

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – December 13, 2020
Final**

In Attendance 12/13/20:

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

Others: Neena Jud was present. Gary Bush, Scott Pavey, and Sean Cain were present online.

58th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at Mary Gratsch's residence and online.
Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:02 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

NSF Grant for Sloans Valley was approved for \$2,000, but has not yet arrived.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/27/20.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/27/20 general meeting (O'Dell, Gibson 2nd, by acclaim).

Read into the minutes the in-between meeting motion passed 10/27/20:

IN-BETWEEN MEETING MOTION: To drop the D&O Insurance policy (Gibson, O'Dell, 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 \$4,000 this year towards the Sloans Valley Preserve acquisition fund, and we are waiting for them to send another \$2,000 as an approved NSF Vehslage Grant. We received a \$250 donation from Birmingham Grotto. Gary Bush and Jud will check to see if we are on the UPS rate for nonprofits. The Director's & Officer's Insurance was cancelled, they sent us back our deposit on it, and the other liability insurance bills for the properties are paid. GSP reimbursed their portion of the insurance. RKC still owes Mary Gratsch \$5,000 on the Sloans Valley loan.
2. RKC taxes for 2019 were mailed in via UPS.

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

Committee Reports:

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

1. Winter email newsletter is being composed by Gary Bush.
2. Automatic annual membership renewals via PayPal were investigated by Gary Bush. They can take monthly payments, but annual renewals will only go for one year, after that you have to set it up again. Thus there is not much benefit in this.
3. Patrick Gibson set up RKC on the Amazon Smile program. We will encourage members to sign up for that in the newsletter.
4. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update. Someone with the program Indesign could finish this project, if we could find a volunteer, but none has been forthcoming. Gary Bush could re-create the flyer in

Miscrosoft Publisher. He is looking for a copy of the most recent flyer. Part of the flyer is a membership form that you can mail in, which might be eliminated to add more cave content.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey reporting)

1. Scott Pavey sent Gary Bush an update on GSP for the newsletter.
2. COVID stopped most activity at GSP this year, but it gave the volunteers a break to get things done.
3. The ticket house has come a long way, the exterior is complete, and they are starting on the interior.
4. The kitchen has been updated, and new keys for all of GSP have been changed.
5. A new phone line has been added to the ticket house and shelter, but it has no WiFi.
6. The Friends of GSP Group picked up lots of trash along the highway, earning money for FoGSP projects.

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

1. No one has been visiting Misty Cave.
2. Sean has had a seasonal closure notice printed to post below the existing sign to protect the hibernaculum, and will put it up when he gets back down there.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg & Thor Bahrman, Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. The driveway is very rutted out, and it needs work. The neighbors are still using the road, but it is not passable by a regular car. The small gravel washes downhill when it rains. Next spring we should find someone local to do the repairs. It needs larger size gravel. The water bars already on the road are filled with gravel. Werner Jud will get some measurements on the road.

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

1. Gratsch paid the property tax for the Cornhole property.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. Mike Harrington is designing a donation tube for the entrance.
2. A draft of the Sloans Valley Management Plan is in progress. Gratsch will send a draft to the Board.
3. Does RKC want to try to do waivers for the public using the entrance? Aside from GSP, the other cave entrances do not require waivers. A sign at the entrance should say you will enter at your own risk. Mary will look into temporary signs for both Sloans entrances.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Amazon Smile program is up and running, thanks to Patrick Gibson. If more than \$5.00 is due to RKC, it will be deposited in our bank quarterly (November, February, etc.).

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. Bob Dobbs is developing a letter for landowners, explaining how RKC could be interested in buying their property, or holding a conservation Easement on it.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – no report.

(I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)

1. Patrick Gibson has created an initial draft to start the discussion

Old Business:

(A) Election Nominations:

1. Gary O'Dell is willing to step down if someone else would like to serve.

2. Werner Jud said that he would like to go to Online Quickbooks so that more people could be involved, at least in an oversight view, of the RKC accounts. He is reluctant to continue as Treasurer in the long run otherwise. Janice Gott can open his backup file in her Quickbooks, so he will send her one. However, the online version of Quickbooks only allows one company per license, so GSP and RKC would each need a license and have a monthly fee. This needs more thought.
3. If Janice needed at some point to take over as Treasurer, Debi Pavey volunteered to take over as Secretary.
4. Gary O'Dell and Werner Jud accepted nominations to continue in their Board positions starting in March. Nominations are closed.
5. **MOTION: To accept by acclamation the nominations of Gary O'Dell and Werner Jud to the Board in March 2021 (Gott, Gibson, by acclaim).**

New Business:

- A. Sloans Valley Improvements Fund – Mary Gratsch suggested that when the Sloans Valley purchase price is paid off, targeted Sloans donations should start accumulating in an improvements fund.

Next Meeting: The Spring meeting was set for Sunday, March 7th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. RKC Financial Audit – Jud, Bush
2. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
3. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - sign of Kentucky Statute on Caves at entrance, and “Enter at Your Own Risk” sign
4. Sloans Valley logo – Brandi, Bush, Gratsch
5. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan
6. Determine location of the box of RKC pens
7. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush?
8. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary, Gary Bush
9. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
10. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott
11. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Donation tube
12. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee



WINTER 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, December 13, 2020

GOTO MEETING - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
 - A. Announcements**
 - 1. NSS Grant for Sloans Valley Preserve
 - A. Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - 1. Minutes 9-27-20
 - B. Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
 - 1. Taxes
 - 2. D&O Insurance
 - 3. Sloans Valley Loan status
 - 4. Annual Draw from Life Membership Fund?
 - 5. Time for another RKC financial audit?
 - C. Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Winter email newsletter, postcards?
 - b. Can we offer automatic renewals through PayPal?
 - c. 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 Planned
 - b. Signage
 - c. Management Plan
 - G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
 - a. Amazon Smile program
 - H. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
 - 1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
 - 2. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
 - I. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud**
- **Old Business**
 - Election Nominations – Positions of Werner Jud, Gary O’Dell
 - Waiver Consolidation
- **New Business**
 - Treasury Fund for Sloans Valley Improvements
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**