

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Winter Board Meeting – December 3, 2023
Final

In Attendance 12/3/23:

Directors: Patrick Gibson, Mary Gratsch, Janice Gott, and Werner Jud were present on site. Gary O'Dell was absent.
(A quorum does exist.)

Others: Neena Jud and Ryan Braga were present on site. Wendy Orlandi, Mike Harrington, Sean Cain and Gary Bush were present online. Dennis Green joined late.

70th 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 2:08 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. Central Ohio Grotto selected RKC for a \$75 donation for one of their annual charitable donations.

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of the Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/24/23.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/24/23 meeting as amended (Jud, Gratsch 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. Annual liability insurance was paid. GSP pays their own insurance, and RKC covers \$825 for the remaining preserves.
2. There was one new life member this quarter, Christine Dietz. There are now 84 life members.
3. The Legacy and Life Membership Funds have been doing poorly, due to the overall market.
4. There is still a plan to organize a meeting to discuss migrating QuickBooks to the Cloud.

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, Mary is waiting for Rob Coomer's help in printing. The new tri-fold flyers are being distributed. Gott and Gratsch each have a box of flyers.
2. There are plans for a Winter newsletter, and articles are being collected, Send ASAP to Gary Bush.

(B) **GSP Committee:** (Neena Jud reporting)

1. Received \$1,065 towards the caretaker's residence from the Halloween party. The Caretaker's Residence loan has been paid down from \$53,000 to \$35,630.
2. Ticket House renovation is slowly moving along.
3. Bob Dobbs' memorial service in the back field at GSP went very well.
4. A project and priorities list is being worked on.

5. A new hot tub and equipment shed on the point is underway.
6. People's Rural Telephone Coop (PRTC) is being investigated as a new provider for telephone and internet (rural broadband).
7. New Year's Eve, Worm Fest Event, Open House in May, and KOR in June are on the schedule, and a Wilderness First Aid course in July,

(C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain)

1. Pete Stow joins Sean Cain as a co-chair for the Misty Cave Committee.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Thor Bahrman, Josh Heinbuch, Jerry Brandenburg)

1. Nothing new.
2. Mary will contact to confirm current co-chairs.

(E) Cornhole Cave Committee: (M. Gratsch)

1. Property taxes for the year paid by Gratsch.

(F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve (Mike Harrington reporting)

1. The Thanksgiving event was wonderful. They camped on railroad property and caved.
2. The management committee is planning a kiosk, and they are encouraged to submit a plan to the Board. They want to include a map of the property on the kiosk.
3. Relations are improving with new neighbor Ryan Dunlap. They have cut a new path to Minton Hollow to keep cavers away from his house. Ryan offered to house cave rescue material. Seth Sullivan is the other neighbor, and they are working on relations with him.
4. They are working on a preserve project list. Replacing the ladder with a more permanent one is on the list.
5. 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.
6. Harrington has had contact with the owner of the nearby Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail, a 7.5 acre old railroad bed parcel. Rails to Trails purchased it with grant funding. The County was supposed to take over the project. As an adjacent land owner, Mike is looking to purchase it. If it cannot be sold to a private person, he will direct them to RKC. There is a locked entrance from the highway on the property which needs to remain a locked gate because of adjacent properties.
7. Harrington has 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.
8. A management plan for SVCP has been submitted by the committee.

MOTION: To accept the Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan (Jud, Gratsch, by acclaim).

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Nothing Else

(H) Land Acquisition Committee: (W. Orlandi)

1. Orlandi has been researching other organizations for landowner brochure information. She needs any contact information we have on cave landowners.
2. What is RKC's reach for locations? Traditionally Rockcastle, Jackson & Pulaski Counties, 50 miles or less from GSP. Wayne County is a potential outreach area.
3. It was suggested that we have a "Do You Own a Cave?" booth or sign at Open House.
4. Conservation Easement Committee – Nothing new.

(I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)

1. Nothing new.

Old Business:

- (A) **Grant Committee:** Each Preserve Committee has been asked for a list of all projects that they would like to see funded. Kathryn Burgess is interested in being on the committee, and others are being contacted. This will be advertised in the upcoming newsletter.
- (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) Nothing new recently from Susan Neumeyer 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.

New Business:

- (A) **Elections:** Nominations are open for two RKC Director positions. Werner Jud and Gary O’Dell are nominated. Nominations are open until the close of the December meeting.
- (B) **GoTo Meeting** needs to be replaced. Dennis Green has discontinued it for the GCG, and our subscription (and GSP’s) will expire at the end of the year. Microsoft Teams is an option, RKC can register as a non-profit with Microsoft. GSP is using it and it seems to work fine. Gibson will apply for it

MOTION: To allow Patrick Gibson to apply to the Microsoft non-profit program (Gratsch, Gott, by acclaim).

Next Meeting: The next Meeting was set for Sunday, March 10th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m. Nominations are closed. Werner Jud and Gary O’Dell will be installed for another term at the March meeting.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. Winter newsletter – send content to Gary Bush by December 10th. Produce and email out in December. (Bush, Gott, Gibson)
2. Mary is contacting Skylight Dome Preserve co-chairs to confirm who is current (Thor Bahrman, Josh Heinbuch, Jerry Brandenburg)
3. Collect Preserve Managers’ projects lists
4. Collect landowners’ contact info – Orlandi, Gott, Gibson, anyone who can help
5. Print new Tri-Fold Display – Coomer & Gratsch
6. Treasury Records Migration Committee meeting & recommendations– Jud
7. Waiver Committee - meeting & recommendations – Gibson, Bush
8. Grant Committee – Gibson, Burgess

9. Plans for SVCP Kiosk – Harrington
10. RKC Website link for SVCP logo merchandise– Bush, Harrington
11. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson, Philip Francis
12. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
13. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
14. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
15. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
16. Susan Neumeyer historical survey at GSP – O'Dell
17. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research of owners – Harrington, Gratsch, Gott
18. 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**
