

WHITEWATER COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING MARCH 15, 2005

MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at Ramada Inn Conference Center, Morgantown, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Frank Jezioro, Director, Division of Natural Resources (Presiding)
Randall Ballard
Bill Garten
Eddie Lilly
Jerry Cook
Matt Knott

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jena Kay Webb, Law Enforcement Section (Recording Secretary)
Lt. Larry Case, Law Enforcement Section
Captain Kaven Ransom, Law Enforcement, District One, Farmington
Sgt. Gary Wade, Law Enforcement, District One, Farmington

PUBLIC

Chris Dragan, Wildwater Expeditions
Len Hanger, Songer Whitewater
Rob Dotson, WV Adventures
Karen Calvert, Rivers II, Inc.
Eric Pories, WVPRO
Jeff Proctor, Class VI
George Heffner, Butts Tubes, Inc.
Holly Heffner, Butts Tubes, Inc.
Matt Markoff, Calleva, Inc.
David Hough, Mountain Streams and Trails
Mark McCarty, Laurel Highland River Tours
Ernest Kincaid, Ace Whitewater Adventures
Paul Hart, Cheat River Outfitters, Inc.
Jim Greenbaum, Whitewater Adventures of Cheat River Canyon

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Director Jezioro at approximately 1:00 p.m. Commissioners Cal Hite and Ray Church were not in attendance at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Garten made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lilly and was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Markoff, Calleva Outdoors, made the comment that he would like for Calleva to be able to obtain temporary permits to use other rivers in West Virginia to do kayak clinics on, such as the Cheat, New and Gauley Rivers. Director Jezioro, ask Mr. Markoff to send a written request to his office.

Eric Pories, Executive Director of the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters Organization, stated that he was working with Brett Preston of the Wildlife Section, on the trout stocking agreement for the Gauley River.

Mark McCarty, Laurel Highland Rivers Tours, stated that the river outfitters on the Cheat would like to have it noted that they are concerned with the timbering operations in the river valley because a lot of the tops are being left down inside of the high watermark that have the potential of creating a hazardous situation. Director Jezioro, ask that the Cheat River Outfitters send to his office in writing their concerns and that he would have it looked into.

LAC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Ballard stated that since the last meeting there was nothing to report.

After a brief discussion pertaining to the on-line trip leader report system, Lt. Case stated that he would talk to Dr. Andy Whisman to see what information would be needed and that he would report back to the Commission about this at the June meeting.

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Knott stated that (Attachment A) shows budgeted numbers for the 2004 fiscal year and what the actual figures were, (Attachment B) shows numbers budgeted for 2005 fiscal year and what the actual figures were.

After a brief description of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 (Attachment C) by Chairman Knott, Commissioner Lilly made a **MOTION** to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year 2006, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ballard and the motion carried.

TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

No Tourism Sub-Committee report presented since Commissioner Church was not in attendance

OTHER BUSINESS

Lt. Case described what a reportable accident on the river was and when an outfitter is responsible for reporting that incident to the DNR.

Lt. Case stated it had been brought to his attention that commercial whitewater outfitters were renting equipment on sections of rivers where a guide is not required in every raft. Because of sections in the code that require a certain number of guides per number of persons in a raft, the multiple of 1 per every 10 people. Commercial outfitters cannot rent gear (watercraft, inner tubes or other vessels) for the purpose of taking a whitewater expedition.

After a discussion about peak-day (10%) and off peak-day (25%) variances that the commission may permit, Commissioner Cook stated that he felt that the variances should be eliminated. Director Jezioro stated that this issue should be looked at by the Commission and Law Enforcement before any decisions should be made.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next meeting will be held in June 2005, and everyone will be notified of the place and time.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lilly, was seconded by Commissioner Knott and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m.