

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – September 15, 2019
Final Minutes

In Attendance 9/15/19:

Directors: Sean Cain, Werner Jud, Janice Gott, Bob Roth.
Gary O'Dell was present online.
(A quorum does exist.)

Others: Neena Jud, Mary Gratsch, Mike Wuerth, Scott Ponder, Bob Dobbs,
Bob Kessler, Rhonda Lewis, Mike Harrington, Daryl Robinson and Joe Morgan
were present. Dave Martin arrived late.

54th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Boone County Library, Burlington KY.
Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 2:07 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

Carl Swanigan, one of the previous owners of the Skylight Dome Preserve property, has passed away due to a traffic accident in July, at the age of 70.

Secretary's Report: (Submitted by J. Gott)

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/24/19.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/24/19 general meeting (W.Jud, B.Roth 2nd, 5-0-0).

Treasurer's Report: (Submitted by W. Jud)

Several new members have joined. The KOR raffle brought in \$352 for the Sloans Valley Preserve Fund. Several RKC T-shirts were sent out to new life members. The Spring Newsletter was paid for, and RKC pens to give away via Bob Roth's project. We paid a lawyer for the Sloans Valley closing. The Life Member escrow fund will continue to be held in liquid funds until an investment location is determined. The RKC taxes for 2018 were filed.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Member Fund Report as provided (B. Roth, J. Gott 2nd, 5-0-0).

Committee Reports:

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

1. A Spring newsletter was sent out. Material is due now for a Winter newsletter, which may go out in place of a postcard to ask for end of year donations. Gary Bush needs articles and pictures for the newsletter.
2. We have a new Sloans Valley banner. The Tri-fold sign has been updated. The RKC tri-fold flyers need to be revised, to include all four preserves, plus the incipient Sloans Valley Preserve. Rob Coomer prepared the original flyer, and has it in inDesign format. Information has been sent to him to add the Sloans Valley information.
3. Sean Cain created an account on MailChimp to send out group emails to RKC members. New member emails need to be added as we receive them.

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

1. Open House and Karst-O-Rama were successfully run.
2. Bruce French, a neighbor to the GSP property, is starting to log his property on the hillside opposite scout camp, and had a disagreement on where the property line falls. Werner has walked the line according to our survey on file, done by Charles Mullins in 1985, and flagged it. French informed Bill Carr that he felt his property line comes down almost to the dam, and disagrees with our line. [Later after receiving input from other parties, Bruce French eventually agreed with our flagging.]

3. Volunteers for school group tours are sorely needed for several dates remaining this fall.

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

1. S. Cain reported that Misty looks great, but the trail is overgrown. A group visited in early August.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Thor Bahrman)

1. Skylight Preserve was visited during Karst-O-Rama.
2. The road needs work; it is hard for non-4-wheel drive vehicles to get up the hill. Gravel has washed down the hill, and the hillside above the parking area drains into the driveway, causing a ditch to develop.

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

1. Cornhole was visited in July. The entrance is eroding away, although inside the cave was fine. Annual taxes have been paid. The road is very rough, and needs work.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (W. Jud)

1. The survey map was shared with meeting participants.
2. Mike Harrington and Joe Morgan have been friends of the Crocketts and users of the Crockett entrance for decades. They have volunteered to be Management Co-Chairs. Mary Gratsch will join them on a Management Plan Committee.

MOTION: To appoint Mike Harrington and Joe Morgan as Co-Chairs of the Sloans Valley Preserve Management Committee. Also Mary Gratsch, Gary O'Dell, Rhonda Lewis and Bob Kessler as committee members (Gott, W.Jud, 5-0-0).

3. Mary Gratsch reports that Julie Schenck-Brown at NSS is processing a Land Acquisition Grant for Sloans Valley Preserve.
4. Dave Martin regularly takes Scouts into the Sloans Cave System. One entrance has a sign inside saying Crockett Entrance is closed, and suggests it be taken down. With Eric Sellers' permission he spent the night with scouts in Childrens Cave on Eric's portion of the property.

(F) Fundraising Committee:

1. Mary Gratsch reported that KOR brought in some donations, although some got scrambled with chicken dinner donations.
2. Mary has made some buttons. We need a logo for Sloans products.
3. Sandy Rice donated 4 boxes of caver memorabilia to be used for future raffles.

(G) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. No new activity in Land acquisitions.
2. Bob Dobbs wants to get together with Janice Gott to write a description explaining conservation easements to landowners.

Old Business:

- A. NSF Investment Fund – Cain reports that he met with an NSF manager. He explained that the NSF contract needs to be separate from our policy on what money to put into it and what draws shall be made out, as that will not be their responsibility. They also explained that they as managers are volunteers. The only fees they charge are transaction fees for fund transfers.
- B. Waiver Consolidation – No activity.
- C. Corning Donation - \$1,500 had been received. Roth would like to rescind the \$1,000 balance of the grant from the creation of an Education Grant, and re-allocate these funds to Skylight Dome management expenses, including road repairs.
- D. Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque – Jud reports that it has arrived, as well as a permanent post. It will be installed at GSP near the steps along with an Aldo Leopold style bench.

New Business:

- A. Waiver Policy – Tabled the discussion of permanent waivers covering all RKC properties, while watching the NSS cave waiver policy discussion.
- B. Elections - Nominations for two positions on the Board ending next March are due in December.
- C. GSP Key - Sean Cain will mail Gary O’Dell his GSP key.
- D. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – Dobbs reports the new group is rolling along; they have had a work day at GSP. Bob will be recruiting among parents at the school trips.

Next Meeting: The Winter meeting was set for Sunday, December 8th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., presumably at the Burlington Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

- 1. Winter Newsletter to be composed. – Bush, with input from all
- 2. Mail newsletters or holiday postcards – Gott
- 3. Create Sloans Valley Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
- 4. Install Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque– W. Jud
- 5. Own Sloan needs a logo – Coomer?
- 6. Banner, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
- 7. Tri-fold brochure update – Coomer
- 8. Separate NSF endowment fund contract from RKC Policy document – Cain
- 9. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary
- 10. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Roth?
- 11. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott



FALL 2019 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Main Boone County Library, Burlington, KY

- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
 - A. Announcements**
 1. Passing of Carl Swanigan, previous Skylight Dome owner
- **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - A. Minutes 3-24-19**
- **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Next Newsletter content
 - b. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
 - B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
 - a. KOR report
 - b. Water damage restoration
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 - E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 - F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee –**
 - a. Needs Chair
 - b. Needs Management Plan
 - G. Fundraising Committee**
 - a. NSS Convention
 - b. KOR
 - c. New Logo for Sloans?
 - d. Thank you gifts for donors
 - H. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
 1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
 2. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
- **Old Business**
 - NSF Investment program for Endowment Funds – Draft Agreement - Cain
 - Waiver Consolidation - Bob Roth
 - Grant for Education – Roth, Gott
 - Ellie Schiller memorial plaque
- **New Business**
 1. Waiver Policy
 2. Nominations for next March Board positions

- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**