

WHITEWATER COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING June 23, 2004

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2004, at Rivers, Inc. in Fayetteville, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Hamrick, Director, Division of Natural Resources (Presiding)
Cal Hite, National Park Service
Ray Church, Division of Tourism
Randall Ballard
Bill Garten
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

PUBLIC

Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions
Lorrie Sprague, NPS
Rick Johnson, Extreme Expeditions
Len Hanger, Songer Whitewater
Rob Dotson, WV Adventures
Tim Barton, Alpine
Eric Pories, WVPRO
Andy Whisman, Marshall University
Jeff Proctor, Class VI
Benjy Simpson, Passages

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Hamrick at approximately 1:10 p.m. Director Hamrick asked to delay the approval of the minutes from the March meeting temporarily and address at a later time during the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Pories, Executive Director of the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Organization, discussed training policies for outfitters and offered a handout for commissioners. **ATTACHMENT A**

LAC SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Ballard discussed the request Submitted by Butts Tubes, Inc. for a license on the Shenandoah River for tubers. The LAC Subcommittee felt this request for an application should be tabled until the Subcommittee could further study the river conditions. Discussion occurred and a **MOTION TO TABLE** was made regarding the issuance of a license to Butts Tubes, Inc. for the Shenandoah River until further study is done and more data is compiled at which time it will be presented to the commission for a final decision. The motion to table this issue was seconded by Mr. Lilly and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ballard made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garten and was passed.

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Director Hamrick advised that Commissioner Matt Knott was not able to attend today's meeting and that he had agreed to give his proxy to Commissioner Ed Lilly. Director asked Chris Dragan, a member of the Budget Subcommittee to provide the committee report. Mr. Dragan advised that the issue of increasing the study fee back to \$.50 per person was discussed due to the continuing depletion of these funds. The Director advised that the decision should be made at this meeting in order to implement this change for the 2005 season. Sergeant Larry Case advised that this would require a legislative rule which must be filed by July 20, 2004 and that if the Whitewater Commission wanted this regulation change in effect for 2005, a decision would need to be made at this meeting. A **MOTION** was then made to increase the fee back to \$.50 per person. This motion was seconded by Mr. Church. Discussion occurred. Director Hamrick spoke with Matt Knott by telephone to inform him of this motion and to ask some specific questions regarding tubers on the Shenandoah River. The motion was then passed.

TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Church discussed the activities of the Division of Tourism; funding, advertising; Whitewater Wednesday; the Tourism Grants Program. Discussion occurred.

OTHER BUSINESS

Superintendent Hite of the National Park Service discussed their work with outfitters relating to put-in and take-out sites. He also advised that 19 ½ miles of

the New River is being considered for National Wild and Scenic River Status and that public meetings would be held in July. He added that the Park Service had received the resolution signed by the Whitewater Commission at a previous meeting relating to the Gauley River Development Plan. Superintendent Hite then discussed the helicopter stocking of trout and advised that the date for the fall stocking had not yet been established.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

Director Hamrick advised that the next meeting will be held in September, 2004, in Summersville, West Virginia.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Lilly, was seconded by Mr. Church and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.