



March 26, 2008

To: Zina Merkin, President Elkhorn Acres Management Group

RE: Open letter to the Elkhorn Acres Management Group

The Elkhorn is a huge success story for the paddling community. That boaters could come together and in 3 days raise sufficient money to buy the property is a remarkable achievement that should be celebrated. American Whitewater is proud to own the land and collaboratively manage it with the local paddling community.

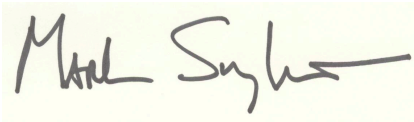
While maintenance of the Elkhorn takeout has taken place, American Whitewater feels that an evolutionary change is needed in the management structure to be more inclusive of the paddling community and affiliates club interests.

American Whitewater is interested in property management that is consistent with our mission and guidelines, that meets the broad paddling community's needs, that results in prompt and regular response to management needs, and is a positive experience for the volunteers contributing to site management. To meet those objectives we propose the following process for managing the site.

1. We propose the formation of the Elkhorn Leadership Council to organize management activities and advise AW on management decisions of the Elkhorn take out in accordance with AW's property management guidelines.
2. The ELC will consist of representatives from the Vikings, BWA, Bardstown Boaters, EAMG and Elkhorn Paddlers. Each organization represented in the leadership council would appoint a primary and secondary representative organization in the council who will singularly or together represent the interests of their organization.
3. The ELC will meet at least quarterly via conference call or in person, and in addition will conduct day-to-day management discussion on the AW Forum.
4. The ELC will organize and implement pre-approved activities (grass moving, gravel additions to road, portable toilet rental, etc)
5. The ELC will *advise* AW on any proposed management action that **a)** is not pre-approved, **b)** is not consistent with the AW guidelines, **c)** requires AW funding, or **d)** changes AW's liability associated with the site. AW will communicate *decisions* to the ELC for implementation.
6. Decisions on direct management actions and on management advice are to be made through consensus, when possible. When consensus is not possible, disputes can be resolved by AW based on our management guidelines.

The goal of this process is to be more inclusive and open about how the Elkhorn is managed. AW owns the land and has the legal responsibility for the site. Local recommendations, which include all the interest groups, based on consensus would be a very good outcome.

Mark Singleton

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Mark Singleton" in a cursive style.

Executive Director

Kevin Colburn

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads "Kevin Colburn" in a cursive style.

National Stewardship Director