

Quarterly Whitewater Commission Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2014

Location: DNR Office 324 4th Avenue South Charleston, WV

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

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Matt Knott (by conference call River Riders); Don Beyer (Private Boater); Chris Ellis (Private Boater); Will Miller (WV Tourism, in absence of Commissioner Betty Carver); Brian Campbell (Adventures on the Gorge); Tim Barton (Alpine Ministries); Trish Kicklighter (by conference call National Park Service).

Guests: Chris Meadows (New River Gateway CVB); Christopher Carnifix (Ace Resort); Eddie Lilly (Private River User); Steve Kemper (Alpine Ministries); Greg Berry (Berry Campground); Vickie Hamrick (Berry Campground); Ruth Knicely (Alpine Ministries); Teeya Mills (Cantrell Canoes and Rafts Inc.); Craig Cantrell (Cantrell Canoes and Rafts Inc.); Rick Johnson (River Expeditions); Ed McMinn (WV Office of Technology); Thomas Allen (WV Office of Technology); Will Valentino (WV DNR AAG); Noelle Starek (WV Senate); Jeff West (by conference call National Park Service); Jerry B. Jenkins, Lt. Colonel, WV DNR, in absence of Director Frank Jezioro); Larry Case (WV DNR LE); Heather Kessel (WV DNR LE); James McClung (WV DNR LE).

Call to Order

The Whitewater Commission meeting of March 18, 2014 was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Lt. Colonel Jerry B. Jenkins. Attendance sheet passed amongst attendees. The website update was moved to the top of the agenda.

Approval of December 17, 2013 Minutes

Brian Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2013 meeting. Tim Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Website Update

Ed McMinn (WV Office of Technology) conducted a presentation of the whitewater online reporting system's new functionalities. They are currently on a test site and will soon be available for users to try. O.T. gave examples of how to navigate user number entries and trip leader reporting. Heather Kessel will contact users to get volunteers for website testing. Many in the group voiced concern over the final disposition of hardcopy injury reports. It was suggested that the hardcopies stay with the outfitters. Captain Larry Case suggested that the districts receive an electronic notification of injury reports from the outfitters.

Budget

Matt Knott (by conference call) reviewed the overall budget for 2014. The current Whitewater Commission revenues are \$45,370.00 plus \$7,491.00 for the Gauley Fund. Anticipated costs for 2014 will exceed revenues. Heather Kessel will follow up with Keith Wilson and Jennifer Snow (DNR Budget) and determine why computer equipment and building improvements are still showing up on the budget summary.

Discussion of Zone Changes on the New River

Greg Berry suggested that the whitewater moratorium zone be changed. He would like to see the area between the Bluestone Dam and Brooks Falls opened up for commercial tubing. The group discussed several issues with the potential changes. Brian Campbell made a motion for the Regulation Committee to look into this suggestion and develop a set of recommendations for the Whitewater Commission to review and act on. Don Beyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Business

Matt Knott is purchasing the whitewater license and assets from Historical River Tours. Lt Colonel Jenkins indicated that the Director has approved the sale and he wanted the Whitewater Commission aware of the acquisition.

Calleva has applied for a license to operate on the Cheat, Tygart and Shenandoah rivers. They previously held a whitewater license which expired in 2007. Matt Knott stressed that the LAC commission should investigate Calleva to ensure that they have the correct training to operate on designated whitewater zones.

Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting locale is at Adventures on the Gorge in Fayetteville on June 10, 2014 at 1:00pm.

Adjournment

Chris Ellis motioned to adjourn the March 18, 2014 1st quarterly Whitewater Commission meeting. Tim Barton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.