Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – December 8, 2019
Final

In Attendance 12/8/19:

Directors: Sean Cain, Werner Jud, Janice Gott.
Gary O'Dell and Bob Roth were absent. Gary O'Dell proxy to Werner.
(A quorum does exist.)

Others: Neena Jud, Bob Kessler, Mike Wuerth, Scott & Deb Pavey were present.
Patrick Gibson and Jerry Brandenburg were present online. Patrick Gibson left early.

55th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Scheben Branch of the Boone County Library, Union KY. Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 2:05 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:
Winter Adventure Weekend is coming up January 23 – 27th.

Secretary's Report: (Submitted by J. Gott)
Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/15/19.
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/15/19 general meeting (W.Jud, S. Cain 2nd, 3-0-0).

Treasurer's Report: (Submitted by W. Jud)
Several new life members have joined this year, seven because of the Sloans Valley acquisition. GCG donated $500 to RKC as their annual donation, and income came in from sustaining members. RKC paid for 1/3 of the Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque. GSP and the Felburn Foundation also paid their 1/3 each towards it. The liability coverage insurance for the various properties was paid. The Life Member escrow fund will continue to be held in liquid funds until an investment location is determined. Mary Gratsch is still owed for her $25,000 loan in Sloans Valley.
MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Member Fund Report as provided (Gott, Cain 2nd, 3-0-0).

Committee Reports:

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (J. Gott/B.Roth)
1. A winter postcard will be sent out to encourage end of year donations.
2. Bob Dobbs has been sending Sean Cain email addresses to add to the MailChimp list as he recruits for Friends of GSP, if they mark off that they would like to receive further information. There has been a 40% open rate on the MailChimp emails, so people are interested in what RKC sends them. The postcard could be sent out as an email also.
3. Upcoming we will have a table at the Winter Adventure Weekend, and need recruits to help man the RKC table.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey -GSP chair reporting)
1. The neighbor's logging has been going on. They are select cutting, so it is not very noticeable from GSP.
2. The Ellie Schiller Plaque is installed, and will get a nearby bench in the future.
3. The ticket house renovation has made great strides, and the pumphouse has been re-roofed.
4. Willow branches have been planted to help keep the creek banks from eroding.
5. Showerhouse is closed for the year.
6. GSP will be changing locks and access to the kitchen.

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

1. S. Cain was at Misty Cave two weeks ago. It looked fine.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. The road needs major work, and four wheel drive will probably be needed to get up it. Stabilizing the road will be a major task.
2. Jerry has attempted to make contact with new neighbors, has met some family members.
3. The keys are in a lockbox to make it easier for groups to visit.

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

1. The annual taxes were paid by Mary Gratsch.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Bob Kessler reporting)

1. Bob Kessler asked why RKC specifies "no camping" at our cave entrances other than GSP. The Board explained that there were no facilities there, and no one to monitor camping. Our insurance policy is kept low by our forbidding camping. Eric Sellers may eventually develop a campground next door.
2. A rough draft of the new Sloans Valley Management Plan has been created.
3. Brush has been cleared away near the greenhouse. A picnic table and kiosk are planned.

(F) Fundraising Committee:

1. Mary Gratsch reported that there has been no recent progress on Sloans Valley fundraising.
2. NSS has approved Sloans Valley Preserve for one of their land acquisition grants, but it has not yet been received.
3. Mary has made some buttons. We need a logo for Sloans products. T-Shirts would be nice.
4. There were several attendees who thought they might know someone who could make a logo for the Sloans Valley Preserve.
5. The loan repayment for Sloans should begin soon.

(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 had reported 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. Cain sent a new version of the contract from NSF to our lawyer Lisa Pruitt for comments. She sent back a few suggestions, which have been submitted to NSF for their comment. She thought the agreement should be for five year terms, renewable. RKC will need to create their own Life Investment Fund Policy to include the language we want governing when we put money in or take it out.
B. Waiver Consolidation – No activity.
C. Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque – Has been installed.
D. Where are the RKC pens? We could use them at Winter Adventure weekend.
E. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – Dobbs reports the new group has done some trail maintenance at GSP.

New Business:

A. Waiver Policy – The RKC/GSP insurance policy does not require waivers for an event such as GSP Open House, based on discussions with our insurance agent. It would not be a bad idea to post a sign near the entrance saying that RKC and GSP are not responsible for accidents.

B. Elections - Nominations for two positions on the Board ending next March are due in December. Cain reported that Roth has not demonstrated an interest in running again, and he himself has also put in two terms and does not want to run again. Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson are nominated by Sean Cain, and both are interested in running. No other nominations were put forth. By acclamation, Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson will begin their terms on the RKC Board in March 2020. Sean Cain will inform them of their appointment.

Next Meeting: The Winter meeting was set for Sunday, March 8th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., presumably at the Burlington Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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Action Items

1. Holiday postcards to be created and sent out – Gott
2. Create Sloans Valley Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
3. Own Sloans needs a logo – several people said they would inquire of creative people
4. T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
5. Receive NSS Land Acquisition Grant money for Sloans – Jud, Gratsch
6. Plan repayment of Sloans loan – Werner
7. Find location of the box of RKC pens before Winter Adventure Weekend
8. Tri-fold brochure update – Coomer
9. Separate NSF endowment fund contract from RKC Life Investment Fund Policy document – Cain
10. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary
11. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
12. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott

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WINTER 2019 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Scheben Branch of the Boone County Library, Union, KY

- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
  - **A. Announcements**
- **Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**
  - **A. Minutes 9-15-19**
- **Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
  - **A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
    - a. New RKC email group via MailChimp
    - b. Next Newsletter content or Holiday Postcard
    - c. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
  - **B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
    - a. Boundary Dispute Resolved
  - **C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
  - **D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
    - a. Gravel drive repairs
  - **E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
  - **F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Harrington & Joe Morgan**
    - a. Management Plan Committee
    - b. Bolting
  - **G. Fundraising Committee**
    - a. NSS Land Acquisition Grant for Sloans Valley
    - b. New Logo for Sloans?
    - c. 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
  - Ellie Schiller memorial plaque
  - Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave
- **New Business**
  - 1. Waiver Policy
  - 2. Nominations for next March Board positions – 2 positions up
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**