

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy  
General Meeting 9/28/2008  
Minutes

In Attendance:

Howard Kalnitz	Werner Jud	Neena Jud	Bill Addington
Deb Bledsoe	Tammy Otten	Greg Martin	Robert Yuellig
Bob Dobbs	Rob Coomer	Matt Keller	Jim Perkins
Mike Rzesutock			

Meeting Called to Order

By Werner Jud, Chairman, at 2:05pm

Announcements:

- Werner announced this is the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of RKC
- Ellie Schiller of the Felburn Foundation is sick, and in hospital. She was always a great supporter of RKC and was the key individual responsible for the transfer of GSP to RKC. Some discussion was had how we can recognize her for the efforts she put forth for us.
- Wayne Barton passed away Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>. He attended the first and several subsequent meeting of the RKC, and was another great supporter. He made many contributions to GSP as well as a lot of hard work. He will be missed
- RKC received a donation in the amount of \$20.00 from The Robertson Assn. (the group that runs Old Timers). Jim Perkins dealt Blackjack at a function and the profits were split up and sent to the conservancies represented by those helping.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Vote to accept as published on website

Motion – W. Jud  
Second - H. Kalnitz  
Vote – unanimous

Treasurers Report

Cash on Hand	\$20,497.00	
Expenses Approximately	\$200.00	
Recent income:	\$1313.00	comprised of:
		\$503.00 from bar at KOR party
		\$440.00 from RKC raffle at KOR
		\$345.00 from new members at KOR
		\$20.00 misc donations (keep the change)
		(plus \$20.00 handed over during meeting for Land Acquisition Fund)

No income from Open House this year.

Taxes were filed with forms found on-line for non-profit organizations, therefore no fees paid to accountant.

We also received a \$200 donation from Dick Blenz



balance  
sheet\_09\_08.xls



profit\_loss\_09\_08  
.xls

Comment from Deb Bledsoe:

Appalachian Federal Credit Union has offered ASPI approx 5.75% interest on CD with complete liquidity (no delay to withdraw money under \$50,000; one week delay over \$50,000). This credit union is FDIC insured up to some amount. She recommends investigating this as an alternative to leaving all our funds in a checking account with little or no interest.

Committee Reports

### GSP Report – Bob Dobbs

- A New Lease was signed with Bill Carr in March 2008
- Bob Dobbs Report was read



GSP REPORT for  
RKC.doc

- GSP has almost completed last year's Project List, and now the composting toilets and the kitchen wastewater are high priority.
- GSP is applying for grants and raising funds for construction of the first Composting Outhouse.
- Shawn Pollock and Beth Brinkley are proving valuable as local members
- Hillary Lambert held a workshop on building organizations and raising funds for GSP and RKC Unfortunately due to mixed communications it was not well attended. However she shared many ideas such as:
  - o Forming a 'Friends of GSP' local organization
  - o Building a better fundraising committee
  - o Expand our membership
- She has agreed to hold another workshop if it will be better attended
- Impact of beavers at GSP has been investigated by a Wildlife Biologist with the State of Kentucky. Options for handling this problem will be discussed at the next GSP Committee meeting
- The Next GSP meeting will be Tuesday October 7, 2008 at Bob Dobb's house.

### Fundraising Committee - OPEN

- There was much discussion about the lack of people willing to step up and be the Fundraising chair. Joetta Hutson is willing to help run small fundraising events (such as the raffles at KOR) but is does not want to chair the committee at this time.
- We had much discussion on how to use Hillary Lambert's ideas to generate fundraising and possibly use that to help grow a leader
- We should look at bringing this workshop as a program to Grottos to spread the ideas and build ownership of fundraising
- Several people were mentioned as possible leaders
- Bill Addington raised the issue of 'marketing' GSP and questioned if this was a good thing
- Discussion about GSP marketing was defaulted back to the GSP committee
- Some discussion followed on what Membership to RKC stood for and what we can do in the future to make membership in RKC more attractive for various types of cavers and non-cavers

### Land Acquisition Committee – Bill Addington

- The LAC met twice in the last 6 months
- Notes are on the RKC directors group
- Wynn's' property and CCIC has been posted for No Trespassing. It is now hunting season which is an added issue for them. Due to a recent encounter between the landowner and cavers it is important to stay clear. Negotiations were tried to lease the cave, but have so far proved fruitless, we will continue these as we can.
- Cornhole cave lease is being worked on. We have authorized Bob Yuellig to make contact with a local lawyer to get the lease examined. He will get an approximate cost on the fees and get back to the board for a vote. Several names of lawyers were offered. Discussions resulted in a preference for a lawyer local to Rockcastle County, familiar with the challenges of verbal property surveys in the area and easing potential conflicts with adjacent land owners.

### Business

- The Land Acquisition Committee Restructure Proposal was read



Funding.Steward  
ship.Identification

Motion to Vote: W. Jud  
Seconded: H. Kalnitz  
Vote Unanimous

- The Case Manager Proposal was read:



Motion to Vote: W. Jud  
Seconded: M. Rzesutock  
For: WJ, HJK, MR  
Against: JP

- Land Acquisition Fund Proposal was read:



The purpose of this motion is to formalize the fact that a Land Acquisition Fund was established when the books were set up, and establish the rules surrounding this as a restricted fund. Discussion included legal concerns about emergency use of funds from a restricted account, the suggestion that in an emergency, money would be loaned out of this fund, rather than just used, and a need to maintain sufficient liquid funds to cover general operating expenses of the organization and each property. Suggestions were made that members asking for donations and marketing materials refrain from asking for restricted donations; and that we become aware of the proportion of our balance that is restricted. Mike Rzesutock thinks it is currently about 30% restricted.

Motion was tabled until after we get a legal opinion.

During discussions with a member of another cave conservancy, it was shared that they purchase two kinds of cave properties:

- 1) the "popular caves" that cavers want to protect and are willing to contribute towards their purchase; and
- 2) the "unpopular caves" that need to be saved, so this conservancy must front the money.

It was suggested that RKC may need to purchase a "popular cave" next to diffuse the issue of "what access do I get for my contribution?"

Discussion of access to RKC owned properties relative to new acquisitions. Some concern was raised about entering into purchase negotiations for a property before defining what the access will be to that property. Bylaws state that each property shall have its own management plan which will incorporate access to property. In other words, each property will have its own hoops to jump through. The management plan can begin to be developed as negotiations are underway. It probably should be developed concurrently to consider funding for operations and maintenance. It is the job of the stewardship committee to start the management plan and arrange for an independent management committee to take over

Membership Involvement in RKC: It should be noted that the general membership tends to not show up at RKC Board meetings to make their input known. Conversely, publishing detailed meeting minutes and proposals seems to aid in communication with members. Members can then respond back to the Directors. It seems to the Directors and members present at the meeting that communication is working.

#### Election Committee – Howard Kalnitz

- The New Election Committee Rules were read:



Motion to Accept: W. Jud  
Seconded M. Rzesutock  
Voted Unanimous

- Nominations Are Opened!

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meeting

- Sunday December 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm – Location to be published

Meeting minutes prepared by Howard Kalnitz, Secretary