Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – September 18, 2022
Final

In Attendance 9/18/22:

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

Others: Mike and Rhonda Harrington and Mike Wuerth were present online. Neena Jud, Scott Pavey, Debi Pavy were present on site.

65th 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 2:18 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. The group email **RKCboard@rkci.org** does not appear to be working as planned. Also, the rkci.org emails have caused scam problems.
2. Bill Cuddington, a well known vertical caving pioneer, passed away in early August.

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 6/5/22.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 6/5/22 annual meeting (Jud, Gibson 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. RKC received an annual distribution of $1,087 on 3/21/22 from the NSF for the Life Member Endowment Fund. This was the maximum available per our fund agreement since the total fund value had declined due to the market.
2. $5,215 was received from KOR for camping, plus a split of the extra utility costs.
3. Jud submitted a balance sheet and profit / loss statement. There were a number of donations, including the annual contribution from GCG. Jason Rudder is a new life member.
4. Jud renewed our non-profit status with the State of Kentucky. He also electronically filed RKC's annual 990 tax return for 2021.The 26 page document is available to view on request.
5. The value of both our investment accounts, Life Member and Legacy, is down due to the current market.
6. Jud would like to thank Shane Mullins and Chanda Ziegler for letting us use their address as the official RKC address. Eventually the GSP caretaker's house will be our official address.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report, Life Member Fund Report, and Endowment Fund Report as provided (Gibson, Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

Committee Reports:

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

1. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update, as well as the tri-fold display board. Gott sent Rob Coomer images (supplied by Mike Harrington) and language changes for the display board. Gratsch will follow up with him.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey)

1. Karst-O-Rama went well, and finances are wrapped up.
2. The title for the caretaker house has been transferred. A new title will be generated, with the building incorporated into the main property. Gratsch and Gott volunteered to accompany Jud to the lawyer's office and courthouse to sign and file paperwork. Renovations to the building are underway. The GSP Committee has three applications for a new caretaker.
3. GSP is updating their management plan.
4. Caver Appreciation weekend last week had a small turn out. A Halloween party is planned the last Saturday in October as a fundraiser for the caretaker's residence. Mary has items to donate for a used gear sale on Sunday.

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

1. Sean Cain reported that there was a trip into Misty in June.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg)

1. No further action from new contractor Joe Smith on a bid for road work on the washed out driveway. He is still very overloaded.

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

1. Gratsch wants to run a survey to try to connect Cornhole to Goochland Cave, once the weather dries out.

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

1. There is a new neighbor in the old Crockett house, Ryan, with a wife and son. He started a fence project without looking for property boundaries from the survey. Harrington stopped him before there were more than holes dug. The new owner also planned to gate the road where it branches from South Hwy 27 Loop 3, however, Mike informed him that we have an easement on our deed to guarantee road access. He said that he plans to move the remains of the greenhouse, which we wanted.
2. A storm last spring took down a number of sycamore trees along the railroad bed, which has become quite overgrown.
3. A number of versions of a new Sloans Valley Cave Preserve logo were considered. Two versions of the logo were chosen as official logos, one without a black background area and easier to put on a t-shirt.
4. A sign is needed at each entrance including "enter at your own risk" and "property of RKC." Now that the new logo has been finalized, sign creation can proceed for the brown and yellow signs. The SVCP logo will go at the top. Harrington will get his neighbor to create the signs.
5. Harrington would like to arrange a crew for a garbage pick-up, above ground and below, when the chiggers die down.
6. A new donation pipe is ready to install.
7. He would like to see a nice kiosk in the future.
8. At some point we will need to meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan.
9. The management plan is still in progress.

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.
11. The oasis area, not far inside the entrance, has been trammeled. It might help to define a pathway through it with rocks or survey tape, as a conservation project.
12. Thank you Mike Harrington for keeping an eye on the property and catching problems as they arise.

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. Karst-O-Rama raised $612 from the raffle, and $50 for donations to the caretaker residence fund.
2. Magnetic versions of the yellow and black Kentucky cave stickers have been created. Their raw cost is $2 each. They can be sold for promotional purposes. All that were taken to KOR were snapped up at $3 each. They will be henceforth sold for $4 each, to benefit the caretaker's residence fund.
3. Life members normally get a special silver Kentucky decal. Harrington created a magnetic version of the decal where the words "Life Member" show up better. **MOTION: To approve a budget of $200 for 100 "life member" logo magnets (Jud, Gott, by acclaim).**
4. The GSP Halloween Party and used gear sale will be a fundraiser for the caretaker residence.
5. With the finalized logo for Sloans, Mike Harrington will develop t-shirts and logo merchandise.

(H) Land Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. Gibson nominated Wendy Orlandi for Land Acquisition Chair. The Directors herby appointed her to the position.
2. O'Dell and Gratsch are planning to meet with the Miller family at some point. 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 was going to meet with Susan Neumeyer on 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. No report on this.

(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 suggests that clarification be made in policy, not in the Bylaws. There are a number of small changes that need to be made to the Bylaws, and this one update is not enough to go into it. The proposed amendment to the Bylaws was dropped. There is a policy document detailing membership amounts, "RKC Membership Policy", from 2005. The policy document is defined as an "act" of the Board. In this document, there is language allowing all membership money paid in a year to be applied to a different category. This policy could be amended without changing its existing language, by adding: A Transition Member is a

member making payments of a minimum of $25/month over a year, as a transition toward becoming a Lifetime Member. Transitional Members shall cover the current Life Membership cost within one year. Exact language will be developed and voted on by email before the next meeting.

New Business:

(A) Nominations for two Director's positions for the Board will be taken at the December meeting. The positions who will be up in March 2023 are Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson.

Next Meeting: The Winter meeting was set for Sunday, December 4th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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Action Items

1. GSP title work at Rockcastle County courthouse – W.Jud, Gratsch, Gott
2. Transitional Membership clarification in Membership Policy Document – Jud
3. GSP Halloween Party used gear sale for caretaker's residence – Gratsch
4. RKC Life Member magnets - Harrington
5. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
6. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan – Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O'Dell
7. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve - "Enter at Your Own Risk" sign
8. Logo merchandise such as T-shirts and other donation perks for Sloans Valley
9. Sloans Valley work crew clean up, above and below ground - Harrington
10. Tri-fold brochure update – Bush, Coomer, Gratsch, Gott
11. Skylight Dome Preserve driveway repairs – Bahrman, Brandenburg
12. Conservation Easement Pamphlet – Dobbs, Gott
13. Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Donation tube installation
14. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
15. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
16. Cornhole Cave survey – Gratsch
17. Miller Family Meeting – Gratsch, O'Dell
18. Susan Neumeyer scope of work survey at GSP – O'Dell
19. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott

FALL 2022 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 18th, 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 6-5-22

C. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud

1. Life Membership Fund annual distribution
2. RKC nonprofit tax return filed on 8/30/22

D. Committee Reports

A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott

a. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
b. Tri-fold display board revision
c. Problems with email group

B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey

a. Karst-O-Rama
b. 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 Herrington & Joe Morgan

a. New neighbor
b. Logo versions for review
c. Signage, Donation Pipe
d. Old Greenhouse clearing?
e. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
f. Management Plan
g. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?

G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch

a. Karst-O-Rama

H. Acquisition Committee

1. New Committee Chair
2. Miller Family meeting?
3. Acquisition Report

4. 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 – **Proposed Amendment Below**
- **New Business**
  - December nominations for 2 Directors for March 2023
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**

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Proposed Bylaws amendment. Added language is in red.

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.*