

WHITEWATER COMMISSION
QUARTERLY MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2009
MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of the Whitewater Commission was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, in Building 74, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Charleston, West Virginia. The following individuals were in attendance:

WHITEWATER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Lt. Col Jerry Jenkins, Division of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement (Presiding)
Jeff Proctor, Class VI
Betty Cutlip, Division of Tourism (sent on Betty Carver's behalf)
Rick Johnson, River Expeditions
Don Beyer, Private River User (via teleconference)

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Lt. Tim Coleman, Law Enforcement, Charleston
Jennifer Weinrich, Law Enforcement, Charleston (Recording Secretary)

OTHERS

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

Jeff Proctor made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009, meeting with a correction to the trout stocking number. 12,000 pounds was changed to 1,200 pounds. The motion was seconded by Rick Johnson. The motion passed as submitted.

WHITEWATER USER NUMBERS

Jennifer Weinrich presented to the commission two items regarding the user numbers – Monthly Trend by River for the year 2009; Outfitter Trend for the year 2009 with the end numbers for 2008 – representing the total numbers for the year 2009. River usage numbers have dropped by 16,780 users.

It was suggested that the Commission work with the Division of Tourism and get out of the traditional markets, instead turning sight toward the southeast region of the nation to attempt to increase numbers for the 2010 season.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE COMMISSION MAKE-UP

Jeff Proctor suggested that if the legislature were to be opened up for any changes whatsoever, then while it was opened the make-up of the commission could be changed due to the low number of single license holders.

METHOD TO DISSOLVE UNUSED LICENSES (ALLOCATIONS)

It was discussed as to whether or not the law should be opened up and something drafted that would stipulate any conditions that would warrant revocation of a license. If there are licenses that are not being utilized on a river that doesn't have crowding issue and other businesses decide they want to open up a business and apply for a license, along the same un-crowded river, and are approved then there will come a time when allocations will be needed along that river. If there were provisions in place where the DNR could revoke those licenses that are not being utilized or for non-payment then perhaps this could be avoided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lt Coleman told the commission about his meeting with the Medical Examiner regarding a drowning death that occurred on Kanawha Falls. Afterward, the Medical Examiner asked if there were any further questions when the subject of whitewater drownings arose. The DNR had not been receiving the final cause of death from the ME's office. It was discovered that 2 out of 3 of the whitewater deaths were not due to drowning as originally thought, but of a heart attack. The commission thoroughly discussed the meeting between Lt. Coleman and the Medical Examiner.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2010, at the DNR Headquarters (Bldg 74). Once the time is established, the 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 2:15 PM.