

Special Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2022

Location: WV DNR Headquarters – 324 4th 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); Frank Sellarde (NPS via Zoom); Chris Hayes (AWVR via Zoom); Ed Wooton (private river user via Zoom); Wendy Hart (Cheat River Outfitters via Zoom)

Others: Amy Lucas (WVDNR); Cpl. Whittington (WV DNR via Zoom); Wendy Greene (Deputy Director WV DNR); Roger Wilson AWVR via Zoom)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of June 16, 2022 was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Lt. Col. David Trader. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve minutes from the June 7, 2022, meeting by Bobby Bower. Chris Hayes seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

- The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss changes to 58CSR12. Discussion was held on the following sections: 3.1.3.g; 3.1.5; 3.1.5.c; 5.3 (grammar); 9.11; 9.12 (add guide qualifications); 9.12.3.a; 9.12.3.c; 9.12.5; 11.2 (clarification); 12.1.1 (clarification); 12.1.4 (eliminated Lake and added Dam); 12.1.5; 14.1.2; 58-12-14 (added whitewater zones); 14.2.1; 14.2.2; 14.3.1; 14.3.2; 14.4.2; 14.5.1; 14.8
- Lt. Col. Trader proposed a study group during public comment period.
- Discussion was made about Tygart Lake being all flat water. The Commission prohibits rentals in whitewater zones.
- Wendy Greene explained the process of Public Comment and Final File. The public comment period is for thirty days. Final filing would be July 29, 2022.
- Motion to approve rules as discussed so that it can move forward for public comment was made by Chris Hayes. Motion was seconded by Ed Wooton. Motion carried.
- No motion made to form a committee for discussion.
- Wendy Hart explained the areas of the Cheat River. There is a section where it is not true whitewater, as there is a low-head dam. There is talk that in later years the dam may be removed and individuals may want to start renting kayaks, floats, stand-up paddle boards.
- Bobby Bower discussed wanting to be able to open up boat rentals on Hawks Nest Lake. More discussion was made on section 14.5.1.
- Motion was made to hold a tentative meeting should public comments be received on July 25, 2022 at 1:00pm by Bobby Bower. Motion seconded by Wendy Hart. Motion carried. If no public comments are received, the agency can move forward with the rule making process.

- George Heffner, Jr. of Harpers Ferry Adventure Center has accepted the nomination for Commission member. Amy Lucas will prepare letter to be sent to Governor's Office.

Next Meeting Date and Place

The 3rd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting will be held at WV DNR Headquarters via Zoom, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303 on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The Special Whitewater Commission meeting adjourned at 3:00pm. Chris Hayes made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Bobby Bower.