

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Winter Board Meeting – December 8, 2024

In Attendance 12/8/24:

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

Others: Richard Duncan and Neena Jud were present on site. Debi Pavey, Kelly McNamara, Sean Cain & Suzanne Gagnon were present online.

74th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the St Bernard Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:08 PM.

(12/8/2024 Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. Janeen Sharpshair has made some landowner baskets. One is for Ryan Dunlap, new landowner by Sloan's Preserve. Arrangements to deliver it will be made.
2. In early February, perhaps, Mary G is setting up a trip to the National Cave Museum, and other places. This museum has some unique GSP souvenir artifacts.

Secretary's Report: (M. Gratsch)

1. Asked for comments/amendments to the Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/8/24 as posted on the RKC website

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/8/24 meeting as amended (Jud, J Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. Tom Gracanin is a new Life Member. RKC currently has 87 Life members.
2. NSS convention sales proceeds from Mary came to \$212. KOR Raffle Proceeds: \$376.
General Liability insurance for all RKC properties was paid for the 2025 year; GSP portion reimbursed to RKC from GSP segregated funds.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report as presented (Gratsch, Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

3. Chase & Community Trust need letterhead document from RKC to change signatories on the account.
4. Migrating Quickbooks – there is an inexpensive online Quickbooks for nonprofits that Werner was reminded is available through TechSoup, which can probably do what we need using “classes.” Goal is to implement by January 1st.

MOTION: To move to Quickbooks online for nonprofits through TechSoup (Gratsch, Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

Committee Reports:

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Winter Spring Newsletter will be created by Leah Schneider, so send any news articles to her immediately.
 2. Membership renewals are due by March 31st.
- (B) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey reporting)
1. Water main repair – the project is completed. Volunteers needed to help back fill the dirt around the new enclosures placed in the ground, which protect the new valves and shut-offs..
 2. Showerhouse is closed down for the winter
 3. Ticket house renovations continue.
 4. Scott Pavey is overhauling the tractor at his shop in Indiana
 5. January GSP meeting will be onsite at GSP, and the lock combinations will be changed. They will provide RKC Chair with a master key beforehand.
 6. Neena found a grant program through Kentucky Colonels. Applications are due January 10th 2025. She and Jared Embree are applying as RKC, although focused on GSP, to repair the asphalt drive at GSP entrance.
- (C) Misty Cave Committee: (S. Cain report by email)
1. Sean Cain has a receipt for \$51 to dispose of remaining cleanup items, which he will submit for reimbursement.
 2. On behalf of the Board, Werner thanked Sean for checking on the cave and finishing the Clean-up.
- (D) Skylight Dome Committee: - (Thor Bahrman, Jerry Brandenburg) no report
1. The new road seems to be holding up under the heavy rainfall.
- (E) Cornhole Cave Committee: (Gratsch)
1. Property taxes were paid for the year.
- (F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve – (Mike Harrington, Joe Morgan) no report
1. Gibson reported the property looked great in November.
 2. The Board discussed the possibility of an access easement from “Trailhead Drive”, which is not defined in any documents, and may be insecure depending on adjacent property owners.
 3. COG may have a trip down to the area on President’s Day weekend, who could volunteer for a cleanup in “Paradise Passage.”
- (G) Fundraising Committee:
1. Mike Harrington plans to set up an Etsy site for SVCP merchandise. No word on that yet.
- (H) Land Acquisition (Patrick Gibson reporting for Wendi Orlandi)
1. No new information.
 2. Conservation Easement Committee – Nothing new.
- (I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)
1. Nothing new.
- (J) Grant Committee:
1. RKC received a list of projects requiring funds; one is for a new kiosk/change building at SVP.
 2. Patrick stated that a new COG caver, Camille Anderson, might volunteer to help write grants
 3. Neena Jud & Jared Embree are pursuing a grant to rebuild the GSP entrance road. Two new board policies are needed:: Conflict of interest and Non-discrimination. Neena and Jared will research and forward proposals to the Board, Application must be completed by January 10, 2025.

(K) Waiver Committee: No updates

Old Business:

1. Archeology Research - no updates

New Business:

1. Board Nominations are open. Janice Gott was nominated and accepted the nomination at the last meeting. Suzanne Gagnon would like to nominate herself. Nominees are required to submit a short bio and statement for the ballot, which must be received by 12/31/2024.

MOTION: To close the nominations (Gratsch, Jud 2nd)

2. Janice Gott & Suzanne Gagnon are nominated for the Board of Directors position starting at the March meeting, which is a contested election. An Election Committee, comprised of Neena Jud and Sean Cain, was appointed, and Gary Bush will be asked.
3. Patrick Gibson suggested that RKC consider increasing the Board from 5 to 7 to spread out the workload and increase the social media savvy abilities of the Board. Gratsch noted that Ellie Schiller recommended staying at 5 in order to avoid protracted debates. Additional persons can be appointed to help with specific jobs. But more engaged directors may help with communications.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting was set for Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. EST, location St Bernard Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m. (WJ, MG 2nd, by acclaim)

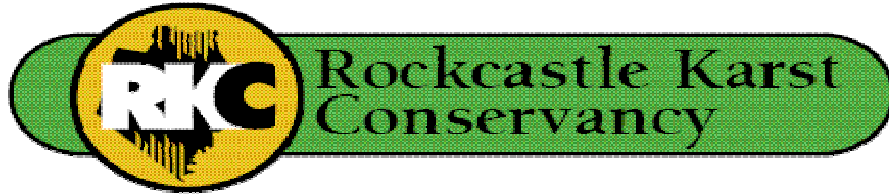
Meeting Minutes prepared by Mary Gratsch.

Action Items

1. Election committee – Accept two candidate statements, create & mail out ballot, report results.
2. Winter Newsletter – Leah Schneider, entire Board
3. Treasury Records Migration – Jud, Gott
4. Letter on Letterhead to Chase & Community Trust re changing signatures – Jud, Gibson
5. Bank Signatory Changes – Jud, Gott, Gibson
6. Join TechSoup contact Adam Mathis re Quickbooks - Gibson
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–Harrington, Bush, 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. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
14. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
15. Historical survey at GSP – O’Dell

16. Update RKC Bylaws

17. RKC/GSP MOU – Gibson, D. Pavey, Kyle Kreutz



FALL 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 8, 2024

St. Bernard Library, St Bernard, OH - 2:00 P.M.

- **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 – December Meeting**
- **Motion to Adjourn**