

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

REPORT OF THE
WHITEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR 1984

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Clinton B. Townsend, Chairman
Wilmot Robinson
Senator Michael Pearson
Senator Ronald Usher
Representative Paul F. Jacques
Representative Patrick McGowan

January, 1984

WHITEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:
1984

This is the report of the Whitewater Advisory Committee as created in 12 M.R.S.A., §7369-A. This report is given pursuant to 7369-A.3.

The Committee members include Clinton B. Townsend and Wilmot Robinson, appointed by Governor Joseph E. Brennan, Paul F. Jacques and Patrick McGowan, appointed by John L. Martin, and Michael Pearson and Ron Usher, appointed by Gerard P. Conley.

The Committee first met on September 28, 1983. Clinton B. Townsend was elected chairman and Wilmot Robinson was elected vice-chairman. John Selser of the Office of Legislative Assistants was designated as staff for the Committee.

At the first meeting the members discussed the history of whitewater rafting legislation and reviewed the Committee's role in the context of the legislation enacted as L.D. 1763 during the first regular session of the 111th Legislature.

It was decided that the Committee would invite John Marsh, Chief Warden of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Herbert Hartman, Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and Charles Colgan of the State Planning Office to meet and discuss allocation procedures as well as access, safety and other matters which the Committee is charged to review.

On October 26, 1983, the Committee and its staff met with Col. Marsh, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Colgan and discussed the manner in which the 1983 allocation procedure had been developed, and also discussed the procedure proposed for 1984 allocations. It was decided to ask for input from members of the rafting industry on the allocation process, and that a notice pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act would be published requesting written input prior to the Committee's December meeting.

The Committee and its staff next met on December 12, 1983 with Col. Marsh, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Colgan in attendance. The Committee again reviewed the 1984 allocation process. In addition to allocations, there was discussion of safety, guide quality, put-in and take-out locations, lunch sites and other aspects of the industry.

One matter brought to the attention of the Committee by the industry is the need for allocations for a longer period than one year. It is the belief of the industry that if the allocations are limited to one year, bank loans for equipment which must be financed

over a period longer than one year will be difficult if not impossible to obtain. The State Planning Office is considering legislation which will change the allocation process in order to provide for longer allocations, as well as other technical changes to the legislation.

It is the sense of the Committee that the 1984 rafting season will produce more information on the effectiveness of the allocation procedure, and that the Committee should wait until the fall of 1984 in order to review what has been learned during the coming season. Accordingly, the Committee does not propose to meet again until after the end of the season, at which time it will consider the information gathered during 1984.

Much written material was prepared for the Committee by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and State Planning Office. The Committee is indebted to them for the invaluable technical and administrative assistance they have provided. The material is available for review by request to Mr. John Selser in the Office of Legislative Assistants.

Yours very truly,

Dated: January 17, 1984



Clinton B. Townsend, Chairman