**Meeting on water levels and safety regarding the Lower Vaal section.**

**Date : 12/03/2014**

**Time: 09:30**

**Attended:**

Jaco Botha – Earth adventures – 0824712030

Juan Grobler – Stonehenge – 0828504924

Awie v.d. Berg – Demelichite – 0827898843

Albert – Hadeda creek – 0735821756

Jacob – Hadeda creek – 0713705794

Kenneth Venter – Sunwa – 0836316797

Bennie Pretorius – Real adventures – 0828853546

Hugh du Preez – White water training – 0832535225

**Absent:**

Dolf Jordaan – 0824533750

Graeme – 0842452490

Charl de Bruyn – Sunwa – 0736354301

Ryno Lindeque – X-factor – 0846000536

**Summary of meeting:**

The meeting was called by Hugh (White Water Training) to discuss the current safety standings of the lower Vaal with all companies involved. Cut off levels were discussed as well and how it affects commercial rafting for all companies involved.

**Actual meeting:**

1. Safety is being disregarded by some companies that have (example) 15 clients and only one guide for that group.
2. Companies and Trip leaders need to take responsibility for their actions.
3. All companies should try to maintain, as far as possible, the rules set down by APA.
4. We need to look at the guides to client ratio.
5. All operators agreed that at high water the ratio should be at least 1 (one) Safety per raft.
6. The river is divided into sections do that everyone will know the different sections.
7. The sections are as follow:

* Hang brug (Town wave) to Sand gat
* Gruwer laan to Rocky ridge
* Rocky ridge to gatsien
* Demelichite to Hadeda creek.

**Cut off levels decided by all present are as follow:**

**Section: Hang brug to Sand gat**

Crocks : 500m3s = Grade 4

Rafts: 2000m3s = Grade 4

**Section: Gruwer laan to Rocky ridge**

Crocks: 300m3s = Grade 4

Rafts: 800m3s = Grade 4

**Section: Rocky ridge to Gatsien**

Crocks: 300m3s = Grade 4

Rafts: 800m3s = Grade 4

**Section: Demelichite to Hadeda creek**

Crocks: 500m3s = Grade 3

Rafts: 1500m3s = Grade 4

\*m3s = Cubic meters per second

It was said that it is up to the operator or Trip leader to decide on a personal cut off level depending in the group.

All operators agreed that they can’t have the same cut off level for all groups or clients.

There was also agreed that there is a major shortage of qualified guides and Trip leaders.

All operators must remember to keep logs of all activities, and first aid records.

Meeting