

Float Fishermen of Virginia
Memorial Day Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2008

President Ginny Peck called the Memorial Day meeting to order on May 25, 2008 at the Slate River.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was not available as the newsletter containing the minutes had not been received by membership. Those present humorously approved the motion to accept the minutes unread and unseen.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was distributed and accepted. The beginning balance as of January 1, 2008 was \$5,519.88, with income of \$4,130, expenditures of \$747.50, resulting in an ending balance of \$8,902.38 as of April 30, 2008.

Newsletter Report

A volunteer has stepped forward to take on the responsibilities of editing and producing the State FFV newsletter ***Fishin' Pole, Pack and Paddle***. Our new editor is Allison Herbert.

Membership Report

Membership secretary Beth Willoughby reported that we have added 21 members since last Fall, but our current roster shows only 120 paid members, since the Scotts Creek chapter has not yet been included.

Web Report

Webmaster Bob Born needs input to update trip information. He has also agreed to post meeting minutes.

Conservation Report

Conservation chair Bill Tanger addressed conservation issues and river access issues. Legislation to gut the state's environmental quality boards did not succeed. Notables involved in defeating state legislation include Shelton Miles, Tayloe Murphy, Bob Burnley and Jerry Baliles.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation needs paddlers to complete DCR surveys about the North Anna. There is a possibility that based on paddler responses, new access points and guaranteed water releases could result.

The National Park Service has acquired 177 acres to provide public access on the Gauley River at Woods Ferry/Mason's Branch.

The Cushaw project on the James has become a wider state issue. CSX has consistently refused to consider access across their property. A new coalition of boaters, bicyclists, horseback riders and hikers are supporting the creation of a Rail Authority in Virginia that would require railroads to address public interests. Dominion Power has committed \$165,000 to creating an access if CSX issues can be resolved.

Access on the Roanoke River near Explore Park is being fought by Explore, which threatens legal action if efforts are continued to use a public right of way that Explore claims belongs to them.

Efforts to remove a dam in Franklin County are underway. Plans for a white water park are also progressing. The Randy Carter 2007 Award will be presented to a worthy nominee at a later date. Discussion of nominees was tabled at the Winter meeting and a final decision was made at Memorial Day. (Names of recipients are not usually made public until the award is presented.)

Foundation Report

Surveys administered several years ago indicated that membership sees the Foundations' goals as looking to acquire land as access to rivers or assisting in access issues. The survey results indicated Balcony Falls and Roanoke River access as main areas of concern. Bill Tanger is looking for volunteers to assist with these issues.

A Foundation meeting was set to follow the regular Memorial Day membership meeting.

Old Business

June 14 is the date for this year's Kids' Float, inaugurated last year by Erica Simms to get inner city kids on the river. The plan is to get 40 kids in canoes, each with an experienced paddler to float from Howardsville to Warren's Ferry. Let Erica know if you are available to help. Don Simms will get the canoes to the put-in the night before and guard them. FFV is supplying the kids' lunches, a sponsor will provide tee shirts and Pepsi is donating drinks. FFVers have been invited to spend the weekend at the Slate River property.

Many thanks to the Steve Kellers, under the direction of Betty Jo Born, for a wonderful meal Saturday night and to the Slate River property owners for hosting the Memorial Day weekend.

New Business

Announcement of other trips and events: June 6 and 7 are the "Black Out" and "Pig River Ramble" weekend in Franklin County; June 14 is also James River Clean Up Day.

Rock Willoughby presented two River Rock awards to Scott's Creek members; one for river rescue and ecology to Jack Hall, accompanied by his dog Chance, and one to Casey O'Sullivan as best river victim, the subject of Jack's river rescue.

Wright Ellis called for a moment of silence to remember Les Fry, old time FFVer and Coastal Canoeist who recently passed away. Bob DeRosset also had some kind words recalling Les as a mentor to many paddlers.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved, sending lots of floaters to the beautiful James.