

WHITEWATER COMMISSION
QUARTERLY MEETING
JUNE 24, 2009
MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater commission was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at the New River Gorge Park Headquarters, Glen Jean, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Lt. Col. Jerry Jenkins, Law Enforcement (Presiding)
Jeff Proctor, Class VI
Rick Johnson, River Expeditions
Don Striker, National Park Service
Don Beyer, Private Boater Rep.

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Lt. Larry Case, Law Enforcement
Jennifer Weinrich, Law Enforcement (Recording Secretary)

OTHERS

Brian Campbell, The Rivermen
Gary Hartley, National Park Service
Mark Lewis, WVPRO

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Col. Jenkins at approximately 1:30 PM. Lt. Col. Jenkins welcomed everyone attending and passed around the sign in sheet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Johnson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2009, meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jeff Proctor. The motion passed as submitted.

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION

The Whitewater Commission accepted the resignation of Jonathan Danz and appreciated the hard work and dedication that he gave to the whitewater industry and commission.

It was discussed that WVPRO would poll outfitters to see who would be interested in taking over Jonathan Danz's position on the commission and forward recommendations to Law Enforcement.

LAC AND INJURY REPORTS

Jennifer Weinrich updated the commission of a possible contract with Andy Whisman. After speaking with Angela Negley, it was decided that we would have to put the contract out to bid because Andy Whisman is not a sole source. To say that Mr. Whisman is a sole source and to be discovered otherwise would put the contract with him and any future contract with him in serious jeopardy.

To save money and to expedite completing the injury report analysis it was discussed that Jennifer Weinrich could compile the information needed in-house. Don Striker suggested assisting Law Enforcement to tabulate the raw data. All raw data that is able to be prepared by the September meeting will be presented to the commission for analysis.

It was discovered that the 2003 Injury Report was approved back at the December 2007.

A **MOTION** was made by Jeff Proctor to rescind the motion that passed at the March 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion passed.

WHITEWATER USER FEE

Lt. Col. Jenkins received a call from an outfitter that stated that our user fee was fifty cents per user according to the Whitewater website; however, it has been remedied.

The DNR has also received complaints saying that outfitters are claiming the user fee is \$3.50 to \$4.00 per user. It is known that the DNR only receives \$.35 or \$.70 (depending on the river) per user so please change whatever signage or charges that states otherwise. An e-mail will be sent out to the outfitters stating what the DNR user fee's are.

WHITEWATER USER NUMBERS

Packets were passed out as to what numbers have been reported to the DNR from March 2009 to June 2009. The only numbers represented were those that had actually been reported online not from the Trip Leader reports.

Jeff Proctor suggested that an e-mail be sent out to the outfitters to remind them to send their end of month numbers and payment. Notification also needs to be sent if an outfitter has not run any trips for the month. The commission urged that those outfitters who are not in compliance with the rule should be issued a citation.

The numbers looked to be following the national trend.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The Administrative Rule has been filed regarding the Shenandoah Study Zone and is currently open for public comment until next Monday, June 29, 2009.

Currently, there is no remedy for outstanding licenses which are not used or inactive. The only way to change that is to reopen the law, which is currently ambiguous in regards to those types of licenses.

Don Striker suggested that a sub-committee be formed to review the current rule and come up with suggestions on how or what needs to be changed in the rule and to propose those changes at the December meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Don Striker brought up access site issues to the rivers. The National Park Service is looking for feedback and wants to work hand in hand with the whitewater outfitters about proposed access sites and with current problems with current access sites. WVPRO has offered to mediate/host the meeting between the outfitters and the National Park Service.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The date, time and location of the next meeting will be established at a later time and commission members will be notified.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Proctor and seconded by Rick Johnson. The meeting ended at approximately 3:00 PM.