

WHITEWATER COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING September 17, 2003

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Express in Summersville, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Hamrick, Director, Division of Natural Resources (Presiding)
Debbie Darden, National Park Service
Chris Ellis, Division of Tourism
Randall Ballard
Bill Garten
Bud Hill
Matt Knott
Jerry Cook

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Pamela B. Mullins, Director's Office (Recording Secretary)
Sgt. Larry Case, Law Enforcement Section
Jena Kay Webb, Law Enforcement Section

PUBLIC

Rick Johnson, Extreme Expeditions
Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions
Mike Hunter, National Park Service
Paul Breuer, Mountain River Tours
Jeff Proctor, Class VI River Runners
Eric Pories, WVPRO

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Hamrick at approximately 1:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garten made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2003 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Breuer, commented on the relationship with the Corps of Engineers. He advised that outfitters had experienced great communications with the Corps of Engineers and with the Division of Natural Resources. Mr. Breuer commented on the July 4 release and stated that it had truly affected the entire whitewater industry on the last Friday of Gauley Season because the release did not happen. He encouraged the Whitewater Commission to support this release and stated that there are concerns and issues that need to be looked at and suggested that the commission form another sub-committee to look into these issues and how they affect the whitewater industry.

LAC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Ballard advised that the subcommittee met early this day and the committee had just received the 1998- 2001 analysis from Dr. Whisman and had not had time to review these figures. Mr. Ballard advised that the subcommittee should have a full report for the commission by the next meeting. He also discussed the subcommittee's review of the request for issuance of a rafting license on the Cheat River. He advised that the subcommittee saw no problem to issue a Cheat River license at this time and if DNR received the license fee within 45 days, the commission could proceed and vote at the next meeting. The director suggested that it be referred to him formally, in writing, requesting issuance of this license and he would then referred it to the commission for a decision. Mr. Ballard stated that a Cheat River license could be issued since business on this river is down. Sergeant Case reemphasized that DNR can receive the license fee within 45 days and then the subcommittee will recommend issuance of the license to the full commission for a vote at the next meeting.

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Johnson was not present at this meeting as her term expired June 30, 2003. She has chosen not to continue to serve until a replacement is named. The director appointed Matthew Knott serve as Chairman of this subcommittee.

TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Chris Ellis represented the Division of Tourism and provided an overview of their activities. Mr. Ellis discussed the different resources existing or has potential to be developed on the Gauley River. The director stated that it would be appropriate at this time if the Whitewater Commission, DNR or WVPRO wished to submit formal comments or recommendations on this plan for the Gauley River at the next meeting. The Director also discussed the limited access road on the Gauley River and that this access road development was supported by every

member group involved and was not included in the original development plan. The director stated that he felt there is still an interest among these groups and the Whitewater Commission may want to consider a resolution. Discussion continued briefly on the Corps of Engineers release on July 4. The Director stated that he felt it would be appropriate for a representative from the Corps of Engineers to be invited to attend and speak to this issue at the next meeting. The director asked Sergeant Case to see that this is included on the agenda for the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Knott asked the members of the National Park Service who were present at the commission meeting about the take out site at Harper's Ferry. He advised that there were much needed repairs that had been discussed with the Park Service but nothing had been done to this point to improve the access site. Mr. Knott asked if the Park Service representatives at the meeting would look into this with the representatives from the Harper's Ferry area.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next quarterly meeting will be held in Charleston and will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Hill and was seconded by Mr. Garten. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:03 p.m.