

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
**General Meeting – September 27, 2020**  
Final

**In Attendance 9/27/20:**

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

**Others:** Neena Jud and Richard Duncan were present. Mike Wuerth, Stephanie Sven and Sean Cain were present online.

57th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at Mary Gratsch's residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:05 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

**Announcements:**

Sloans Valley Preserve had a work party on September 19th. Twenty-six people showed up, and many bags of trash were removed from the cave and grounds. Everyone was impressed by the work on the fence and parking area that had already been done by Mike Harrington and Joe Morgan.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 6/28/20.

**MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 6/28/20 general meeting (W.Jud, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).**

**Ratify In Between Meeting Motions:**

**The following In-between meeting motion is read into the minutes:**

**MOTION 8/9/20:** To order 250 'Regular' and 50 'Life Member' RKC bumper stickers (Gott, Jud, 5-0-0).

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

1. A balance sheet report and an income vs. expense report were submitted for review, from the beginning of 2020 up to the date of this meeting. NSS has contributed another \$2,000, for a total of \$4,000 this year towards the Sloans Valley Preserve acquisition fund. A total of about \$1,700 has been spent on improvements this year on the Sloans Valley Entrance. The Director's & Officer's Insurance bill has come in, and the Board discussed reviewing the coverage that it offers for the price.
2. The life membership funds have been transferred into the NSF life membership fund. We have an email confirmation that it has been received, but no statement of the current balance.
3. RKC taxes are due by 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. The new form is very complex, and takes many hours. Werner suggests that RKC find a professional to do this in future years.
4. Gary Bush had suggested that it was time for another audit of the RKC books. Werner Jud thinks it should wait until the taxes are done and the NSF fund has provided a report.

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

**Committee Reports:**

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

1. New Member Care: Mary Gratsch has been sending out a letter to new members, including a bumper sticker.
2. Automatic annual membership renewals via PayPal are being investigated.
3. We could join the Amazon Smile program. Patrick Gibson will set that up. There is also a Kroger rewards program. These could be fundraising items.

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: (Werner Jud reporting)

1. GSP hosted a series of homeschool children in the cave on September 24th.
2. The ticket house has a new door.

(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.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg & Thor Bahrman)

1. No report.

(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. The cleanup and improvements have made the entrance really nice looking. There is a sign up for the Crockett entrance.
2. There has been talk of putting a half size shipping container on site for supplies, including emergency rescue gear. Lumber prices have skyrocketed, so further purchases may be delayed until next year.
3. A Sloan's logo is being developed by a volunteer, Glen Brandi. Gary Bush has some color options to suggest. When finalized it should go on our website on the Sloans Valley page.
4. Signs need to go at both entrances, noting the Kentucky Statute on Caves. National Speleological Foundation donated the ones at GSP many years ago.
5. A draft of the new Sloans Valley Management Plan is in progress.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Mary applied for two grants, a Vehslage grant from NSF for \$2,000, and the NSS land acquisition grants for \$2,000. The NSS has already sent RKC the \$2,000.
2. Promotional coasters are a good idea to investigate as a thank you gift to donors. (Jud)

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. No report.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – no report.

**Old Business:**

- A. Waiver Consolidation – Neena Jud reports that the filing cabinet in the shed at GSP is currently buried by ticket house contents, and most likely cannot be accessed until the ticket house project is finished.
- B. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – They have had little activity with the shut down. Elizabeth Copeland has resigned. Josh Heinbuch is the new GSP representative.

**New Business:**

- A. New NSS Preserves Program – Julie Schenk-Brown has suggested that RKC develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NSS, and sent us some examples from other Conservancies. If we went this route, we would partner with them, and they would help RKC with some expenses and RKC would be open to them for research and education, and establish them as a representative of a larger community. This is not something to rush into. Gratsch suggested a committee be formed to learn more about the topic. Mary Gratsch, Patrick Gibson and Werner Jud are on the NSS MOU Committee.

**Next Meeting:** The Winter meeting was set for Sunday, December 13th, 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.

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**Action Items**

- 1. File RKC taxes for the year – Jud
- 2. RKC Financial Audit – Jud, Bush
- 3. Set up an auto-renew function for memberships on RKC website if possible – Bush
- 4. Amazon Smile Program - Gibson
- 5. Misty Cave Seasonal Closure Notice - Cain
- 6. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
- 7. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve improvements cost estimate – Morgan
- 8. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - sign of Kentucky Statute on Caves at entrance
- 9. Sloans Valley logo – Brandi, Bush, Gratsch
- 10. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
- 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

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## FALL 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 27, 2020

GOTO MEETING & Mary Gratsch's House - 2:00 P.M.

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- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
  - A. Announcements**
    1. Sloans Valley Preserve work party was 9-19-20
  - A. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**
    1. Ratify In-Between Meeting Motion
      - MOTION: To order 250 'regular' and 50 'Life Member' RKC bumper stickers (Gott, Jud, 5-0-0)*
    1. Minutes 6-28-20
  - B. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**
    1. Taxes have gone from 990Z to 990, implications
    2. Time for another RKC financial audit?
  - C. Committee Reports**
    - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
      - a. New & renewing member care
      - b. Can we offer automatic renewals through PayPal?
      - c. Amazon Smile program
      - d. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
    - B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
    - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
    - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
    - E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
    - F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Harrington & Joe Morgan**
      - a. Improvements
      - b. Signage
      - c. Management Plan
    - G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
      - a. NSS Land Grant applications for Sloans Valley
      - b. Thank you gifts for donors
    - H. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
      1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
      2. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
  - **Old Business**
    - Waiver Consolidation
    - Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave
  - **New Business**
    1. New NSS Preserves program
  - **Next Meeting Date**
  - **Motion to Adjourn**