

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Spring Annual Meeting – March 10, 2024
Final

In Attendance 3/10/24:

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

Others: Debi & Scott Pavey, Nina Soluski and Richard Duncan were present on site.
Neena Jud, Mike Harrington, Gary Bush and Sean Cain were present online.

71st Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at Mary Gratsch's house and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:05PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. No announcements

Seating New Board:

1. Werner Jud and Gary O'Dell retain their seats on the Board for another three-year term.
2. **Officers:** Werner Jud would like to let the Treasurer position go as soon as the technology transfer is completed. He is willing to stay on the board unless there is someone else who would like to take over. Gott is willing to take over as Treasurer, and Gratsch was willing to be Secretary.

MOTION: To appoint Gibson as Chair, Jud Vice Chair, Gratsch Secretary, and Gott Treasurer (Gratsch, O'Dell, unanimous).

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of the Minutes of regular Meeting of 12/3/23, including in-between meeting motion of 1-25-24.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 12/3/23 meeting as amended (Gratsch, Jud 2nd, by accliam).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. The Legacy and Life Membership Funds were down in 2023, due to the overall market, and the \$3,800 for road work at Skylight caused the P/L for the year to look negative.
2. Migrating QuickBooks to the Cloud: target date is to have it online by July, and Gott can give the Treasury report at the September meeting. At the June meeting there should be a request for ongoing funding for the online Quickbooks.

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

Committee Reports:

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

1. There are plans for a Spring newsletter, as the Winter newsletter never happened. Articles are still being collected. Send ASAP to Gary Bush.
2. Membership Renewals: Gibson will send out renewal notices online to annual members.

3. The tri-fold display board changes are approved by the Board, Mary has dropped the display board off to Rob Coomer's for printing. It should be available by Open House. The new tri-fold flyers are being distributed. Gott and Gratsch each have a box of flyers.

(B) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey reporting)

1. Josh Heinbuch has been released from caretaker's duties. He has moved out of the CR building. He is still checking on the property for now.
2. Replacing the water main is the top priority for now. Work has started.
3. A new hot tub and equipment shed build on the point is underway.
4. Ticket House renovation is waiting for electrical work.
5. People's Rural Telephone Coop (PRTC) has been contacted and is set to be our new provider for telephone and internet (rural broadband). A good system would allow security cameras.
6. GSP 33 fundraising for paying off the caretaker house loan is underway.
7. GSP oval stickers for supporters were made by Debi Pavey. They are proving popular, and hopefully available to sell by Open House.
8. A project and priorities list is being worked on.
9. Upcoming 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 & Pete Stow)

1. Cain is working with COG to get rid of some truck tires on the site.
2. No hibernaculum survey this year.

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

1. Bahrman reported that the lock on the Skylight gate falls into two pieces when opened, and needs to be replaced. RKC will reimburse for it if he buys one.

(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. They want to include a map of the property on the kiosk.
2. People are using the link on the website to contact Harrington about visiting the entrance. Some donations are coming in through the pipe.
3. They are working on a preserve project list. Replacing the ladder with a more permanent one is on the list.
4. At some point they will meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan. Philip Francis and Joe Morgan have volunteered to work on this.
5. 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 originally purchased it with grant funding. As an adjacent land owner, Mike is looking to purchase it. It looks like it will be able to be split into three pieces that will revert to adjacent landowners.
6. 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 to a separate PayPal account, 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. Mary will take an informational display to the NSS Convention in Tennessee this year.

(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. It was suggested that we have a “Do You Own a Cave?” booth or sign at Open House.
3. 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 is establishing 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. The goal is to have it in place for 2025. Bush noted that the legal ramifications of an online signature should be determined.

New Business:

(A) Microsoft Teams for RKC has been implemented, registered as a non-profit with Microsoft. GSP is using it and it seems to work fine. It was used fairly smoothly for this meeting. Gibson suggests that if anyone wants to use the other features of Teams, they should contact him.

(B) Susan Neumeyer has had to drop out of the GSP archeology project on saltpeter mining in the cave, due to health concerns. Brian Mabelitini declined to join this project. O’Dell has other contacts he is exploring.

(C) Nina Soluski is finalizing the KOR guidebook. It includes a QR code for the RKC website. The Guidebook normally includes a letter from the GSP & RKC Chair.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott.

In-Between Meeting Motion of 5-12-24: To approve the recommended purchase by the GSP Committee of a new mower, which is expected to cost more than \$5,000 (Gibson, Gott, 5-0-0).

Action Items

1. Membership Renewal email – Gibson
2. KOR Guidebook letter from the GSP & RKC Chair (Pavey, Gibson)

3. Spring newsletter – send content to Gary Bush ASAP. He is waiting on a copy of the Sloans Valley article, more on Hurricane Pit repair, and update of Letter from the Chair. Produce and email out in March/April. (Bush, Gott, Gibson)
4. Print new Tri-Fold Display – Coomer & Gratsch
5. Skylight Gate Lock replacement (Bahrman)
6. Treasury Records Migration Committee meeting & recommendations– Jud, Gott, Pavey
7. Collect Preserve Managers' projects lists
8. Collect landowners' contact info – Orlandi, Gott, Gibson, anyone who can help
9. Waiver Committee - meeting & recommendations – Gibson, Bush
10. Grant Committee – Gibson, Burgess
11. Plans for SVCP Kiosk – Harrington
12. RKC Website link for SVCP logo merchandise– Bush, Harrington, Treasurer
13. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson, Philip Francis
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. Historical survey at GSP – O'Dell
19. Update RKC Bylaws



SPRING 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Mary Gratsch's House, Cincinnati OH - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Patrick Gibson**
- A. Announcements**
 - 1. ???
- B. Seating New Board**
 - 1. Werner Jud and Gary O'Dell retain their seats
 - 2. 2024 Officers
- C. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**
 - 1. Minutes 12/3/23, including in-between meeting motion of 1-25-24 [Below]
- D. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**
 - 1. Life Membership & Endowment Funds
 - 2. Migrating Treasury Records to new Quickbooks platform
- E. Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Spring newsletter
 - b. March Membership Drive
 - c. Tri-fold display board revision
 - B. GSP Committee – Debi Pavey**
 - a. Water Line Repair
 - b. GSP supporter logo?
 - c. Ticket House Renovation
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - a. ???
 - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 - a. ???
 - 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. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
 - c. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?
 - G. Fundraising Committee - Mary Gratsch**
 - a. SVCP Logo merchandise link on RKC website
 - H. Acquisition Committee - Wendy Orlandi**

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

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

K. Grant Committee – Patrick Gibson

- 1. Request a list of all projects from each Preserve Manager to be used by the Gant Committee when searching for additional grants

L. Waiver System Committee

- **Old Business**
 - Replacement of GoTo Meeting service
 - Archeology Research, Susan Neumeyer recommending Brian Mabelitini – O’Dell
- **New Business**
 - ???
- **Next Meeting Date – June Meeting**
- **Motion to Adjourn**

In-Between Meeting Motion 1-25-24

To accept the request of the GSP Committee to spend in excess of \$5,000 to address the repair of the water line that services the preserve. This invokes item C.b.iv. of the MOU between RKC and GCG requiring RKC to accept or reject the GSP Committee’s proposal to execute this maintenance activity. This maintenance activity has been approved by both the GSP Committee and GCG Board (Gibson, Jud, passed with a majority voting).
