

# Rockcastle Karst Conservancy

## Summer Board Meeting – June 2, 2024

### In Attendance 6/2/24:

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

**Others:** Debi & Scott Pavey, David Lee, and Neena Jud, were present on site. Mike Harrington, Suzanne Gagnon and Gary Bush were present online.

72nd Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Burlington Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:05 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

### Announcements:

1. No announcements

### Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of the Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/10/24, including in-between meeting motion of 5/12/24.

**MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/10/24 meeting as amended (Gratsch, Jud 2nd, by acclaim).**

### Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. Pine Mountain Grotto donated to RKC. Harrington sold merchandise at Open House.
2. The full life membership distribution for 2024 was taken.
3. New Life membership was received from Suzanne Gagnon.
4. Registration with the State of Kentucky was renewed.
5. Annual Membership renewals are down this year.

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

6. **Migrating Quickbooks:** A QB desktop version with three licenses is the preferred method at this point, to migrate the treasury. Signatures for Chase & Community Banks need to be changed. Signatories should be New Treasurer, old Treasurer and RKC Chair. When fully implemented, all Treasurer addresses will change to Gott.

### Committee Reports:

#### (A) Membership/Message Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Spring newsletter went out.
2. The tri-fold display board is updated, and was present at Open House. Thank you to Rob Coomer for printing the new board, at his expense. All of the new tri-fold flyers ~~the~~/that Mary put out at Open House were distributed.
3. Mary will take tri-fold display & flyers to KOR and NSS. She is taking the "stitch & bitch" items to NSS for the consignment booth..

4. As replies to the spring membership renewals were down, we need to be sure our emails are not going into spam folders. Maybe we can do a follow up and ask members to add our email to their “safe” list. Also, an embedded link gets through more often than attachments, but can still cause problems.

(B) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey reporting)

1. GSP has purchased their new mower. They are limiting users until they are trained. In October, Scott will do tractor maintenance.
2. Water main repair – the leak seems to be stopped, but project is not closed.
3. Open House gross income was about \$9,000. About half was donations, the rest merchandise sales. About 4,000 people went through the cave.
4. KOR is coming up. A Wilderness first aid course is in July.
5. Josh Heinbuch has been released from caretaker’s duties. Only one person has shown interest in the position.
6. The GSP committee expects to change the main gate lock code after KOR. Also the codes on the emergency key boxes and possibly the road gate to the cave will get changed.
7. A new hot tub and equipment shed on the point is underway. It should be ready for KOR.
8. People’s Rural Telephone Coop (PRTC) is our new provider for telephone and internet (rural broadband). A good system will allow security cameras.
9. GSP oval stickers for supporters were created by Debi Pavey.
10. A project and priorities list was turned in to RKC.

(C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain & Pete Stow)

1. Jenny from COG is organizing a cleanup August 24th.
2. Pete Stow may lead a trip to Misty during KOR

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

1. The lock on the Skylight gate has been replaced.
2. The repairs to the road are holding nicely

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

1. Nothing new.

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

1. They are looking for materials for a new ladder.
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. Harrington has asked if we could put a link on the RKC website for people to order SVCP merchandise, such as T-shirts. Even if it is just an Etsy site, he would like to get this implemented. Bush could set up a store page like the GSP page, but it would need a separate notification and Paypal account. A link to an Etsy page is easier. Harrington does not mind doing the shipping. Gary Bush would put up images and prices on the GSP website, with a link to the Etsy site. Harrington will forward profits from sales to the RKC Treasurer.
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 and Joe Morgan have 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 originally purchased it with grant funding. As an adjacent land owner, Mike is looking to purchase it. It looks like it might be able to be

split into three pieces that will revert to adjacent landowners, if legal issues from the purchase grant do not interfere.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Mary will take an informational display to the NSS Convention in Tennessee this year.
2. RKC will have a booth at KOR, pushing membership. There will be a raffle at KOR with the proceeds going to the Caretaker Residence Fund. Newsletters as well as flyers will be available.

(H) Land Acquisition

1. Orlandi has been researching other organizations for landowner brochure information. She needs any contact information we have on cave landowners.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – Nothing new.

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

(J) Nothing new.

(K) 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. Andy Schofield (COG) is interested in participating.

(L) 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. Julie Shenk Brown sent an email inviting us to look into tapping into the online permit system set up by SCIC that the NSS is currently using

**Old Business:**

1. Archeology Research - O'Dell has reached out for a new archeologist, but doesn't have anyone new yet.

**New Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** The next Meeting was set for Sunday, September 8th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, location TBD.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. WJ, MG second, by acclaim

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott & Mary Gratsch.

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**Action Items**

1. Spring newsletter – Send email follow up to see if some are going to spam folders (Gibson)
2. Spring Newsletter – Make copies for KOR (Debi Pavey)
3. Treasury Records Migration – Jud, Gott
4. Bank Signatory Changes – Jud, Gott, Gibson
5. Collect Preserve Managers' projects lists
6. Collect landowners' contact info – Orlandi, Gott, Gibson, anyone who can help

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, Treasurer
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 Augus 24th– Jenny ???, Cain
14. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
15. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
16. Historical survey at GSP – O'Dell
17. Update RKC Bylaws



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## SUMMER 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, June 2, 2024

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

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- **Call to Order – Patrick Gibson**
- A. **Announcements**
  - 1. ???
- B. **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
  - 1. Minutes 3/10/24, including in-between meeting motion of 5/12/24 [Below]
- C. **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
  - 1. Life Membership & Endowment Funds
  - 2. Migrating Treasury Records to new Quickbooks platform
- D. **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Membership/Message Committee – Mary Gratsch**
    - a. Spring newsletter is out
    - b. Tri-fold display board revision
    - c. Upcoming Events
  - B. **GSP Committee – Debi Pavey**
    - a. Water Line Repair
    - b. Caretaker
    - c. Ticket House Renovation
    - d. Open House
  - C. **Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
    - a. ???
  - D. **Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
    - a. Lock 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. 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
    - b. GSP stickers or magnets to sell
  - 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. Requested a list of all projects from each Preserve Manager to be used by the Grant Committee when searching for additional grants

**L. Waiver System Committee**

- **Old Business**
  - Archeology Research – O'Dell
- **New Business**
  - ???
- **Next Meeting Date – September Meeting**
- **Motion to Adjourn**