

WHITEWATER COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2004, 2004, in the Comfort Inn Conference Inn, 903 N. Industrial Drive, Summersville, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Hamrick, Director, Division of Natural Resources (Presiding)
Cal Hite, National Park Service
Chris Ellis, Division of Tourism
Randall Ballard
Bill Garten
Eddie Lilly

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jena Kay Webb, Law Enforcement Section (Recording Secretary)
Sgt. Larry Case, Law Enforcement Section

PUBLIC

Jeff Proctor, Class VI River Runners
Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions
Eric Pories, WVPRO
Len Hanger, Songer Whitewater
George Heffner, Jr., Butts Whitewater
Rick Johnson, Extreme Expeditions
Don Beyer, WV Wildwater Association
Imre Szilagyi, USA Raft & Appalachian Wildwater

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Hamrick at approximately 1:10 p.m. Commissioners Matt Knott and Jerry Cook were not in attendance at this meeting. Jerry Cook gave his proxy to Commissioner Ballard.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Garten made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ballard. After a brief discussion the comment under **OTHER BUSINESS** pertaining to helicopter trout stocking was modified to say "Discussion then included regarding the helicopter stocking of trout and the date for the fall stocking had not yet been established". The minutes were approved with the one correction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions, made a comment stating that the Whitewater Commission should take into consideration people that already have whitewater businesses established before they make a recommendation to issue new whitewater licenses and those outfitters should be given first preference for new licenses.

Eric Pories, Executive Director of the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Organization, made a comment regarding his letter pertaining to the increase of outfitter user fees.

LAC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The LAC Sub-Committee made a recommendation to issue a license on the Shenandoah River for Butts Tubes, and also Dr. Andy Whisman's contract for July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

Mr. Ballard made a **MOTION** to issue a commercial whitewater license on the Shenandoah River to Butts Whitewater. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Garten. After a short discussion the motion was passed. Attached is a copy of the of the LAC Analysis for the Shenandoah River. Attachment A

Mr. Ballard made a **MOTION** to approve Dr. Whisman's 2005 contract and scope of work, for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Mr. Lilly seconded that motion and all were in favor. Attachment B

For the record it is the LAC Sub-Committee, Whitewater Commission's, Director Hamrick's and DNR Administration's recommendation that the implementation of the on-line trip leader report system go into effect immediately.

TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Ellis discussed the direct advertising grants that were being given out and announced that emergency response maps were available for anyone that needed them.

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

No report was given at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Superintendent Hite of the National Park Service raised the issue of safe water levels for rafters on the New and Gauley Rivers. After a short discussion, Mr. Hite made a **MOTION** that the Regulation Committee examines safe water levels on these rivers. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

Director Hamrick advised that the next meeting would be held in Charleston and that everyone would be notified of the date.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Lilly and seconded by Mr. Garten and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.