

Minutes of the Special Meeting Executive Committee  
Zoom Conference Meeting ID No. 843 5911 4946  
31 May 2023

1. **Call to Order.** Mr. Niño Rey Estoya of PCSDs presided over the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:56 pm, after the TAB meeting was adjourned.

Present:

1. Mr. Niño Rey Estoya, PCSDs	Presiding Officer
2. Hon. Sergio Tapalla, LGU-Cag	Member
3. Ms. Ma. Elizabeth Sabando, PGP	Member
4. Ms. Katherine Custodio, WWF-Phils	Member
5. LTC Isagani G Nato, WesCom	Member
6. CG Capt. Antolin R Cayabo, CGD-Pal	Member

Absent:

1. Commo Alan M. Javier PN, NFW	Member
2. RED Lormelyn Claudio, DENR	Member
3. Ms. Angelica Querubin, Saguda-Pal	Member

Guest:

1. Atty. Sarah Diva, PCSDS
2. Mr. Alexander Mancio, DENR- PENRO

**3.2 Refund of Conservation Fees.** Dive boats were not able to conduct their scheduled trips to Tubbataha due to Sea Travel Advisories issued by the Philippine Coastguard as a result of bad weather conditions. Chapter 3, Rule 14.4 of Admin Order #1 s 2017 states:

*“Conservation fees paid by boat owners/operators or visitors for trips that have been aborted prior to entry into the park may be reimbursed, provided that only 80% of the conservation fees may be refunded.”*

The PASu recommended that Chapter 3, Rule 14.4 of Admin Order No. 1 be amended so that tourists would receive full reimbursement of the conservation fee if their trip was canceled due to an event for which no party can be held accountable (*force majeure*). Rule 14.4 shall henceforth read:

*Conservation fees paid by boat owners/operators or visitors for trips that have been aborted prior to entry into the park may be reimbursed, provided that only 80% of the conservation fees may be refunded, except in cases of force majeure, when conservation fees may be refunded in full. The necessity to cancel a trip must be supported by an official travel advisory or certification issued by competent agencies, such as the Philippine Coast Guard or PAGASA.”*

She also requested that the full refund be applied retroactively to all trips that were canceled due to bad weather during the 2023 dive season. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the above recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

Prepared by:

  
**ANGELIQUE M. SONGCO**  
Secretary

Attested by:

  
**NIÑO REY C. ESTOYA**  
Presiding Officer