

Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2013

Location: Alpine Ministries Lodge – Mount Hope, WV

Chaired: DNR LE Jerry B. Jenkins, Lt. Colonel, in absence of Director Frank Jezioro

In Attendance: Matt Knott (by telephone River Riders) (Jerry Cook (ACE); Tim Barton (Alpine); Doug Cooper (Private Boater); Bobby Bower (WVPRO); Don Beyer (Private Boater); Chris Ellis (Private Boater); Brian Campbell (Adventures on the Gorge); Craig Cantrell (Cantrell Ultimate Rafting); Nancy Stover (Cantrell Ultimate Rafting); Greg “Tiger” Berry (Berry’s Campground); Eddie Lilly (Greenbrier Landing); Jerry E. Berry (Water Dawg Outdoors); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Jerry B. Jenkins, Lt. Colonel (WV DNR LE); Heather Kessel (Recording Secretary, WV DNR LE)

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of June 11, 2013 called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Lt. Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Attendance sheet passed amongst attendees.

Approval of March 18, 2013, Minutes

Tim Barton advised the Commission that the word “accident” should be changed in the December 18th minutes, in the sentence “After the swimming accident, AWVR changed its guidelines to be stricter for running such trips.” After further review of the December 18th minutes, it was corrected and reflects the change. Brian Campbell motioned to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2013, meeting, providing the word “accident” was changed in the December 18th minutes. Chris Ellis seconded the motion, and the Commission approved it.

Budget

Matt Knott, via tele-conference, asked if the proposed 2015 budget approved during the December meeting was forwarded to Keith Wilson. Lt. Colonel Jenkins & Heather Kessel advised it wasn’t immediately known, but they would find out once back at WVDNR HQ’s.

Matt stated that year end is June 30, 2013. He advises that we are approximately \$10,000 below budget for the Whitewater fund and approximately \$2,000 below budget for the Gauley fund. It appears the new expense that was picked up for the Gauley stocking was allocated, but not actually spent. There was more DNR personnel money spent, but all is basically the same as last month. He advises there is approximately \$97,000 in the checking account. Jerry Cook asked if the June 6th date is the actual year end date for 2012 or for 2013. Matt advised after June 30, 2013 he would have the actual year end for 2013 and it would reflect the total spent for the fiscal year, he will present that at the next meeting. Brian Campbell mentioned the dues coming in for May and he asked if we are on a cash basis so that it only shows the actual money collected. Matt advises it is the actual money collected which shows in the account. Jerry Cook asked what the miscellaneous represents on the budget summary. Matt explains that any money that isn’t allocated to something specific goes under miscellaneous. It was noted here that it appears no money has been taken out/spent towards the Whitewater website.

Website Update

Lt. Colonel Jenkins reminds everyone that Kelly Crago will not return to the WVDNR LE section full-time, but hopefully she can continue on a temporary part-time basis in order to help with the Whitewater website. WVOT have advised that the site is ready for immediate testing and we’re hopeful Kelly will be approved by WVDOP for temporary employment.

Discussion of Zone Changes on the New River

Eddie Lilly introduces Jerry Berry who proposes a need to change the Whitewater zone on the New River from the confluence of the Greenbrier to Brooks Falls in order to float tubes using a general Outfitter & Guide license as opposed to a Whitewater Rafting license. Nancy Stover with Cantrell Ultimate Rafting addressed her concerns that the area of river in question is whitewater and should remain a whitewater zone. Ms. Stover bases her concerns on safety issues and hampering the fishing in that area. Brian Campbell states where the Commission is concerned there's one issue: Is this section of river a whitewater zone that's connected to the New River, are there whitewater hazards that would require a commercial whitewater license, or is it a flat water section that should be considered removed as a whitewater zone? And, should Mr. Berry hold a whitewater license or O&G license to operate tubes? He stresses that these zones are in the law and the Commission does not have the authority to change the law. Brian Campbell suggests that instead of changing the law, that building a relationship with a whitewater license holder is something to consider.

Doug Cooper suggested a study of this particular section of river to determine if it's necessary to change the zoning. Doug Cooper made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. It was seconded by Brian Campbell. The Commission approved it. Jerry Cook abstained.

Thurmond Gauge Funding

Bobby Bower explains that the Thurmond Gauge on the U.S.G.S. website will no longer be funded by the U.S. National Park Service. The cost was \$17,000 annually and just recently the U.S.G.S. agreed to lower the cost to \$14,000 annually. The Park Service and the U.S.G.S. have agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost, which figures to around \$4,700 each; this leaves 1/3 of the cost left to fund. Bobby explains that he plans on attending a closed-door meeting at the DEP on 06-12-13 where he will find out more details in regards to the gauge, it's funding and standard maintenance.

Commission agreed to table any further discussion on the gauge until after Bobby attends the meeting at DEP on 06-12-13.

Commission Member Re-appointments (Tentative awaiting notification from the Governor's Office)

Don Beyer (private river user)
Chris Ellis (private river user)
Doug Cooper (private river user)
David Bassage (succeed Brian Campbell)
Steve Kemper (succeed Tim Barton)
Roger Wilson (succeed Jerry Cook)
John Gonano Jr.(single license)

Other Business

None.

Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting locale will be in the Summersville area on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 11:00 AM.

Adjournment

Tim Barton motioned to adjourn the June 11, 2013 2nd quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Jerry Cook seconded the motion, and the Commission accepted. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.