

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – June 5, 2022
Final

In Attendance 6/5/22:

- Directors:** Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson were present onsite.
Janice Gott and Gary O'Dell were present online.
Werner Jud was absent.
(A quorum does exist.)
- Others:** Gary Bush was present online. Mike Wuerth, Bob Dobbs, Mike Harrington and Rhonda Lewis were present on site.

64th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Main Branch Boone County Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Mary Gratsch at 2:10 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. The entire RKC Board can now be reached at the group email **RKCboard@rkci.org**, thanks to the efforts of Gary Bush.

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

1. RKC In-Between Meeting Motion 3-8-22:

MOTION: 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).

2. Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/6/22.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/6/22 annual meeting (O'Dell, Gibson 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (Submitted by W. Jud, read by M. Gratsch)

1. Gratsch read the submitted balance sheet and profit / loss statement from W.Jud.
2. RKC requested an annual distribution of \$1,087 from the NSF for the Life Member Endowment Fund, somewhat less than the normal maximum amount of \$1,125, due to the lag in last year's fund value.
3. The value of all of our investment accounts is down due to the current market.

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

Committee Reports:

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

1. Gary Bush just sent a reminder message for membership renewal to those members who have not yet renewed this year. Richard Duncan is our newest life member.
2. 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. Gratsch suggested using the same verbiage describing the newer properties for the display board

and flyer update. Mike Harrington has pictures for SVCP, and Gratsch and Gott are working out language.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey reported, read by P.Gibson)

1. Open House was a success; over 3,100 people went through the cave.
2. Bill Carr has moved out, and the caretaker house is being prepared for a new caretaker. Fundraising to repay the loan to purchase the building is underway. The GSP Committee will start taking applications for a new caretaker soon.
3. Work weekends to prepare for the July 8-10 Karst-O-Rama are underway.

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

1. Sean Cain & Stephanie Suen are planning to schedule a cleanup day for the Misty site and cave, possibly in August. When a date is set it will be published on Facebook and the website.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. New contractor Joe Smith has been contacted to make a bid for road work on the washed out driveway. 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, once the weather dries out.

(F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve (Mike Harrington reporting)

1. The site is beautiful. They removed more brush from inside the fence.
2. Harrington would like to arrange a crew for a garbage pick-up, above ground and below.
3. The new landowner of the Crockett house property is planning to move in during July. Mike Harrington says the remaining part of the greenhouse adjacent to SVCP is very dilapidated, and wants to offer the new owner to have a work party take it down.
4. A new donation pipe is ready to install.
5. He would like to see a nice kiosk in the future.
6. A sign is needed at each entrance including “enter at your own risk” and “property of RKC.” The draft is narrowing down. Harrington can get his neighbor to create the signs.
7. A simple, clear logo is still being sought, and submissions are being accepted. The Board asks that the logo states “Sloans Valley Cave Preserve,” its official name.
8. At some point we will need to meet with the sheriff’s department about contact information and an emergency plan. Gibson volunteered to help with this.
9. The management plan is making progress. O’Dell has offered some suggestions.
10. 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 is trying it out, but feels it would be pretty hard to collect a significant quantity.

- 2. Gibson offered to sign RKC up for the Kroger Rewards program.
- 3. If we finalize a logo for Sloans, we could sell t-shirts and logo merchandise. It would be nice to do before KOR in July.

(H) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

- 1. Bob Dobbs is retiring from the Acquisition Committee. RKC is looking for someone to take over this position.
- 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 activity.

(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) Gary O’Dell is meeting Susan Neumeyer next Saturday, June 11 at the GSP cave, to do a preliminary survey for scope of work. She has offered to do an official archeology report on the saltpeter mining in the cave, if she can secure grant funding for her work. There are several grant programs that might fund the study.

(B) Transition 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 agrees there should be a more defined process where, upon request, a life membership could be purchased with equal payments over a year or two. Werner Jud submitted the following language update, which will be discussed by the Board at the September meeting as a proposed Bylaws amendment. Added language is in red below. Further discussion is tabled until the September meeting.

Bylaws Chapter III: Membership: Section A: 3. Transition Membership: A sustaining member making payments can arrange with the treasurer to apply payments towards a lifetime membership, *but not retroactively. Transitional payments shall cover the current life membership rate within a maximum of two years plus the annual dues rate for each year.*

New Business:

(A) No new business.

Next Meeting: The Fall meeting was set for Sunday, September 18th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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 – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O'Dell
3. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - "Enter at Your Own Risk" sign
4. Sloans Valley logo – Bush, Gratsch, Harrington [also Gott, Neena Jud]
5. Possible Coasters, T-shirts and other donation perks for Sloans Valley
6. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush, Coomer, Gratsch, Gott
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 scope of work survey at GSP – O'Dell
17. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott



SUMMER 2022 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, June 5th, 2022

Main Branch Boone County Library, Burlington, KY - 2:00 P.M.

- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**
- A. Announcements**
 - 1. ?????
- B. Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - 1. Minutes 3-6-22
- C. Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
 - 1. Life Membership Fund annual distribution
- D. 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 building
 - 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 Harrington & Joe Morgan**
 - a. Neighboring property sale
 - b. Signage, Logo, Donation Pipe
 - c. Old Greenhouse clearing?
 - d. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
 - e. Management Plan
 - f. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?
 - G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**
 - a. Kroger recycling program? Jackson Energy “round up” program?
 - H. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
 - 1. Miller Family meeting?
 - 2. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
 - 3. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
 - I. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud**
- **Old Business**
 - Susan Neumeyer Archeology Research
 - Transitional Membership Clarification in Bylaws
- **New Business**
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**