

3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

Location: River Expeditions – 900 Broadway Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Don Beyer (private river user); Roger Wilson (AOTG); Ed Wooton (by phone private river user); Lizzie Watts (NPS); Chris Ellis (by phone private river user); Kara Moore for Chelsea Ruby (WV Tourism)

Others: Heather Kessel (WVDNR); David Trader (WVDNR); Jerry B. Jenkins (WVDNR); Cpl. C.J. Whittington (WVDNR); Amber Bennett (AOTG); Chirs Hayes (AOTG); Rob Dobson (WV Adventures); Kirby Simeon (WV Adventures); Duane Michael (NPS); Isaac Colvard (Summit BSA); Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Tyler Bussard (River Expeditions)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of September 10, 2019 was called to order at 1:03 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 June 18, 2019 Minutes

Roger Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting. Motion seconded by Rick Johnson/Ed Wooton. The motion carried.

Approval of April 9, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes

Rick Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019 special meeting. Motion seconded by Roger Wilson. The motion carried.

Budget

Lt. Colonel Trader noted that the budget reports could be found in the meeting packets. Lt. Colonel advised that handouts for a condensed version of the budget would be passed out. Same figures, but better overall outline to the budget. He explained a new employee in the DNR Budget Section ran the reports and included more information than usual in the reports attached to the packets. No discussion on the budget. Roger Wilson made a motion to accept the budget. Motion seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion carried.

Jared Callahan – Down River Rafting -- Letter of Intent – Whitewater License

Mr. Callahan's letter of intent and application for a license on the Cheat River was presented to the Commission. Mr. Callahan's rafting outfit business name will be *Down River Rafting*. There were no concerns mentioned. A motion was made to accept the application and proceed with the licensing process.

Rick Johnson made a motion to accept Jared Callahan's *Down River Rafting* application for a whitewater license on the Cheat River. Roger Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Discussion

Update – Proposed Changes – 58CSR12. Lt. Colonel Trader advised that the proposed changes have had all positive comments. He provided a handout of the final version and public comments that had been received. No further discussion.

Update - Thurmond Gauge funding. Rick Johnson and Lizzie Watts confirmed that funding for the Thurmond Gauge would be picked up by the Army Corp of Engineers – Ed McGuire confirmed to them – for the next 3-5 years at a minimum and a definite funding through 2020.

Hawkes Nest closing for repairs in 2020. Roger Wilson advises that Brookville have plans to close Hawkes Nest next year in order to do maintenance repairs. He advised it was explained that there are no definitive dates or times for when the repairs are going to begin and no expected date of completion. It was suggested that State Parks and NPS keep open lines of communication in order to keep the Commission up to date on the future project.

Cpl. C.J. Whittington mentioned to the Commission members that he was approached with questions regarding training certification hours being obtained by utilizing a “man-made” pool for whitewater rafting training. He asked the Commission if they felt this was a legitimate means of facilitating hours towards certification as he felt it was not a valid avenue to meet the requirements in 58-12. The Commission agreed that a “man-made” pool would not constitute “rivers” or “like rivers”.

Next Meeting

The 4th Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at WV Division of Natural Resources headquarters at 324 South Charleston, WV 25303 – 2nd Floor Conference Room, on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Rick Johnson motioned to adjourn the September 10, 2019 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Roger Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.