Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Annual Meeting – March 6, 2022
Final

In Attendance 3/6/22:

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

Others: Neena Jud was present onsite. Sean Cain, Scott Pavey, Debi Pavey, Gary Bush, Jerry Brandenburg and Pete Stow were present online. Mike Wuerth and Susan Neumeyer arrived online late.

63rd Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Jud residence and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:02 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:
Janice Gott has been appointed for another term as an RKC Director. Bill Carr is transitioning out of the GSP caretaker position.

Officers for 2022: The current officers are President Mary Gratsch, Vice President Patrick Gibson, Treasurer Werner Jud and Secretary Janice Gott.
MOTION: To keep the current slate of officers (Jud, Gibson, by acclaim).

Secretary's Report: (Submitted by J. Gott)
Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 12/12/21.
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 12/12/21 general meeting (O'Dell, Gibson 2nd, by acclaim).

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

1. RKC received a $1,000 donation from Karen Martin, other donations, and some memberships.
2. Management of the Life Membership Endowment Fund at NSF has changed agents, to Doug Soroka, and funds moved to Northwestern Mutual. The value of the fund dropped in 2021. More information about this is pending. If the funds are available, we will ask for an annual distribution as per Life Membership policy.
3. RKC financial audit: Werner Jud and Gary Bush completed a financial audit for the last three years for RKC and GSP.
4. The RKC Legacy Endowment Fund is active

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

Committee Reports:

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

1. Gary Bush compiled a Winter Newsletter, which was sent out electronically to all email addresses of current and recent past members.
2. It is 2022 Membership spring renewal drive time. Gott will send a draft renewal notice letter to Gratsch for review. Letters will be emailed, or paper mailed along with an email address request.

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 created some verbiage for the two newer preserves, and is still looking for representative pictures. There is still a box of the current RKC cards, and some remaining tri-fold flyers, to hand out at Open House. Sean Cain will bring the display board to Open House. If the new flyer is not complete by then, there will not be any info on Sloans Valley Preserve to hand out at Open House. Gratsch will work on that.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey reporting)

1. GSP thanks GCG and their Board for making arrangements to purchase Bill Carr's house.
2. Scouts are busy camping, and help is needed for scout caving trips.
3. Open House is planned for May, and looking for volunteers.
4. At the beginning of 2022, GSP camping fees were increased to $8/person/night, and a new gate code was established.

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

1. Flooding has brought some debris to the creek, including five tires. Sean Cain plans to set up a work crew/caving trip to help, when the weather warms up. When a date is set it will be published on Facebook and website.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. New contractor Joe Smith will need to make a new bid for road work, probably higher than the initial bid. He is very overloaded right now, but has kept in communication.

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

1. Gratsch wants to run a survey to try to connect it to Goochland Cave. Others are interested in helping, when the weather dries out.

(F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve (Mary Gratsch reporting)

1. A new donation pipe is ready to install.
2. There was a second logo submission. The Board would like a logo stating "Sloans Valley Cave Preserve," its official name.
3. The new landowner of the Crockett house property is planning to move in during July.
4. In the Sloans Valley system, the owner of the Screaming Willie entrance (the field house property) says that entrance should be considered closed, except for emergencies. The Great Rock Sink entrance may also be closed. The Post Office entrance is open to cavers, with permission from the adjacent store owner.
5. Mike Herrington says the remaining part of the greenhouse adjacent to SVCP is very dilapidated, wants to offer the new owner to have a work party take it down.
6. 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.
7. The management plan has made no progress. O'Dell has offered to help.
8. A sign is needed at each entrance saying "Enter at your own risk" and "property of RKC." Various drafts are being proposed.
9. RKC has not found the owner of the Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail area near our SVCP parcel. Gratsch and Gott will visit the Pulaski County PVA Department at some point and look this up.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Kroger has a Kroger-brand and Simple Truth container recycling program, for which they make a donation to your charity. They take flexible plastic packaging. You log in to get a shipping label for your collected boxful, and give you points by weight when they receive it. Gratsch will try it out, but it sounds cumbersome to collect a significant quantity.

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. Nothing new to report.
2. O'Dell and Gratsch are planning to meet with the Miller family in 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) No old business.

New Business:

(A) Gary O'Dell has invited Susan Neumeyer (previously Susan Duncan) to the meeting, she is an experienced cave archeologist, and researched Saltpeter Cave at Carter Caves State Park. GSP has never had an official archeology report. Susan spoke to the Board about her qualifications. She suggested applying for a grant through the American Battlefield Association, which funds War of 1812 studies, as well as other battles. There are other possibilities as well. Board Members will arrange a site visit with Susan, as a first step in pursuing a long range plan. Her brother has offered to map the study area.

(B) Transitional Membership: There is a category of membership in the Bylaws that allows for a "payment plan" towards a life membership. A member asked about it, and has set up a sustaining dues payment with the treasurer. The Board agreed there should be a more defined process where, upon request, a life membership could be purchased with equal payments over a year. Werner will work on clarifying language in the Bylaws, which he will bring to the Board next meeting as a proposed Bylaws amendment.

(C) Bill Carr's House: Scott Pavey reported that the GSP Committee arranged to purchase Bill Carr's pre-manufactured house on the GSP property. GCG has approved the plan. RKC needs to also approve. GSP has paid for an appraisal and lawyer. Signing the contract is pending for RKC approval. RKC will be the ultimate owner, as it is owner of the GSP property. A plan for the purchase and transitional expenses has been drawn up. The building will eventually be combined with the GSP property as a single entity on property records. When RKC receives the official budget approval request letter, we will have an in-between meeting vote to respond in a timely matter.

(D) "The Saltpeter Empires": Gary O'Dell asks that RKC send Susan Neumeyer a copy of the "The Saltpeter Empires" by Angelo George. GSP holds the final dozen copies in existence purchased from A. George last year. Werner has them and will mail her one.

Next Meeting: The Summer meeting was set for Sunday, June 5th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

RKC In-Between Meeting Motion 3-8-22

Having received the GSP Caretaker Transition Proposal along with pertinent supporting documentation from the GSP committee, the RKC board approves the budget and loan agreement as presented. (Jud motion, Gibson 2nd, 5-0-0).

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Action Items

1. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
2. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Herrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O'Dell
3. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - "Enter at Your Own Risk" sign
4. Sloans Valley logo – Bush, Gratsch
5. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Sloans Valley
6. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush, Coomer, Gratsch
7. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
8. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott
9. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Donation tube installation
10. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
11. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
12. Cornhole Cave survey – Gratsch
13. Kroger Charity programs research – Gratsch
14. Miller Family Meeting – Gratsch, O'Dell
15. Transitional Membership clarification in Bylaws – Jud
16. Susan Neumeyer introduction at GSP – O'Dell, Gratsch, Juds
17. Susan Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott

SPRING 2022 MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, March 6, 2022
GOTO MEETING - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**

A. Announcements
1. Janice Gott elected as director for a new term
2. Bill Carr transitioning out as GSP Caretaker

B. Officers for 2022
1. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

C. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott
1. Minutes 12-12-21

D. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud
1. RKC & GSP financial audit completed
2. Endowment Fund active
3. Fielding a question about the Transitional Membership category in New Business

E. Committee Reports

A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott
a. 2022 Membership Renewal Drive
b. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
c. Tri-fold display board revision

B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey
a. GSP Caretaker

C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain
a. Set up work crew/caving trip to clean up debris

D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg
a. Road repairs

E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch
a. Survey trip

F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Herrington & Joe Morgan
a. Neighboring property sale
b. Signage, Logo, Donation Tube
c. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
d. Management Plan

G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch
a. Kroger recycling program? Jackson Energy "round up" 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**

- Waiver Consolidation

- **New Business**
  - What constitutes a "**Transitional Membership**" working towards a Life Membership? Should it be defined in the ByLaws or Membership Policy document?
  - GSP caretaker & caretaker building
  - Susan Duncan Neumeyer potential archeological investigation of GSP
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**