

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
**General Meeting – December 12, 2021**  
Final

**In Attendance 12/12/2021:**

**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:** Neena Jud was present onsite. Mike Wuerth, Sean Cain, Gary Bush, Scott Pavey and Stephanie Suen were present online.

62nd Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Gratsch residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:01 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

**Announcements:**

Sean Cain announced that the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Legacy Endowment Fund has been created with the Blue Grass Community Foundation. It has been announced and a link posted on the RKCI website. Their official contact email will be with the Treasurer. [Board@rkci.org](mailto:Board@rkci.org) is a group email available to go to the entire Board.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 9/19/21.

**MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 9/19/21 general meeting (Jud, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).**

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

1. RKC received a few donations, memberships and some income from the Amazon Smile program this quarter.
2. Liability insurance for all properties has been renewed.
3. RKC financial audit: Werner Jud and Gary Bush are meeting tomorrow for an audit of the last three years for RKC and GSP.

**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. Gary Bush is compiling a Winter Newsletter. Please send content and photos to Gary Bush. It will be emailed to all email addresses of current and recent past members. It will have a link on our website, and a notice on Facebook. Gary was asked to add to the website a link to sign up for RKC emails, whether or not someone is a member.
2. 2022 Membership renewal drive will happen in the spring.
3. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update, as well as the tri-fold display board. 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. GSP is ready for winter.
2. Power to the point is complete. Ticket house renovation is progressing.
3. At the beginning of 2022, camping fees will increase, and a new gate code will be installed.

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

1. Flooding has brought some debris to the creek, including five tires. The Board suggested inviting a work crew/caving trip to help. When a date is set it will be published on Facebook and website.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg reported via Gratsch)

1. Road repairs by Clifford Collins had been authorized, but he passed the job to someone else. The new person will need to make a new bid, probably higher than the initial bid. Jeff Werner might also be willing to do the work, as he has done some recent work at GSP.

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

1. Gratsch paid the property tax for the year.
2. There was a KOR trip to Cornhole.
3. She wants to run a survey again to try to connect it to Goochland Cave. Others are interested in helping.

(F) Sloans Valley Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. There is a nice new sign at the cave entrance gate, donated by ?????? Whelan.
2. Eric Sellers has his neighboring house property for sale. It is listed as being “under contract.”
3. We need a sign at each entrance saying “There is no fee for using this entrance. Enter at your own risk.” This or another sign should also say “property of RKC.” All of our ungated cave entrances could use one of these signs.
4. The management plan has made no progress. O’Dell has offered to help.
5. At some point post-COVID we will need to meet with the sheriff’s department about contact information and an emergency plan. Gibson volunteered to help with this.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Kroger has a Kroger-brand and Simple Truth container recycling program, for which they make a donation to your charity. Gratsch is looking into it. Gibson will also look into their program similar to Amazon Smile. Jackson Energy, at GSP, has a “round up” program on their utility bills that makes educational grants. Werner will be talking to them about it in the new year.

(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. O’Dell and Gratsch are planning to meet with the Miller family in early 2022. The Millers have three nice cave entrances in a concentrated area.
3. 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: Gary Bush has all of the older GCG waivers and some others.

(B) Legal Address: Shane Mullins and Chanda Ziegler continue to be our legal address in Kentucky.

**New Business:**

(A) Bill Carr’s House: Scott Pavey reported that on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the GSP Committee gave Caretaker Bill Carr a letter saying that on January 1<sup>st</sup> he will receive a 60-day lease termination notice. He plans to move his pre-manufactured home to a new site. Private donations have been made to help him acquire utilities at his new location. RKC will need to send him an official letter in January to terminate his lease in 60 days.

(B) March Nominations for RKC Board: One position opens up in March 2022. Gratsch nominated Janice Gott to continue her position on the RKC Board. It was noted that the Election Committee Rules state that nominations should open in the September meeting and close at the end of the December meeting. It was also noted that the Bylaws do not mention nominations, and they probably should. There were no other nominations, and according to the Election Committee Rules (2017), nominations close at the end of the December meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The Spring meeting was set for Sunday, March 6th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

**Special Meeting:** A special meeting opened again to accept **Janice Gott to continue in her position as an RKC Director in March 2022.** The Special meeting was closed at 3:57 pm.

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**Action Items**

1. Winter Newsletter – content to Gary Bush by early November
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, O’Dell
5. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - “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, Neena Jud
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. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
15. Cornhole Cave survey – Gratsch
16. Kroger Charity programs research – Gratsch, Gibson
17. Jackson Energy grant program research – Jud
18. Miller Family Meeting – Gratsch, O'Dell



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## WINTER 2021 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, December 12, 2021

GOTO MEETING - 2:00 P.M.

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- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
- A. Announcements**
  - 1. New Legacy Endowment Fund
- B. Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
  - 1. Minutes 9-19-21
- C. Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
  - 1. Time for another RKC financial audit
- D. Committee Reports**
  - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
    - a. Winter email newsletter – Gary Bush
    - b. 2022 Membership Renewal Drive
    - 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, Logo, Donation Tube
    - b. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
    - c. Management Plan
  - G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
    - a. ???
  - 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
- **New Business**
  - Nominations for March 2022 (1 position)
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**