

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – June 28, 2020
Final

In Attendance 6/28/20:

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

Others: Neena Jud was present. Mike Wuerth, Scott Pavey, Sean Cain, and Stephanie and Josh Heinbuch were present online. Gary Bush arrived late.

56th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Jud residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:02 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

Pete Miller's funeral will be held on July 11th. More information on the GCG website.
GSP is open for members, although the Kitchen is closed for renovations.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/8/20.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/8/20 general meeting (W.Jud, Gibson 2nd, by acclaim).

Ratify In Between Meeting Motions:

The following In-between meeting motions are read into the minutes:

MOTION: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, All Rockcastle Karst Conservancy preserves are **CLOSED** to all visitation until May 8th, 2020, and perhaps beyond, pending lifting of the current State of Kentucky event and travel restrictions (Jud, Gibson, 5-0-0).

MOTION: To accept the RKC Life Member Fund Agreement with the National Speleological Foundation, Inc. (Gott, Gibson, 5-0-0).

[Mary did sign the NSF contract, but hasn't gotten her final copy of the contract.]

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

1. A balance sheet report and an income vs. expense report were submitted for review, from 2020 up to the date of this meeting. The Life Member escrow fund continued to be held in liquid funds waiting for the NSF contract to be completed. Life membership funds in the Fidelity account have almost regained their losses from the early 2020 stock market drop. There are 68 life members now.
2. The NSS sent land acquisition grant money towards the Sloans acquisition early in the year. RKC has had only 40 regular memberships renewed this year. Membership dues were due April 1st.
3. RKC taxes are due by July 15th, or November 15th with extension. Werner will have to use the 990 form this year, instead of the 990EZ, due to the addition in assets of the Sloans Valley Preserve.
4. Mary Gratsch is still owed \$10,000 of her loan towards Sloans Valley. Since our last payment to Mary, another \$5,517 of donations have come in designated for Sloan's Valley Preserve. Another payment to Mary was made for \$5,000. She asks that we not pay her interest on the loan, she will forgo that even if the contract calls on it.

MOTION: To send another \$5,000 payment to Mary Gratsch towards the Sloan's Valley Preserve loan (Gott, Jud, 3-0-0, Gratsch abstained).

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

Committee Reports:

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

1. A membership renewal letter was sent out to the regular members, but it was not entirely successful.
2. Gibson suggested that we set up an auto-renew option via PayPal for regular members. We will discuss this with Gary Bush. Gibson volunteered to contact some of them personally to remind them.
3. New Member Care: If Werner receives a new membership online, he sends them an email. The President usually sends them a postal letter with a bumper sticker or some other perk. Sean Cain still has a few bumper stickers, which he will send to Mary. We will need to order some more. Mary is willing to start sending out letters and bumper stickers to new members.
4. Werner suggested also making up cardboard photo coasters (like Arbor Day does) to hand out to donors or members.
5. 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: (Scot Pavey reporting)

1. The GSP campground is open as of June 12th, as per Kentucky campground re-opening rules.
2. COG came down and did some major work in the kitchen, installing a new sink and drain.
3. All of the locks on the property are changed except the gate. Debi Pavey is in charge of getting keys out to people entitled to a key. There is a quiz you need to pass before you get a kitchen key.
4. The showerhouse was cleaned out by a work crew.
5. The ticket house wall is finished, and gutters installed.

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

1. There are some funds allocated to Misty Cave, and Sean plans to add a seasonal closure notice below the existing sign to protect the hibernaculum.
2. The Camp Hero folks have not yet replied to our contacts. They had used Misty Cave, and have been asked to coordinate future usage with a sponsor from RKC.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. There have been requests to use the Skylight entrance. Gratsch let Thor know that he can once again let members use it.

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

1. Gratsch would like to do a definitive survey of the cave.
2. She would like to have RKC eventually buy Cornhole from her, but she would put the funds into a maintenance fund for the cave.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. Joe Morgan told her they have started on the fence, putting in fenceposts. They have the RKC tax-free number to purchase supplies.
2. Other plans will include geotextile and gravel in the parking are, and a kiosk.
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. Neena will send Mary an article on asking for funds.
2. NSS sent Sloans Valley Preserve one of their land acquisition grants from 2019, and they have encouraged us to apply again this year as we have still an outstanding loan and construction expenses.
3. Promotional coasters are a good idea to investigate. (Jud)

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. No report.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – The NSF Life Member Fund investment is the kind of thing that will look good on an Accredited Land Trust application.

Old Business:

- A. NSF Investment Fund – An RKC Life Member Fund Agreement with the National Speleological Foundation has been signed.
- B. Waiver Consolidation – Gary Bush has digitized waivers from GCG as PDFs. Hard copy waivers for RKC are stored in the barn at GSP. COG waivers re stored by Kevin Lorms; they are signed when dues are renewed. A friend of Bob Roth was going to digitize the names. Gary will begin to set up a spreadsheet of names with permanent waivers on file.
- C. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – Elizabeth helped with the GSP remodel work. They have a work weekend and picnic planned later in the summer. They were a great help with school trips before the trips were shut down.

New Business:

- A. **MOTION:** To declare all RKC properties open again based on the Kentucky Governor’s reopening of campgrounds as of June 11th, and to be consistent with GSP’s reopening. All COVID-19 health precautions are recommended but are the responsibility of the visitor (Jud, Gibson, 4-0-0).

Next Meeting: The Fall meeting was set for Sunday, September 27th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. File RKC taxes for the year – Jud
2. Set up an auto-renew function for memberships on RKC website if possible - Bush
3. Order more RKC bumper stickers - Gratsch
4. Misty Cave Seasonal Closure Notice - Cain
5. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
6. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve improvements cost estimate – Morgan
7. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - sign of Kentucky Statute on Caves at entrance
8. Own Sloans needs a logo – several people said they would inquire of creative people
9. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
10. Apply for a second NSS Land Acquisition Grant money for Sloans – Jud, Gratsch
11. Determine location of the box of RKC pens
12. Tri-fold brochure update – needs volunteer
13. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary, Gary Bush
14. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
15. 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**