

2nd Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

June 9th, 2015

Location: Adventures on the Gorge, “Smokey’s”, Lansing, WV

Chaired: DNR LE Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel, for Director Robert Fala

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Robert Fala, DNR Director; Doug Cooper (Private Boater); Chris Ellis (Private Boater); Don Beyer (Private Boater); Tim Barton (Alpine); Matt Knott (River Riders – by phone); Jerry Cook (ACE)

Others: Jerry B. Jenkins (DNR); Heather Kessel (DNR); Eddie Lilly (Private Boater); Skip Heater (New & Gauley River Adventures); Greg Berry (Berry’s Campground); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Roger Wilson (Adventures on the Gorge); Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Francesca Harthop (West Virginia Adventures)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of June 9th, 2015 was called to order at 1:09 p.m. by Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Introductions were made. Attendance sheet provided for attendees to sign.

Approval of March 10th, 2015 Minutes

Chris Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10th, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by unknown member. The motion carried.

Budget

Matt Knott (by phone) advises that income is slightly under what expected and expenses are down due to the change in the administrative fees by DNR.

Rule Changes

Colonel Jenkins explains that the most important change to the rule is that tubes/other craft can be used in two whitewater zones. Also, that general outfitter & guides are now required to pay the user fees when on whitewater zones.

Heather Kessel mentioned that the mass mailing concerning the new rule and reporting requirements was sent to all whitewater outfitters and general outfitters.

Whitewater Website

The new website, including enhancements, has not been tested enough to release into production. Once testing is complete and WVDNR is satisfied the system will work sufficiently the site will go into production and can be used by outfitters.

Other Business

Skip Heater, NGRA, expressed concerns about WVDNR Police Officers conducting checks on the river and suggested that it may be best to do the checks back at basecamp instead. He mentioned that it’s impossible to have all the necessary credentials out on the river. Colonel Jenkins explains that the officers most often

check equipment and safety issues on the river to assure that all is in order. Colonel Jenkins advised Skip that he'd check with those district officers to determine the specifics of the checks.

Jerry Cook expressed concern that there are a number of "whitewater pirates" representing themselves as licensed whitewater outfitters when they are indeed not licensed. Colonel Jenkins advised that if the persons are advertising as whitewater outfitters, then they are required to have a license. He assured the Commission his office would check into these outfits and encouraged everyone to report other instances of "pirating".

Jerry Cook asked if anyone at the Commission knows where the advertising funds would be allotted to. There was discussion that Tourism had ran several commercials and it was believed those were developed with advertising funds.

Next Meeting

The 3rd quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting to be held at the Corp of Engineers' Summersville location on Tuesday, September 8th, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Chris Ellis motioned to adjourn the June 9th, 2015, 2nd quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Jerry Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.