

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Fall Board Meeting – September 24, 2023
Final

In Attendance 9/24/23:

- Directors:** Mary Gratsch, Janice Gott, and Werner Jud were present on site. Patrick Gibson and Gary O'Dell were present online.
(A quorum does exist.)
- Others:** Neena Jud and Debi Pavey were present on site. Sean Cain was present online. Gary Bush joined late.

69th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Main Branch Boone County Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:06PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. The GSP Road Repair Project was officially closed out by FEMA.
2. There will be a memorial service for Bob Dobbs [who passed away on 4/22/23], on Sunday October 1st at the GSP shelter at noon. A tulip tree will be planted in the back field.

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of the amended Minutes of regular Meeting of 6/4/23, including the in-between meeting motion of 7/3/23.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 6/4/23 meeting (Gratsch, Jud 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. RKC received \$130 in individual contributions, \$695 in memberships, \$514 in RKC consignment sales at the NSS Convention, and \$190 in SVCP T-shirt income.
2. \$1,200 was transferred into the Life Membership Fund, and \$300 is still in the holding fund. Janice Gott, Amanda Stofan, Elizabeth Winkler, Mark Swelstad and Derek Bristol are new life members.
3. Jud e-filed the 2022 annual tax report.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report, Life Member Fund Report, and Endowment Fund Report as provided (Gratsch, Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

Committee Reports:

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (J. Gott)

1. The tri-fold display board changes are approved by the Board, waiting for Rob Coomer's help in printing. The new tri-fold flyers are being distributed. Werner has put up a box to hold them on the GSP kiosk. Gott and Gratsch each have a box of flyers.
2. There are plans for a November newsletter, and articles are being collected.

(B) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey reporting)

1. Debi Pavey is the new GSP Chair.
2. KOR was a success for both GSP and GCG. O'Dell has an artwork submission for next year's KOR T-shirt.

3. September's Caver Appreciation weekend was a success. It was run by GSP's new Social Event Coordinator, Meg Gaskin. They held an all-grotto meeting.
 4. Work is continuing on the interior walls of the ticket house.
 5. A GSP Halloween fundraising event is being planned. It is open to all. There is a \$20 suggested donation on top of the camping fee, and a potluck dinner.
- (C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain)
1. Pete Stow led a trip to Misty, and reported that all there was well.
 2. There is a need for a clean-up trip to Misty Cave, when Cain gets the opportunity to organize it.
 3. Gibson suggested Pete Stow as a co-chair for the Misty Cave Committee. Cain thought that was a great idea, and Cain will ask him.
- (D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Patrick Gibson reporting for Josh Heinbuch)
1. Dana Sutherland led a work party to replace the gate to Hurricane pit, since the old one was quite heavy and hard to manage. Dana built the new gate, and a good crew turned out to help. The neighboring landowner, Charlie Crabtree, lent his equipment and help as well. RKC will send him a thank you letter.
- (E) Cornhole Cave Committee: (M. Gratsch)
1. Nothing new.
- (F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve (Mike Harrington reporting)
1. The management committee is planning a kiosk, and they are encouraged to submit a plan to the Board.
 2. They are planning a get together at the preserve around Thanksgiving.
 3. At some point they will meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan. Philip Francis has volunteered to work on this.
 4. The management plan is still in progress. (Gratsch & Gibson)
 5. RKC has not found the owner of the Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail area near our SVCP parcel. Gratsch and Gott will visit the Pulaski County PVA Department at some point and look this up. The adjacent landowners are also interested.
 6. Harrington asked if we could put a link on the RKC website for people to order SVCP merchandise, such as T-shirts. He does not mind doing the shipping. Gary Bush is working on setting up a link, and possibly a separate (linked) website for SVCP. The Board suggested also printing t-shirts using silkscreen instead of iron-on/vinyl for logos.
- (G) Fundraising Committee:
1. Neena Jud said GrantStation offers access to a database with profiles of thousands of grant-makers. Access to the full list costs \$179 for one year or \$239 for two years. This resource might lead us to good land acquisition funders. No decision was made at the meeting.
- (H) Land Acquisition Committee: (W. Orlandi)
1. Nothing new.
 2. Conservation Easement Committee – Nothing new.
- (I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)
1. Nothing new.

Old Business:

(A) Gary O’Dell has heard nothing new recently from Susan Neumeier about her task of creating a plan for an official archeology report on the saltpeter mining in the cave, if she can secure grant funding for her work.

Gary Bush joined the meeting

(B) Treasury Records Migration: Werner Jud suggested getting the RKC finances updated to a multiple user platform, possibly Quickbooks in the cloud. Werner currently uses an older desktop version for RKC & GSP. GCG is discussing moving to QB in the cloud. They are talking about intertwining GSP/RKC into the same work group.

New Business:

- A. Elections:Nominations are open for two RKC Director positions. Werner Jud nominates himself for another term. Gary O’Dell also nominates himself to continue in his position as well. Nominations are open until the close of the December meeting, and nominations are still open and will be advertised.
- B. Waiver Committee: Gibson would like to establish a committee to explore an electronic (online) waiver system. Gary Bush and Patrick Gibson have volunteered to be on the Waiver Committee, and they will advertise for other volunteers. Preserve Managers, Grottos and Friends of GSP will be asked for recommendations for requirements related to converting the waivers to a new system.
- C. Grant Committee:Gibson would like to establish a Grant Committee to search and apply for grant opportunities. Each Preserve Manager will be asked for a list of all projects that they would like to see funded. Kathryn Burgess is interested in being on the committee. This will be advertised in the upcoming newsletter.
- D. All Preserve Managers are asked for a list of projects by the December RKC meeting. The projects can be tactical, strategic or visionary; large or small.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting was set for Sunday, December 3rd, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:04p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. Advertise Director Nomination period –Gibson
2. Ask Preserve Managers for a projects list
3. Print new Tri-Fold Display - Coomer
4. November newsletter – send content to Gary Bush by end of October
5. Thank you letter to Charlie Crabtree for his help with Hurricane Gate– Gibson
6. SVCP November get-together - Harrington
7. Treasury Records Migration Committee meeting & recommendations– Jud
8. Waiver Committee - meeting & recommendations – Gibson, Bush
9. Grant Committee – Gibson, Burgess
- 10.Plans for SVCP Kiosk – Harrington

11. RKC Website link for SVCP logo merchandise– Bush, Harrington
12. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson, Philip Francis
13. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan–Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O’Dell
14. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
15. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
16. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
17. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
18. Susan Neumeyerhistorical survey at GSP – O’Dell
19. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott
20. Update RKC Bylaws



FALL 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 24th, 2023

Main Branch Boone County Library, Burlington, KY- 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Patrick Gibson**
- A. Announcements**
 - i. GSP Road Repair Project 2016-2018 Closed Out by FEMA
 - 1. Memorial for Bob Dobbs on Sunday Oct 1st
- B. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**
 - 1. Minutes 6/4/23, including In-Between Meeting Motion 7/3/23 for Hurricane Gate
- C. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**
 - 1. 2022 IRS Tax Form Filed
 - 2. Life Membership & Endowment Funds
- D. Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. RKC tri-fold flyers available
 - b. Tri-fold display board revision
 - B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
 - a. KOR
 - b. Caver Appreciation Weekend
 - c. Ticket House Renovation
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - a. Set up work crew/caving trip to clean up debris
 - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 - a. Hurricane Pit Entrance Gate replacement
 - E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 - a. Assess eroding entrance
 - b. Survey trip
 - F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Harrington & Joe Morgan**
 - a. Kiosk Plans
 - b. Thanksgiving get-together?
 - c. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
 - d. Management Plan
 - e. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?
 - G. Fundraising Committee - Mary Gratsch**
 - a. SVCP Logo merchandise
 - b. GrantStation (Neena Jud)
 - H. Acquisition Committee - Wendy Orlandi**

1. Acquisition Report
2. Brochure for landowners about preserving cave properties
3. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott

I. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud

- **Old Business**
 - Susan Neumeyer Archeology Research – O’Dell
 - Migrating Treasury Records to new Quickbooks platform
- **New Business**
 - December Meeting Nomination for RKC Directors – 2 positions
 - Establish a Committee to pursue an electronic waiver system
 - Establish a Grant Committee to search and apply for grant opportunities
 - Request a list of all projects from each Preserve Manager to be used by the Gant Committee when searching for additional grants
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**
