

Western Whitewater Association

General Membership Meeting

January 13, 2019

The general membership meeting of the Western Whitewater Association was called to order by President Clyde Durham. Thirty-nine members were present. Three new members were present and introduced Jim O'Connor owner of Artic Creek on the main Salmon and Dee and Gary Davies.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 10, 2018 were read by Jayne White. It was moved by Grady White to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Richard Powell. Motion passed.

Debbie Thorson read the Treasurer's report. It was moved by Jeff Higgins to accept the report as read and seconded by Shay White. Motion passed.

Old Business

New Year's Day run was fantastic with 12 boats on the run and 2 boats staying at the ramp. The weather was perfect, and the BBQ at Celebration Park was well attended. Thank you to all the cooks and boat captains that lead the group up to Rattlesnake Bar.

Chili Run is February 17, 2019. Please meet at Walter's Ferry 9:00 a.m. Chet and Debbie Thorson will chair this run and we will try to use the area just below Lizard Rock.

New Business

During the board meeting on January 7, 2019 all the dates for the runs were decided as well as a budget amount for each run. We will be updating the Welcome Packet that Debbie sends out to new members. Also, WWA business cards will be printed and given to all members to carry on their boats if people have questions about the Western Whitewater Association and who to contact for membership.

Shay White updated the HCRC information – the government is shutdown. The water project will be delayed. NOAA is also shut down and that will cause problems with the Salmon and Steelhead permit.

David Dahms, Boating Manager from Idaho Parks and Rec was present. He said that there won't be any changes regarding boating this year coming from Idaho Parks and Rec.

The question was asked about Kim Wallace paying her debt to the club. No payment has been made in quite some time. Clyde Durham will check into the process regarding recovery of this debt.

Bob Hays reported on the stream closures on the Salmon River and told the group that all streams are required to be evaluated before they can call it a Wild and Scenic river. There is a meeting in Salmon during the week of January 21 and Bob will be attending. Bob also stated that Idaho Rivers United has backed out of the lawsuit trying to close the main Salmon from steelhead and salmon fishing. The Idaho Statesman had an article regarding the Idaho Conservation League asking the governor to re-instate sport fishing on the Salmon. There will be approximately 70 miles of the Salmon closed if this lawsuit continues. There will be a meeting in either Idaho Falls or Blackfoot on January 24 or 25.

Jim O'Connor gave what he felt was the issue regarding the Steelhead fishing on the 70 miles that were closed. He suggested that his group of power boaters join the WWA to help bring up their numbers and their voice regarding this closure.

Bob Hays, Shay White, and Jim O'Connor met with Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association on January 11, 2019. Aaron Lieberman from IOGA is the new director. We will try to have at least a couple of meetings a year with IOGA and power boats. The meeting was very positive.

Salmon River Jet Boat Races in April 19, 20, and 21, 2019. Bob Hays moved we donate \$2000 to the Riggins Chamber of Commerce for the boat races held in April. Seconded by Tom Roach. Motion passed. Camping will again be at the Walters site. Please pay Debbie and she will pay them up front.

Jim Moore brought up that the Canyon County marine deputies need a letter of support for one of their projects. Jim will speak with Debbie and Jayne.

Owyhee Canyon Lands: Gary Sparks has requested that we appoint someone to be on the Owyhee Canyon Land Collaboration. The Upper end of the Owyhee River is currently closed to jet boats and very few rafters use this area. We would like to see it re-opened for all use. It was suggested that John Faw be asked to serve on this committee.

Bob Hays reported on the Idaho Recreation Council meeting held on Saturday, January 12. The Tribal Cultural Placements are trying to lockup all of the Lochsa drainage – 740,000 acres. More and more organizations are trying to close our public lands. If you have questions, please see Bob or Shay regarding these closures.

Bob Hays wanted everyone to know that Dan Byington a long-time member of the WWA passed away suddenly and requested that the Whitewater might want to do a memorial gift. We will check into the possible charities that Dan supported.

There has been a lot of comments regarding a new ordinance in Valley County. Shay White called the Valley County marine deputy who explained that everything in the new ordinance is not a change. Valley County will publish the information and no places are being closed.

Craig Lindquist commented on how important it is to be a WWA member and the many helpful members there are.

Door prizes drawn. Meeting adjourned at 8:13. Motion was made by Jeff Higgins seconded by Shay White. .

Respectfully,
Jayne White