

WHITEWATER COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING March 17, 2004

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, in the Division Natural Resources Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Hamrick, Director, Division of Natural Resources (Presiding)
Debbie Darden, National Park Service
Ray Church, Division of Tourism
Randall Ballard
Bill Garten
Matt Knott
Jerry Cook
Eddie Lilly

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Pamela B. Mullins, Director's Office (Recording Secretary)
Sgt. Larry Case, Law Enforcement Section
Jena Kay Webb, Law Enforcement Section
Kelly Goes, Attorney General's Office, DNR Legal Representative
Chris Ellis, DNR & Tourism

PUBLIC

Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions
Brain Campbell, Rivermen
Heather Johnson, Extreme Expeditions
Len Hanger, Songer Whitewater
Julie Long-Cook, Ace Whitewater
Christopher Schrader, NPS
Jess Purvis, NPS
Eric Pories, WVPRO

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Hamrick at approximately 1:07 p.m. The Director referred to the passing of Commissioner Bud Hill and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Commissioner Hill and honoring his service to the State of West Virginia.

Director Hamrick also welcomed Ed Lilly, as the newly appointed member of the Whitewater Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ballard made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cook and was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

LAC SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Ballard discussed Richard Smith's request. (See letter attached) He advised that it is the recommendation of the LAC Subcommittee that New River Scenic would need to have a Whitewater license to operate in the New River Study Zone. Director Hamrick asked that since the LAC Subcommittee had made this recommendation and the regulations designate this area as part of the whitewater study zone and a license can not be issued, would the commission like DNR to respond to Richard Smith, in the form of a letter, pointing out the decision of the commission and the reasons for its decision. The commission agreed.

Director Hamrick then asked the commission's permission to move to an agenda item which would be considered as *Old Business*. At the last meeting, the Whitewater Commission asked the Division of Natural Resources to put together a draft resolution encouraging the Park Service to include in their Gauley River Development Plan a proposal to improve access to the Gauley River for trout stocking and for safety purposes. Director Hamrick advised the resolution had been prepared and was then submitted to the commission for review and approval. Discussion occurred and after minor editing, the resolution was approved by the Commission.

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Knott discussed two requests for funding received from *Shenandoah Valley River Outfitters* and *Wildwater Expeditions*. Discussion occurred regarding funding for training that was approved at a previous meeting for the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Association (WVPRO) and after this discussion Mr. Chris Dragan of *Wildwater Expeditions* stated that he would be willing to withdraw his request for training funds with the idea of working on a combined funding effort with WVPRO to accomplish his training needs. Director

Hamrick then requested, on behalf of the Commission, that WVPRO representative, Eric Pories, provide an outline of the training to be offered and how the funds would be spent.

Mr. Lilly then made a **MOTION** to approve the funding request for guide training for the *Shenandoah Valley River Outfitters*. This motion was seconded by Mr. Church and was passed.

TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Church discussed the activities of the Division of Tourism, including the passage of Senate Bill 197 which would affect funding for all of the tourism grants and some of advertising funds for both Tourism and DNR.

Mr. Chris Ellis passed out a new fishing brochure established for DNR and Tourism and Mr. Church advised that Chris is presently working with DNR on a hunting brochure that will be available within the next 30 days.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Director presented to the commission the resolution agreed upon earlier in the meeting with the requested changes completed. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Lilly to accept the resolution as submitted and revised. This motion was seconded by Mr. Garten and was passed. Commissioners then signed the resolution and Director Hamrick advised that it would be distributed appropriately.

The Park Service Representative, Debbie Darden, passed out the most recent National Park Service newsletter and discussed the Gauley River National Recreation Area Development Plan.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

Mr. Lilly invited the commission to have the next meeting at his company location, *Rivers*, and the commission agreed. The next meeting will be on June 23, 2004, at *Rivers* in Fayetteville.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Lilly, was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m.