

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – March 8, 2020
Final

In Attendance 3/8/20:

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

Incoming New Directors: Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson were present.

Others: Neena Jud, Joe Morgan, Mike Wuerth, and Mike Deitmaring were present.

56th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Main Branch of the Boone County Library, Burlington KY. Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 2:13 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

None.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 12/8/19.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 12/8/19 general meeting (W.Jud, S. Cain 2nd, by acclaim).

Seating of the New Board:

Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson are welcomed to the new Board. Sean Cain and Bob Roth were thanked for their service.

Officers:

Chair: Mary Gratsch

Vice Chair: Patrick Gibson

Secretary: Janice Gott

Treasurer: Werner Jud

Open: Gary O'Dell

MOTION: Motion to accept this slate of officers (Gott, Jud, by acclaim).

Mary Gratsch took over as Chair for the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the master keys to the RKC properties were transferred to her. Janice Gott will be understudy Treasurer for Werner Jud this year.

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

1. A balance sheet report and an income vs. expense report for all of 2019 was submitted for review, as well as one for 2020 up to the date of this meeting. The Life Member escrow fund will continue to be held in liquid funds at least until the NSF contract is completed. Life membership funds in the Fidelity account have had their 2019 gains wiped out in the recent stock market drop.
2. The NSS has sent land acquisition grant money towards the Sloans acquisition. RKC Membership dues are due April 1st.
3. Werner filed a complicated set of forms for RKC as a non-profit with Pulaski County so that they would not charge us property tax on the Sloans Valley Preserve. (We are exempt as a Nonprofit.)
4. Mary Gratsch was paid back \$15,000 of her loan towards Sloans Valley. Since the beginning of the year, another \$3,000 of donations have come in designated for Sloan's Valley Preserve. Another payment to Mary will be made after this amount reaches \$5,000.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Member Fund Report as provided (by acclaim).

Committee Reports:

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

1. A winter postcard was sent out to encourage end of year donations.
2. Sean has sent out MailChimp emails, and about 35% are opened, showing that people are interested in what RKC sends them.
3. Werner suggested making up cardboard photo coasters (like Arbor Day does) to hand out to donors or members.
4. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update. It has been on hold since Rob Coomer's serious car accident. Someone with the program Indesign could finish this project, if we could find a volunteer.

(B) GSP Committee: (W. Jud reporting)

1. There are lots of new projects in the works, and will be talked about at the upcoming GSP meeting.
2. The ticket house renovation has made great strides, with stonework on the downhill side being reconstructed on the newly stabilized foundation.
3. There is a conversation with COG about getting a new stainless steel sink in the kitchen, but the drainage also needs improvement.

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

1. S. Cain met with Copperhead Environmental to do a bat survey. More bats (69) were found this year, but fewer species. Some of the Tri-colored bats (the smallest species) had white nose.
2. There are some funds allocated to Misty Cave, and Sean has a project to use them on.
MOTION: To add a seasonal closure notice below the existing sign to protect the hibernaculum (Jud, Gibson, by acclaim).

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. No report.

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

1. No report.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Joe Morgan reporting)

1. Joe Morgan has been pricing fencing materials to surround the cave pit. The committee plans to put a short section of guardrail to protect the fence and pit from the parking area. They have already done a lot of clearing and taken down half of the greenhouse. Morgan feels it will cost less than \$2,000.
2. Other plans will include geotextile and gravel in the parking area, and a kiosk. Mary plans to apply to NSS for another grant.
3. Signs need to go at both entrances, noting the Kentucky Statute on Caves. National Speleological Foundation donated the ones at GSP many years ago.
4. A draft of the new Sloans Valley Management Plan is in progress.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. NSS has sent Sloans Valley Preserve one of their land acquisition grants, and they have encouraged us to apply again this year as we have still an outstanding loan and construction expenses.
2. The promotional coasters are a good idea to investigate.
3. There ended up being no RKC table this year at Winter Adventure Weekend.

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. No report.

Old Business:

- A. NSF Investment Fund – The NSF contract needs to be separate from RKC policy on what money to put into it and what draws shall be made out, as that will not be NSF responsibility. A revised contract has been created and is being checked by our lawyer. RKC will need to create their own (internal) Life Investment Fund Policy to include the language for governing when money is put in or taken out.
- B. Waiver Consolidation – We need to check with Kevin Zachary.
- C. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – The new group has been meeting and doing projects.

New Business:

- A. Misty Cave Usage – Sean Cain read a news article saying that a non-profit group, Camp Hero, had been created, by a landowner adjacent to Misty Cave, to do outings with wounded veterans, and they had been using Misty Cave for outings. Sean contacted the founder to tell him about the seasonal hibernaculum closure. He also informed him that the cave is only open to RKC members, and RKC should be informed if a member is sponsoring a trip there. It is also not permitted to be used for commercial activity. We should determine if this is a legitimate non-profit organization, and if a way can be found to do this activity within our mission and management plan. Joe Morgan volunteered to visit the man and talk to him.

Next Meeting: The Summer meeting was set for Sunday, June 28th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., presumably at the Burlington Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. Membership renewal letters to be created and sent out – Gott
2. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
3. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve improvements cost estimate - Morgan
4. Own Sloans needs a logo – several people said they would inquire of creative people
5. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
6. Apply for a second NSS Land Acquisition Grant money for Sloans – Jud, Gratsch
7. Find location of the box of RKC pens before summer events
8. Tri-fold brochure update – needs volunteer
9. Complete NSF endowment fund contract - Cain
10. RKC Life Investment Fund Policy
11. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary
12. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
13. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott



SPRING 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 8, 2020

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

- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Seating New Board Members Mary Gratsch & Patrick Gibson
 - C. Thank you to Sean Cain & Bob Roth
 - D. Election of Officers
- **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - A. Minutes 12-08-19
- **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Spring Newsletter content
 - b. Membership Renewal Letter, also to MailChimp list
 - c. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
 - B. **GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
 - C. **Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - a. Bat Census
 - 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
 - G. **Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
 - 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
 - Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave
- **New Business**
 - 1. Usage of Misty Cave
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**