

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – September 19, 2021
Final**

In Attendance 9/19/2021:

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

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

61st Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Jud residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:01 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 6/6/21.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 6/6/21 general meeting (Jud, Gibson, 2nd, by acclaim).

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

1. RKC received another donation from the Corning Foundation and a minor one from the Amazon Smile program. We have a new life member Scott Pavey.
2. We have a new batch of Life Member T-Shirts.
3. The most recent life memberships have been transferred to the NSF Life Member Fund. At the end of 2020, the NSF reported that our account earned \$1,845 last year, for only a half year that it existed.
4. 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. We will start pushing membership renewals at the end of 2021.
2. The target for the next newsletter was early September, to have a hardcopy newsletter on hand for Open House in October. Since that event is cancelled, we will shoot for the end of the year. The new newsletter content deadline is November 1st. Please send content and photos to Gary Bush.
3. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update. Rob Coomer 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. Open House is cancelled for 2021, due to COVID resurgence.

2. Scouts and other groups are returning to GSP, which is a great support to their revenue.
3. Bill Carr is planning to move, and the GSP Committee is working on a replacement.
4. GSP is planning to run an extravagant open house in 2022 on their regular weekend in May.
5. A work weekend is planned on October 1-2, 2021.

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

1. It is pretty overgrown and needs some clearing.

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

1. Road repairs by Clifford Collins have been authorized, but he has been busy and the work has not yet been done. There was a trip there during KOR.

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

1. Gratsch has not been there recently.

[Neena Jud arrived.]

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. Preserve manager Mike Harrington is working on a design for a ladder to be bolted down in the entrance.
2. Julie Schenck-Brown says that cave entrance signs should be simple and clear - enter at your own risk and that there is no fee for using the entrance.
3. The management plan has made no progress. O'Dell had offered to help.
4. There is a draft logo, but we have asked that Rockcastle Karst Conservancy be written on it. No further progress.
5. Eric Sellers had noticed a car left by cavers at the entrance overnight, from a Sunday to Monday morning. The Pulaski County police were called, they ran the plates and contacted the parents, who said the cavers were planning to stay overnight, so there was no emergency. However, this pointed out our need to meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan. Gibson volunteered to help with this.
6. Eric Sellers sold the unsurveyed north section of his property, with the two railroad entrances, to the neighbor behind him (on the road past his house). He has put his surveyed property and house on the market, for a rather substantial price. The house still needs lots of work. It would be nice for a caver-friendly person to buy it.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. At KOR, Gratsch collected membership dues and donations. The RKC raffle brought in \$476.

(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: We thought that the waivers were still buried in the back of the storage shed in the upper parking lot. Neena Jud tried to check on them, but they were not in the filing cabinet. She brought a small pile of newer ones home.
- (B) Legacy Endowment Fund: Sean Cain has sent the Board a draft agreement from the Bluegrass Community Foundation, a group that manages legacy endowment funds for various non-profits. This agency securely holds endowments from people who denote directed contributions. The endowment funds would benefit RKC as investment income, and restrict annual draws to the profits, not the principle. RKC would like to call the fund the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Legacy Endowment Fund. Cain will check with them as to their current annual management fee. *[Later reported that the management expense ratio for a non-profit endowment is 0.5%.]*

MOTION: To authorize Mary Gratsch to sign a contract with the Bluegrass Community Foundation to create the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Legacy Endowment Fund (Gibson, Jud 2nd, 4-0-0).

New Business:

- (A) Solar Array: Jeff Gillette contacted RKC asking whether we have a policy regarding large solar farms, as he is fighting the siting of one over Webster Cave near Ft. Knox and the Ohio River. Gratsch suggested that he ask NSS for their opinion.

Next Meeting: The Winter meeting was set for Sunday, December 12th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

Action Items

1. Sign contact with Bluegrass Foundation for an RKC Legacy Endowment Fund
2. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
3. RKC Financial Audit – Jud, Bush
4. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch
5. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - sign of Kentucky Statute on Caves at entrance, and “Enter at Your Own Risk” sign
6. Sloans Valley logo – Brandi, Bush, Gratsch
7. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Sloans Valley
8. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush, Coomer, Gratsch
9. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary, Gary Bush
10. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
11. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott
12. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Donation tube
13. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
14. Winter Newsletter – content to Gary Bush by early November



FALL 2021 MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, September 19, 2021
GOTO MEETING - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
- A. Announcements**
 - 1. ??
- B. Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - 1. Minutes 6-6-21
- C. Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
 - 1. Time for another RKC financial audit?
- D. Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. 2021 Membership Renewal Drive
 - b. Fall 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**
 - a. Road repairs
 - 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
 - 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)
- **New Business**
 - Solar Farms above caves (Jeff Gillette)
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**