

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Summer Board Meeting – June 7, 2026 amended 9/20/26
80th Meeting held at the Monfort Heights Branch Library, Cincinnati, OH and online

In Attendance:

Directors: Werner Jud, Janice Gott and Mary Gratsch were present on site.
Patrick Gibson present online.
(A quorum does exist)

Others: Debi Pavey, Richard Duncan, Neena Jud, were present on site.
Mike Harrington, Gary Bush, Suz Gagnon, and Sean Cain were present online.

Meeting called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:12 PM EDT. Meeting agenda attached at end.

A Announcements:
none

B Secretary's Report: (M. Gratsch)

1. Asked for comments/amendments to the Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/15/2026 as posted on the RKC website; no response.

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the 3/15/26 meeting, as posted on the website.
(W. Jud motioned to accept, J. Gott 2nd; passed by acclaim).**

C Treasurer's Report: (J. Gott)

1. 1 new life member, Peter Larkins.
2. RKC received a donation from Honda, submitted by Suz Gagnon, Janice sent Suz a thank-you note since she had no contact info for Honda.
3. Sloan's tee shirt sales at Open House brought in \$315, minus expenses off \$145, resulting in a net of \$170.
4. Open House tie dye shirts and jewelry brought in \$1190 for the Landowner Appreciation Fund.
5. The Sloans Preserve donation pipe brought in \$60.
6. Jeanee Towbridge donated \$350.
7. The Life Membership Fund has declined slightly in value; stocks were down in 1st Quarter.
8. Federal Taxes- Janice filed for an extension.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. (Gratsch, Jud 2nd; by acclaim)

D Committee Reports:

(a) Membership/Message Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Spring Newsletter was sent out by email.
2. RKC had a display at Open House, provided brochures and sold tie dyed shirts and jewelry, Thanks to Janeen Sharpshair for organizing this. Janice, Janeen and Synda worked the table and talked with the public.

(b) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey)

1. Open House - final report should be available soon; expected to clear \$700; we may need to trim the food budget.
2. Ticket House repairs are picking up with the nice weather. Scott Pavey to spearhead repairs to roof and gutters.
3. Culvert at the base of the road to the tractor barn has been installed.
4. Leopold bench was delivered and set up.
5. There is a pre-NSS Convention event to be held at GSP from Friday to Sunday.

6. Discussions on updating the Charter are progressing.
7. Werner reported that on the tree harvesting/GSP boundary issue that adjacent landowner is not accepting the deeds legal description of 'stone in drain' and we may need to consult an attorney, such as Jerry Gilbert, to resolve this issue.
Jerry Gilbert, the Richmond attorney consulted about the boundary issues, attended Open House. If needed in the future, his fees are \$225/hour, with no retainer fee.
8. W. Jud reported that a large Black Oak was harvested, not the boundary tree.
9. P. Gibson reported that the mortgage on the Caretaker Residence has been paid off and all lenders have been repaid.
10. There is one year and 3 months left on the Caretakers lease. (ending October 1,2027) The position should be advertised soon.

(c) Misty Cave Committee: (Sean Cain & Pete Stow)

1. Sean checked on the cave on Monday, April 4 and found it in good condition.
2. Sean gave the Deed Plat map to Neena, who will have it scanned then Gary B will add it to the website.

(d) Skylight Dome Committee: (Jerry Brandenburg & Thor Bahrman)

1. No report.

(e) Cornhole Cave Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Nothing new to report.

(f) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve: (Mike Harrington, Joe Morgan)

1. N. Jud shared plan options for prefabricated shelters that can be obtained through Lowes. These are smaller than what the Grant Committee based the Kentucky Colonels Grant Application on, and should fit the site much better. These plan options included ideas about a place for changing clothes and a panel for information which would require additional material to be bought. This prompted further discussion. See also Grant Committee below. (shelter plans included at end of minutes)
2. M. Harrington suggested RKC confer with the Southern Title Company, who took over Bruce Orwin's law practice, to look into the question of access off Trail's End Road.

MOTION To create a committee to investigate the access issue at Sloan's Valley Preserve. Committee members to be: Janice Gott, Mary Gratsch, Janeen Sharpshair and Mike Harrington. (W, Jud, J. Gott 2nd ; approved by acclaim)

3. M. Harrington and adjacent landowners are pursuing the acquisition of the Cathy Crockett Trail and asked RKC to remove this from the agenda.
4. Sloan's tee shirts need to be inventoried for possible reorder.

(g) Fundraising Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Sale of tie dyed tee shirts and jewelry was a success! Thanks to Janeen Sharpshair, Lacy Braley and Mary Gratsch for items donated for sale.
2. Gratsch plans to set up the RKC display, run the annual raffle and sell tie dye tee shirts at Karst-o-Rama 2026.
3. The remaining survey vest and several other items will be put in the NSS Convention Co-op for sale.

(h) Land Acquisition: (Janeen Sharpshair)

1. Janeen printed out copies of the Kentucky Recreational Laws, along with the 'Cave Owners' Brochure, to pass out at Open House, KOR, and the NSS Convention.

(i) NSS Preserves Program/MOU Committee: (Gratsch, Gibson, Jud)

1. No report.

(j) Grant Committee: (Neena Jud, Jared Embree)

1. Neena met with Molly Sutherland, a grant advocate with the Kentucky Colonels, at the

Sloan's Preserve on May 4th. Of the \$4499 requested grant for a shelter, \$2500 has been verbally awarded. Lowes list price for the 10' x 12' shelter is \$2499, the 10' x 14' shelter is \$2799. The majority of the Board at the meeting prefer the 10' x 14' size. We will watch the Lowe's website for another sale. In addition to the shelter package, we need a concrete foundation/slab. Mike will get pricing for the concrete work. We will not make a motion or proceed until we receive the award letter from the Kentucky Colonels. RKC will need to submit receipts and we will be reimbursed. They reimburse within 7-10 days. RKC was encouraged to submit a grant application again next year, for under \$5000 again. Typically approved grants are for about half the requested amount.

(k) Waiver Committee:

1. Nothing new.

E Old Business:

1. GSP Charter is still being worked on. P. Gibson, D. Pavi and N. Jud are working on this. The Management Plan will be next.
2. W Jud reviewed the proposed changes to the GSP Charter and commented on some punctuation and spelling errors. He also commented on some of the proposed changes, which have the RKC Board appointing the GSP Committee Treasurer and Chair, as being micromanaging the Committee. Several other Board members expressed the same opinion
3. G. Bush commented that his research found that the GSP Charter states that RKC has no access to GSP Committee Funds, however, this needs to be in the Bylaws so it can not be amended or removed by future Boards. Move Resolution from the 3/1/2008 meeting into the By-laws.
4. Ken Bailey is currently working with Kentucky Karst Conservancy (KKC) on a MOU between RKC and KKC to manage the Mushroom entrance to Big Bat Cave in case of KKC's dissolution. Currently they are busy with the NSS Convention but will get back to work on this after the Convention.
5. There was a discussion on whether there would be a cost associated with having the Liability Waivers submitted on line.

F New Business:

1. There was a suggestion that GSP and RKC financial records be reviewed every 2 years.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting is set for Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, at the Deer Park Branch Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

MOTION: To adjourn (Gratsch, Jud 2nd, by acclaim)

Meeting Minutes prepared by Mary Gratsch

.....
Action Items

1. Mike Harrington to get bid for cement pad for new shelter,
2. Jerry Brandenburg to obtain a bid to repair the road to Skylight.
3. Mike Harrington to submit estimate for cost associated with Sloans clean-up; to include food and dump fees.
4. RKC Website link for SVCP logo merchandise–Harrington, Bush, Gott
5. Gratsch to work with Ken Bailey on MOU between RKC and KKC
6. Sloans committee to look into RKC's legal access off Trail End's Road
7. Walk Misty Boundaries. – Sean Cain
8. Meet with Pulaski County officials to determine RKC access rights to the Sloans Preserve Parking area off Trails End Road.- J. Gott, M. Gratsch, Janeen Sharpshair
9. Cornhole Cave survey and mark boundary trees. – Gratsch
10. Learn more about potential closing of a Sloans passage by Fish & Wildlife Service and

whether RKC should comment. - Gibson

11. Research transfer of GSP Committee and funds from GCG to RKC and make legal if it hasn't already been done.
12. Update RKC Bylaws.
13. Update RKC Strategic Plan.