narrows.
- Lt. Col. Trader asked the following questions: Does the Commission want to make changes to the rules to remove the definition of whitewater zone in that section? Should the Commission wait until the dam is removed? Should a committee be formed to look at numbers?
- Chris Hayes suggested to invite Paul Hart to speak at our next meeting. Wendy Greene reminded the Commission that Mr. Hart was notified that he could've attended virtually to this meeting and that a public number is always listed.
- Chris Ellis made a motion to form a committee to study this section, as well as inquire about a date for the dam removal, obtain flow rates pre and post dam removal and proposed put-in and take-outs for those sections. Wendy Greene noted attachment in packets which talked about the proposed dam removal in 2023. The committee should consist of DNR Officers, the Whitewater Commissioner from that area and other general outfitter and guides that use that section of the Cheat River. Chris Hayes seconded. The motion carried.
- Cpl. Whittington will reach out to the general outfitters and guides in that area.

## **Next Meeting Date and Place**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

The 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 1:37pm. Bobby Bower made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Chris Hayes.