

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
**General Meeting – June 6, 2021**  
Final

**In Attendance 6/6/2021:**

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

**Others:** Scott Pavey, Bob Dobbs, Gary Bush, Sean Cain were present online. Neena Jud was present. Jerry Brandenburg & Josh Heinbuch joined late.

60th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Gratsch residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:05 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

**Announcements:**

No announcements.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/7/21.

**MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/7/21 general meeting (Gibson, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).**

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

1. RKC received a total of \$1250 in individual contributions this quarter, including a \$1,000 donation to Sloan's from the David & Karen Martins. RKC also received a small amount from the Amazon Smile program. The March membership drive did bring in a number of renewals, and new life member Jerry Brandenburg.
2. The first annual life membership fund disbursement from the new NSF account was taken, for \$1,065.
3. KY annual business report filed with the Secretary of State. An extension was filed for the IRS 990 tax form.
4. RKC spent \$1,700 on improvements to the Sloans Valley Preserve last year.
5. Sloans Valley Preserve Loan is paid off, currently donations totaled \$28,000, with future funds all directed to improvements already made and planned for the future.
6. RKC financial audit: An audit is still being planned.

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

**Committee Reports:**

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

1. A membership renewal request went out by email. Werner says that it was partially successful, with 35 annual members renewing. Currently RKC still has about 35 members who have not renewed, and hopefully will renew at KOR or sometime this season.
2. The target for the next newsletter will be early September, to have a hardcopy newsletter on hand for Open House in October. Gary Bush already has good photos of repairs at the GSP work weekend.

[Jerry Brandenburg & Josh Heinbuch joined the meeting.]

3. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update. Gary Bush talked to Rob Coomer, who is willing to do the updates in his software program if we give him the information. Mary has been creating verbiage for the two newer preserves. We are still looking for good new pictures of the preserves.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey reporting)

1. Volunteers did an incredible amount of infrastructure repairs at GSP during the recent work weekend. New walls were framed inside the ticket house. A new water line to the kitchen was installed. Buried electric lines were run to the utility pole on the campground side of the creek. A drainpipe was buried to carry water away from the shelter's downspout.
2. Scouts and other groups are returning to GSP, which is a great support to their revenue.

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

1. No new activity.

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

1. Brandenburg submitted an estimate from Clifford Collins for the needed road work. Clifford Collins has built and maintained this driveway in the past, and is the best person for the job. The work will include helping the drainage from the neighbor's property, since they are closely related. There is already over \$1,600 allocated to these road repairs from the past Corning Foundation grant.

**MOTION: To allocate the budget amount of \$2750 for property improvements to the Skylight Preserve per Brandenburg's proposal (Jud, Gott, by acclaim).**

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

1. Gratsch has not been there recently.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. Preserve manager Mike Harrington has suggested that the fixed ladder be taken out of the cave entrance, as it makes it too easy for people to enter the cave. Gratsch felt that its removal would be counterproductive to our mission there. The current ladder is unsightly but will hopefully be replaced with a nicer one. The Board was in unanimous agreement that the ladder should be kept in place.
2. The management plan has made no progress. O'Dell offered to help.
3. Mike Harrington knows someone who will make an "enter at your own risk" sign at no cost to RKC. The Board would like to see a "proof" of the sign language before it is created.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Open house will not occur until the first weekend of October this year. Karst-O-Rama will be held in mid-August. Gratsch has a number of items donated to the KOR auction. She also has a donation of climbing gear and other items, and does not think the auction is the best place for selling them. Neena Jud suggested an online auction in the late fall, before the holidays.
2. Gary Bush says his grotto bought a press to do T-shirts and other items, and could do RKC items for the cost of materials.

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. Nothing new to report. Last winter he developed a letter to introduce conservation opportunities with RKC to landowners.
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. No meeting yet.

**Old Business:**

(A) Waiver Consolidation: Waivers are still buried in the back of the storage shed in the upper parking lot. Neena Jud will check on them at Open House.

**New Business:**

(A) Legacy Endowment Fund: Sean Cain has suggested that RKC create an official Legacy Endowment Fund. He sent a sample agreement from Bluegrass Community Foundation, a group that manages legacy endowment funds for various non-profits. A number of cavers may be interested in endowing money upon their death to a fund for the long term benefit of RKC. This agency would securely hold endowments from members who denote directed contributions. The endowment funds would benefit RKC as investment income, and restrict drawing on the principle. Legacy gifts can, of course, be given directly without going through an endowment fund.

**MOTION: To direct Sean Cain to pursue the language of an agreement with the Bluegrass Community Foundation to create an RKC Legacy Endowment Fund (Gott, Jud, by acclaim).**

(B) Werner has an order in for 36 more RKC Life Member T-shirts. If an existing life member needs a new shirt, they can get one at cost for \$7.

**Next Meeting:** The Fall meeting was set for Sunday, September 19th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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**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 Sloans
6. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush, Coomer, Gratsch
7. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary, Gary Bush
8. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg

9. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott
10. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Donation tube
11. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
12. RKC Legacy Endowment Fund creation
13. Fall Newsletter – early September target date
14. Fundraising donations – KOR? Online Auction? (Gratsch)

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## SUMMER 2021 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, June 6, 2021

GOTO MEETING - 2:00 P.M.

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- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
- A. Announcements**
  - 1. ??
- B. Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
  - 1. Minutes 3-7-21
- C. Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
  - 1. Sloans Valley Loan & Improvement Fund status
  - 2. Annual Draw from Life Membership Fund - 2021
  - 3. Time for another RKC financial audit?
- D. Committee Reports**
  - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
    - a. 2021 Membership Renewal Drive
    - b. Summer email newsletter – Gary Bush
    - 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. Signage
    - b. Management Plan
  - G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
    - a. KOR & Open House
  - 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**
  - Waiver Consolidation
  - Creating a Legacy Endowment Fund (Sean Cain suggestion)
- **New Business**
  - ????
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**