

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
**Annual Meeting – March 12, 2023**  
Final

**In Attendance 3/12/23:**

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

**Others:** Gary Bush, Mike Harrington and Josh Heinbuch were present online. Neena Jud, Wendy Orlandi, and Rob Coomer were present on site.

67th 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 2:07PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

**Announcements:**

1. Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson took their seat for another term on the RKC Board.
2. Gary O'Dell has a new book coming out, ***Bluegrass Paradise: Royal Spring and the Birth of Georgetown, Kentucky***. Royal Spring is the largest spring in central Kentucky, in a limestone formation.

**Officers for 2023:**

1. Patrick Gibson volunteered as **RKC Chair**. Mary Gratsch was nominated for **Vice Chair**. Mary Gratsch turned over Chair of the meeting to Patrick Gibson. Mary was thanked for being an excellent Chair over the years.

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

1. Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 12/4/22.
2. Read in-between meeting motion of 1/4/23: Skylight Road Repair. [**MOTION: Authorize a revised budget of \$3800 for the Skylight Preserve road repair based on the January 3, 2023 quote (Gibson, Jud 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5-0-0).**]

**MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 12/4/22 meeting and in-between meeting motion of 1/4/23 (Gratsch, Jud2<sup>nd</sup>, by acclaim).**

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

1. RKC received \$1,028 in individual contributions, mostly from Gary Barnes and Jeanie Trowbridge. Bush covered the \$95 fee to renew our website hosting for two years.
2. RKC received one new life membership (Mick Harrington) as well as regular membership income.
3. \$3,800 was paid for the Skylight Preserve road repair.
4. The value of both of our investment accounts, Life Member and Legacy, is down due to the current market.
5. Life membership funds were moved from holding into the NSF LM Endowment Fund.
6. Jud will soon start working on the annual tax report.

**MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report, Life Member Fund Report, and Endowment Fund Report as provided (Gott, Gratsch 2<sup>nd</sup>, by acclaim).**

**Committee Reports:**

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

1. The tri-fold display board changes are approved by the Board, thanks to Rob Coomer's help. We need to acquire the current display board in order to update it before Open House. The tri-fold flyer still needs an update, and Rob Coomer will send a proposed revision to the Board, based on the display board updates. Our goal is to have new flyers and display board by Open House.
2. Membership Drive – A Membership Renewal letter will be sent out by email to the RKC membership list. Annual memberships expire on March 31st. The membership drive will be promoted on social media in any way possible. Please speak up at your grotto meetings about renewing RKC memberships. After Jud finishes updating the membership list, the renewal email will be sent.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey was not present, Josh Heinbich and Patrick Gibson reporting)

1. The caretaker house renovations are mostly finished. Josh Heinbich is the new caretaker.
2. There is a new Caretaker Contract (see new business).
3. There is a new revision of the GSP Management Plan, approved by the GSP Management Committee
4. Open House is coming up May 20-21, please turn out to help if you can.

**MOTION: To accept the revised GSP Management Plan (Gratsch, O'Dell, 5-0-0).**

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

1. Sean Cain sent a report on the annual bat survey from 2-7-23. No White Nose Syndrome was found. Most common were the Indiana and Tri-colored bats.
2. There is a need for a clean-up trip to Misty Cave.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Josh Heinbich reporting)

1. Road repairs are completed. Pipes and grates seem to have weathered the recent storms well.

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

1. Gratsch notes how badly the cave entrance has fallen in. A spring above it has been very active, and is eroding the entrance area. It will be very difficult, and a 30' drop to get into the cave. She will visit again after some dry weather.

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

1. Funds from the donation tube have been mailed to Jud.
2. Pieces from the ruins of the old greenhouse are blowing into RKC property. Our volunteers are willing to help the new owner with it. The new owner has become more caver friendly.
3. A big Thanksgiving weekend get together may be possible.
4. The fence needs to be power washed and stained. Spring flowers that were planted are coming up.
5. They would like to plan a kiosk, which the Board has also suggested, and they were encouraged to submit a plan.
6. A cleanup trip, inside and outside of the cave entrance is needed. The third weekend in April is suggested (April 22), at 10 am.

7. At some point we will need to meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan. Joe Morgan has volunteered to work on this.
8. The management plan is still in progress. (Gratsch & Gibson)
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. The Amazon Smile program has ended.
2. Harrington talked to Good Brothers Ink about SVCP logo merchandise. We will plan to have some available by Open House.
3. SVCP Stickers – Harrington will have his friend print 100 stickers. These will be given to SVCP friends and donors. Neena Jud is providing him with the logo artwork, including the phrase "A Property of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy" at the bottom.

(H) Land Acquisition Committee: (W. Orlandi)

1. Wendy Orlandi is the new Land Acquisition Chair. She has been reaching out to area realtors who specialize in land and farm properties.
2. Orlandi would like to come up with a brochure that talks about how landowners can preserve their cave property. There have been some things written about this which RKC will try to pull together for her.
3. The Millers have three nice cave entrances in a concentrated area. Mrs. Miller has recently passed away.
4. Conservation Easement Committee – The Land Trust Alliance(LTA) reported that Congress passed the "Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act." This legislation will help prevent abuse of the conservation easement program, and hopefully improve the public's trust in this method of land preservation.

(I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Mary Gratsch)

1. RKC has been tabling this since before the pandemic, will try to address it before summer.

**Old Business:**

- (A) Gary O'Dell plans to host Susan Neumeyer for another trip to GSP in her task of creating a plan for an official archeology report on the saltpeter mining in the cave, if she can secure grant funding for her work.

**New Business:**

- (A) When the doublewide was purchased from Bill Carr last year, the physical mailing address for GSP became 237 Saltpetre Cave Rd Livingston, KY 40445. Jud will establish this as RKC's new Kentucky mailing address when re-registering with the State in the next couple of months. Our former registered Kentucky address was with Shane Mullins on Denny Cemetery Rd because GSP only had a Mt. Vernon P.O. Box number. This has since been discontinued. (The board thanks Shane and Chanda for providing this service since 2012).

- (B) A revised **Caretaker's Contract** has been created by The GSP Management Committee. It spells out in detail the relationship between the caretaker of the GSP property and GSP/RKC.

**MOTION: To accept the revised Caretaker Contract with GSP (Gratsch, Jud 2nd, by acclaim).**

(C) A timbering company (Howard McHargue) has asked us to mark the GSP boundary on the far eastern side near the Kristen Harper property by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> is suggested to hike the property line.

**Next Meeting:** The next Meeting was set for Sunday, June 4th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:31p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

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**Action Items**

1. Send Membership Renewal emails to the RKC membership – Gott, Gratsch
2. Mark GSP property boundary for neighbor’s timbering – March 19th or 26th
3. Sloans Valley Work Day – April 22nd, 10 am - Harrington
4. Print new Tri-Fold Display
5. Tri-fold brochure update –Coomer, Gratsch, Gott
6. Annual 990 Tax Report - Jud
7. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
8. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan–Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O’Dell
9. Logo stickers for Sloans Valley for donors and volunteers
10. Logo merchandise such as T-shirts for Sloans Valley
11. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
12. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
13. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
14. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
15. Susan Neumeyer historical survey at GSP – O’Dell
16. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott
17. Update RKC Bylaws



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## SPRING 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 12th, 2023

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

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- **Call to Order – Mary Gratsch**

- A. Announcements**

1. Mary Gratsch and Patrick Gibson re-elected as directors for a new term

- B. Officers for 2023**

1. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

- C. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**

1. Minutes 12/4/22
2. In-between meeting motion 1-4-23 Skylight road repair [below]

- D. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**

1. Life Membership & Endowment Funds

- E. Committee Reports**

- A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**

- a. Spring Membership Drive
- b. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
- c. Tri-fold display board revision

- B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**

- a. GSP Caretaker building
- b. Open House
- c. GSP Management Plan Update

- 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. Work Day for cleanup, above & below ground
- b. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
- c. Management Plan
- d. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?

- G. Fundraising Committee Mary Gratsch**

- a. Amazon Smile program ending
- b. Logo merchandise for Open House, KOR

- H. Acquisition Committee**

1. New Committee Chair is Wendy Orlandi
2. Acquisition Report
3. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott

**I. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud**

- **Old Business**
  - Susan Neumeyer Archeology Research – O'Dell
- **New Business**
  - GSP Caretaker's Contract
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**