

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Summer Board Meeting – June 4, 2023
Final

In Attendance 6/4/23:

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 and Sean Cain were present on site. Scott & Debi Pavey, and Gary Bush were present online. Mike Harrington joined a bit late. Susan Neumeyer joined later.

68th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy meeting was held at the Main Branch Boone County Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:00 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

1. Caver Bob Dobbs passed away on 4/22/23. A number of cavers attended his celebration of life service. Bob was instrumental in a number of roles, as Chair of the Greater Cincinnati Grotto multiple times, heading up many ridgewalking trips. He served as RKC acquisition Chair and liaison with local landowners, At GSP he was Chair for two years and longtime coordinator for school trips to GSP. He conceived and organized two "Music in the Mountain" fundraising events. He initiated the Friends of GSP Committee. He was instrumental in acquiring RKC's Sloans Valley and Skyline Preserves.
2. RKC was contacted by the new owners of a cave property on Wolf Creek in Orlando, and invited to visit their property. They contacted us through their copy of a 2007 issue of the RKC newsletter and a D.U.G. map of their cave.

Secretary's Report: (J. Gott)

1. Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/12/23.

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/12/23 meeting (Gratsch, O'Dell 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (W. Jud)

1. RKC received \$200 in individual contributions, and \$1,405 in memberships
2. There is \$900 in new life memberships waiting to be transferred into the Life Membership Fund.
3. The annual Life membership fund distribution of \$934.65 was requested and received from the NSF LM Endowment Fund. It was less than the normal distribution due to the downturn of the market this past year.
4. Jud has started working on the 2022 annual tax report. Standard extension to Oct. 15 due date has been filed.
5. There was a discussion on moving money into a short term CD as their rates have gone up.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report, Life Member Fund Report, and Endowment Fund Report as provided (Gratsch, O'Dell 2nd, 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. Sean Cain has brought the display board to the meeting today, and Mary will get it updated. The new tri-fold flyers have been printed. Gott has two boxes of them. Some should be kept at GSP, and a few kept at the kiosk. Some need to go to the NSS Convention. Gratsch will take a box of them.
2. Membership Drive was successful.

(B) GSP Committee: (Scott Pavey reporting)

1. There were 3,805 visitors through the cave at Open House. Sunday's good weather brought a record crowd. There were \$8,400 in donations and sales, much of that offset by costs. W. Jud reported that the bank caught two counterfeit bills, a \$10 and a \$20.

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

1. There is a need for a clean-up trip to Misty Cave, which Cain will try to organize this summer. Due to his work Sean may need to schedule this clean-up for a week day.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Patrick Gibson reporting for Josh Heinbuch)

1. Dana Sutherland is looking to re-work the gate to Hurricane pit, since it is quite heavy.

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

1. Nothing new.

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

1. People have been coming from all over to visit the cave, and contacting the committee through the RKC link.
2. The cleanup event was awesome. We helped the new neighbor with taking off the old greenhouse plastic, and picked up along the road. The day coincided with the annual earth day cleanup in Somerset, and they provided masks & gloves and picked up the trash we set by highway.
3. At some point they will meet with the sheriff's department about contact information and an emergency plan. Joe Morgan has volunteered to work on this.
4. 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. The adjacent landowners are also interested.
5. Harrington asked if we could put a link on the RKC website for people to order SVCP merchandise. He does not mind doing the shipping. The Board will discuss this further. It could be done by preserve on the website, if the preserve manager was willing to take on shipping.
6. The 24 SVCP T-shirts almost all sold out at Open House. He will need to reorder before KOR.
7. The management committee would like to plan a kiosk, which the Board has also suggested, and they were encouraged to submit a plan by the next meeting or before. A maximum budget of \$4,200 was set.
8. They are planning a get together at the preserve around Thanksgiving.
9. The management plan is still in progress. (Gratsch & Gibson)

MOTION: To ask Mike Harrington to order 48 more SVCP T-shirts (Gratsch, Jud, 5-0-0).

(G) Fundraising Committee:

1. At Open House there was a great request for GSP stickers. The current version is a round logo though, distributed only to stewards of GSP/RKC. A new rectangular version could be developed for the general public.
2. Neena Jud said GrantStation offers access to a database with profiles of thousands of grantmakers. Access to the full list costs \$179 for one year or \$239 for two years. This resource might lead us to good land acquisition funders. Gibson suggested emailing our membership to see if there is someone, or a team, interested in taking this role to monitor such a list. Gary Bush endorsed the idea of forming a committee to search out grantors also for projects at all our preserves. He suggested developing a 3-5 year (or longer list) of projects that the grant search committee could look into.

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

1. Nothing new.
2. Conservation Easement Committee – Nothing new.

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

1. Mary hopes to talk to people face to face at NSS about their expectations for it.

Old Business:

- (A) Gary O'Dell has heard nothing new from Susan Neumeyer about 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.
- (B) Werner Jud, Neena Jud & Josh Heinbuch marked the southeast GSP boundary per the request of the person who will be timbering for our new neighbors. Heinbuch reported local truck traffic is audible, indicating they have commenced.

New Business:

- (A) Treasury Records Migration Committee – Werner Jud suggested forming a subcommittee for an in person discussion about the best way to get the RKC finances updated to a multiple user platform, possibly Quickbooks in the cloud. Werner currently uses an older desktop version for RKC & GSP. In preparation for a new treasurer, it would be wise to migrate this system ASAP. He suggests Gary Bush, Dennis Green, Adam Mathis (since he is the GCG treasurer) and Janice Gott. The goal is to reach a decision on which way to move within 60 days.
- (B) FEMA/GSP – In the process of closing out the FEMA grant for road stabilization work at GSP, FEMA and the KY State Historic Preservation Office (KY SHPO) realized that there was not a certified archeologist onsite when we dug on the historic GSP property. They suggested that this oversight could be “mitigated” by having a state archeologist do a “Phase 1 archeological survey” of the GSP cave, which has not been done officially. There is an upcoming meeting Wednesday by zoom, and RKC members are encouraged to attend. They are planning to allocated one archeologist two weeks time to do this survey. This seems insufficient for the scope of work. Susan Neumeyer joined the meeting at this time and shared that she brought Nikol Koncol from the KY SHPO to Open House on Sunday morning. They toured the cave and discussed the proposal, and Nikol's reconsideration of the time frame to more like two days. [LATER NOTE: We are grateful to Susan Neumeyer for bringing Nikol Koncol from the KY SHPO to Open House. Nikol Koncol later met with FEMA and they concluded that no

archeological investigation needs to take place. The Wednesday meeting went quickly and the paperwork closeout is again proceeding.]

Next Meeting: The next Meeting was set for Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., location TBD, possibly at the Boone County Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

In-Between Meeting Motion 7-3-23:

MOTION: To authorize Dana Sutherland and the Skylight Preserve Management Committee to expend no more than \$200 for reimbursement, to reconstruct the Hurricane Pit entrance gate (Gott, O’Dell, 5-0-0).

Action Items

1. Print new Tri-Fold Display
2. Treasury Records Migration Committee meeting & recommendations
3. Annual 990 Tax Report – Jud
4. Plans for SVCP Kiosk – Harrington
5. RKC Website link for preserves’ merchandise? WJ will send email to board re shipping merchandise for each Preserve Manager
6. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Gratsch, Gibson
7. Create Sloans Valley Cave Preserve Management Plan–Harrington, Morgan, Gratsch, O’Dell
8. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
9. Misty Cave work crew/caving trip – Cain
10. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
11. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
12. Susan Neumeyer historical survey at GSP – O’Dell
13. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail research at Pulaski County PVA Office – Gratsch, Gott
14. Update RKC Bylaws



SUMMER 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

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

- **Call to Order – Patrick Gibson**
- A. Announcements**
 1. Beloved caver Bob Dobbs passed away 4/22/23
 2. Contact by new owner of Moonshine Cave entrance on Wolf Creek
- B. Secretary's Report – Janice Gott**
 1. Minutes 3/12/22
- C. Treasurer's Report – Werner Jud**
 1. Membership drive results
 2. Life Membership & Endowment Funds
- D. Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Spring Membership Drive was by email in late March
 - b. New RKC tri-fold flyers available
 - c. Tri-fold display board revision
 - B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
 - a. GSP Caretaker building
 - b. Open House
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - a. Set up work crew/caving trip to clean up debris
 - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 - a. ???
 - E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 - a. Assess eroding entrance
 - b. Survey trip
 - F. Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Herrington & Joe Morgan**
 - a. April 22nd Work Day results
 - b. Kiosk Plans
 - c. Thanksgiving get-together?
 - d. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
 - e. Management Plan
 - f. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?
 - G. Fundraising Committee - Mary Gratsch**
 - a. SVCP Logo merchandise for Open House, KOR
 - b. GrantStation (Neena Jud)

H. Acquisition Committee - Wendy Orlandi

1. Acquisition Report
2. Brochure for landowners about preserving cave properties
3. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott

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

- **Old Business**
 - Susan Neumeyer Archeology Research – O'Dell
 - GSP boundary on far eastern side marked at request of a timbering company
- **New Business**
 - Migrating Treasury Records to new Quickbooks platform
 - GSP Road Repair Project 2016-2018 FEMA Closeout Requirements
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**
