

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
Summer Meeting - 7/12/2009
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Howard Kalnitz
Werner Jud
Mary Gratsch
Pat Hutson

Bob Dobbs
Pete Stow
Neena Jud
Mike Rzesutock

Alan Leach
Dan Zubal

Meeting at Scheben Branch Boone County Library, Union, Kentucky
Called to order by Howard Kalnitz, Chairman at 2:00 pm

Meeting agenda is attached



RKC Summer Meeting
2009 agenda .pdf

Announcements:

Website:

Andy Niekamp wants to divest himself of the role of webmaster.
Leah Turner is back in the area and is willing to be the webmaster
She is paying for the website as her contribution to RKC.
She has copied the previous information into the new website, reformatted a bit, and will add a link to the GSP website.
This will be located at www.rkci.net – currently only up for review by board members.
Andy needs to be removed from the PayPal account and Leah added.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Vote to accept minutes as published on website

Vote – Aye – unanimous (4) (W. G. Bush absent)

Treasurer's Report:

Details are in the attached Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss reports:



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RKC has approximately \$15,000.00 in available funds.

Misty Cave current monetary situation:

Out of the \$ 21,206.00 total cost for Misty Cave, RKC paid all but \$10,000.00, which we got from a private loan from Richard Blenz.

With the money from this private loan, we bought a Certificate of Deposit at Community Trust Bank, which we used as collateral for a \$10,000.00 commercial loan.

In five months \$3,900.00 has been raised towards paying off this \$10,000 loan.

Approximately \$700.00 was handed to the Treasurer at this meeting that is not accounted for in the attached reports.

Interest on the commercial loan is owed to Community Trust bank every six months.

The balance is owed in twelve months. At 12 months, we can pay \$70.00 loan renewal fee and purchase another CD for the remaining balance.

The interest on the loan to Richard Blenz is whatever interest we receive on the CD.

Committee Reports

(A) Membership Committee (Alan Leach)

128 current members (includes new and renewing memberships from KOR).

Discussion about membership included comments about increasing membership outside the grottos and the region in order to increase income. Howard is considering preparing a "road show" with a video or slide show to take to other surrounding grotto meetings to raise awareness, membership, and income.

(B) Legal & Financial Sub-committee of the Land Acquisition committee: No report

(C) Stewardship Committees

a. Sub-committee: Misty Cave

Pete Stow & Shane Mullins have visited the site and surveyed some members to develop ideas for management plan.

They are considering blazing the property line.

Second priority will be to develop trails

A written plan including a time-line has been requested from these Committee members.

They are being asked to consider the parking issues and a kiosk.

b. Sub-committee: Cornhole Cave

During KOR, Roger June helped with some roadwork.

There was a trip to Cornhole during KOR, during which 7 or 8 people went in as far as the second ladder.

Mary Gratsch feels it is important to finish the survey and get more people familiar with the cave before it is opened for visitation. She is anticipating this will take a year.

More people are needed on the committee. Bill Addington is a candidate.

A written management plan needs to be developed.

(D) Acquisition Identification Committee (Bill Addington) – No report

Larry Hammonds recently purchased Teamers & Humongous Caves from his family in the public auction

(E) Fundraising Committee (Dan Zubal)

Approximately \$700 income for RKC from KOR from selling popcorn, and a raffle of contributed items.

He has not had a chance to prepare the new certificates

It was suggested to approach NSS to contribute.

(F) GSP Committee (Bob Dobbs) - Report is attached



GSP Report to RKC
2009-07-12.pdf

Old Business

(A) White Nose Syndrome

Mary assembled some thoughts for an RKC current position statement (attached)

Discussion included comments like Commercial caves are a teaching tool.

There was a suggestion to use the Mammoth Cave protocol, in which they ask people if they have recently been in another cave, in those clothes, with those shoes; and if so, request decontamination procedures be carried out, or do not enter cave.

There was a suggestion to leave Misty Cave closed for this year and re-evaluate the situation "season by season".

There is a political aspect to this – communication with the Forest Service.

Mary will wordsmith the statement a little more as a result of the discussion at this meeting.



RKC Stance on White
Nose Syndrome and C

(B) Felburn Foundation

Werner has been staying in touch with Guy Marwick, the new executive director. No further news at this time.

(C) Cattletsburg as permanent address for RKC

It was decided to ask Lisa Pruitt Thorner (Brandenburg) if she still wants to keep this as the permanent address.

If she would like to divest herself of this responsibility discussion revolved around where would be a good permanent address. There was a suggestion of a Mt. Vernon address, and possibly sharing the P.O. Box for GSP (due to the infrequency of mail to either entity). Werner will investigate this.

New Business

(A) Revision to Membership Categories

Howard Kalnitz distributed a proposal via email to prepare the Board and the membership to discuss changes to the categories of membership, which are described in the Bylaws. At this meeting he distributed a revised proposal, which deleted the changes to the Life Membership category previously proposed. The primary change being proposed therefore is to modify the Sustaining Membership category to be one in which a member allows monthly or quarterly payments to RKC to be billed to their debit or credit cards, making the process automatic and continual until the member chooses to stop the payments.

Ensuuing discussion included minor word-smithing and the benefits of this change to the sustaining membership category – which include:

1. creating an income stream.
2. creating a method for members to donate small amounts of money over time.
3. creating a method to allow current members to increase their donations.

It was noted that the amount of dues for each membership category is established as an Act of the Board, which can be changed much more easily than the membership categories, which are defined in the Bylaws.

A motion was made (HK) and seconded (MG) to read the revised proposal into the minutes for further discussion and action at the next meeting.



Sustaining
Membership proposal

It was requested that the Board and membership consider how much to raise the cost of new lifetime memberships, and ways to raise funds from our current lifetime members, most of which joined at the highest cost category within the first year of RKC. A suggestion was made to consider sales to local businesses.

Next Meeting:

Tentatively in October
Nominations will open at that meeting for next election.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Neena Jud

**RKC Summer Meeting – 7/12/09
Scheben Library – 2pm**

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Minutes from Last Meeting (abbreviated reading)
- 4) Treasurers Report
- 5) Committee Reports
 - a. Membership Committee – Alan Leach
 - b. Legal and Financial subcommittee of LA – Werner Jud
 - c. Stewardship Committee –
 - i. Misty Cave – Pete Stow/ Shane Mullins
 - ii. Cornhole Cave – Mary GratschStill Need Management/Access plan for Cornhole
 - d. Acquisition Identification Committee – Bill Addington
 - e. Fundrasing – Zubal
 - f. GSP Report
- 6) Old Business
 - a. White Nose Concerns - Gratsch
 - b. Felburn update - Jud
- 7) New Business
 - a. Sustaining Membership Proposal

8:19 PM
07/29/09
Cash Basis

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of July 12, 2009

	<u>Jul 12, 09</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Chase JPM	11,265.66
1002 · Community Trust	
1003 · Misty Funds	3,745.65
1002 · Community Trust - Other	1,368.29
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Total 1002 · Community Trust	5,113.94
1006 · Community Trust CD	2,680.25
1007 · Community Trust CD RBNC	10,053.02
1010 · Petty cash	5.22
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Total Checking/Savings	29,118.09
Other Current Assets	
1120 · Inventory Asset	107.90
1299 · Undeposited Funds	821.00
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Total Other Current Assets	928.90
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Total Current Assets	30,046.99
Fixed Assets	
1140 · Real Estate Assets (GSP)	350,000.00
1141 · Real Estate Asset (Misty)	18,000.00
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Total Fixed Assets	368,000.00
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TOTAL ASSETS	398,046.99
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	

8:19 PM
07/29/09
Cash Basis

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of July 12, 2009

	<u>Jul 12, 09</u>
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2003 · Bank loan for Misty	10,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	10,000.00
Long Term Liabilities	
2000 · R Blenz Nature Conservancy I...	10,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	20,000.00
Equity	
3001 · Opening Bal Equity	350,000.00
3010 · Unrestrict (retained earnings)	23,536.28
Net Income	4,510.71
Total Equity	<u>378,046.99</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>398,046.99</u></u>

07/29/09
Cash Basis

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
Revenue & Expenditures
January 1 through July 12, 2009

	<u>Jan 1 - Jul 12, 09</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4 · Contributed support	
4010 · Individual contribution	4,666.54
4210 · Organizations, Businesses	1,635.00
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Total 4 · Contributed support	6,301.54
5 · Petitioned revenues	
5210 · Membership dues	1,635.00
5220 · Fund Raisers	165.00
5250 · RKC Merchandise	75.00
5310 · Interest short-term inv	86.59
5490 · Miscellaneous revenue	0.23
5 · Petitioned revenues - Other	15.00
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Total 5 · Petitioned revenues	1,976.82
Total Income	8,278.36
Cost of Goods Sold	
5000 · Cost of Goods Sold	38.60
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Total COGS	38.60
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Gross Profit	8,239.76
Expense	
8100 · General Operating expenses	
8140 · Postage, shipping, delivery	168.31
8180 · Books, subscriptions, reference	33.00
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Total 8100 · General Operating expen...	201.31
8500 · Misc expenses	

	<u>Jan 1 - Jul 12, 09</u>
8590 · Bank fees	<u>70.00</u>
Total 8500 · Misc expenses	70.00
8600 · Business expenses	
8605 · Liability Insurance	132.97
8640 · Survey fees	2,500.00
8680 · Transaction fees	89.67
8690 · Recording fees	651.00
8695 · Lost inv items	<u>84.10</u>
Total 8600 · Business expenses	<u>3,457.74</u>
Total Expense	<u>3,729.05</u>
Net Ordinary Income	4,510.71
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
5300 · Shipping & Handling	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Income	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,510.71</u></u>

GSP Report to RKC July 12, 2009

The Great Saltpetre Preserve Committee is striving to maintain and protect GSP as a historic, natural preserve, yet use it as an educational tool for the local community and other groups on a limited basis. This past year it has probably seen more visitors than any time in recent history. The 2009 open house visitation was by far a record as was the number of school field trips in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009. This added activity plus the normal property maintenance has stressed our volunteers to the limit. DUG support of GSP has dwindled in the past few years, while BGG support is stable or increased. For various reasons, it seems that the GCG support has lagged the last couple of years. Although we have a core group that we depend on, more help is needed to ease the load. For GSP to continue on its present path will require a dedicated group of volunteers from all grottos involved.

Recent discoveries in the cave have led us to be a little more protective and visits from prominent geologists and hydrologists have challenged us to search for what some believe may be a lower passage.

Thanks to the hard work of Neena Jud, with help from Roger Brucker and others, a strategic plan was developed for GSP. Neena and other members of the fundraising committee have been actively seeking grants and this plan is a vital part of the process.

With the help of the three grottos, the GSP Committee and sub-committees have accomplished many things in the past year, but there is much left to do. Lighting in the cave has been improved greatly by adding more lights, replacing wiring and changing to energy saving compact florescent bulbs. The outside shower was recently upgraded thanks to Richard Duncan while Mike McNabb (and Jenny) put a new roof and siding on the upper outhouse.

Two lights still need to be added near the north entrance. Wood has been donated to build a fence barrier around the museum items and the exposed V-vats at the beginning of utter drag.

Due to the recent wet weather, we were unable to get gravel put on the roads before KOR. Gravel cannot be loaded and spread when it (the gravel) is wet. This is still on our to-do list and will get done in the next few weeks.

GSPC recently purchased a Cub Cadet commercial Z-turn mower to facilitate mowing. A great bargain was found on the mower and the GSPC asked the GCG board for \$3,500 from the monies GCG has been holding since RKC acquired the property. The GCG board had an emergency meeting and ok'ed the transfer of funds.

The GSPC has contracted with noted artist, John Agnew, do a painting/artwork that can be used as a GSP logo on merchandise and to be sold as prints. This is projected to be finished this year and the items will placed for sale on a GSP web site store.

Neena Jud, Werner Jud, and Tim Hale are still working on getting Great Saltpetre Preserve placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A motion was made and passed to name the back field "Wayne Barton Field" and plant an oak tree in Wayne's honor. Mary Gratsch will be in charge of getting the tree and planting it.

In spite of the cancellation of the GCG youth group program, GSP income is stable this year due to donations from Wayne Barton and his family, increased income from open house, and a successful 2009 KOR.

Bob Dobbs and the GSP Committee

RKC - Stance on White Nose Syndrome

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was founded on the dual purposes of promoting karst conservation and educating the public about karst conservation. The spread of what is being called White Nosed Syndrome has devastated bat populations in several prominent bat hibernacula caves and mines in the northeast. It has raised great alarm amongst caving, state/federal land management and conservation groups. Many organizations have elected to close all caves, except for WNS research, in an effort to 'contain' the disease. However, in all areas commercial caves continue operations as normal.

The RKC Board has reviewed the current information on WNS , it's spread, research into disinfecting procedures and has decided that the closures of the caves under it's jurisdiction needs to be made on a case by case basis.

Great Saltpetre Cave (GSC) – for all practical purposes GSP should be considered in the same category as 'commercial' caves and the current access policy of the Great Saltpetre Committee will change only slightly. The vast majority of its visitors to GSC are on educational tours, such as school field trips (###) or Open House (####) Assorted other visitors utilize the cave for weddings, reunions, or scientific study. Most of the visitors, including cavers, tour the cave in 'street' clothing which has not been in other caves.

GSC serves a valuable purpose as an educational tool. This needs to be taken into consideration when deciding whether to change the current access policies to various caves. A tour of GSC may be the only exposure many visitors have to caves and cave conservation.

Following the lead of Mammoth Cave, before any group enters the GSC each person should be queried as to whether they have recently been in any other caves in the clothing or shoes they currently have on. Disinfecting solutions are kept at GSP. If someone has been to an infected site, their clothing/shoes need to be disinfected before entry into GSC.

Cavers wishing to explore GSP will be required to disinfect all clothing, boots, packs and gear that have been in any cave/sinkhole /mine according to NSS approved methods.

Misty Cave – Misty Cave is considered a major bat hibernacula, which is currently closed yearly during the bat hibernation period. After much debate it has been decided that Misty will be continue to be closed on a month by month basis until more information about WNS is discovered.

Corn Hole – Corn Hole has very few bats, only an occasional pipistril. It will be kept open for surveying and exploration. However, the Goochland entrance is on Forest Service land and groups may not use that entrance to enter or exit Corn Hole.

As research uncovers more answers as to the actual causative agents resulting in the huge the bat mortality rate and how man might be able to mitigate the effects on the bat populations or the syndrome spreads to caves closer to Rockcastle County, this policy will be reviewed and amended.

Sustaining Membership Proposal

Old – ~~Struckthrough~~, New - *Italicized*

Section A. There shall be the following classes of membership in RKC:

1. Individual Membership. Individual members are persons who pay regular annual membership dues. Individual members shall have the right to vote for the Board.

~~2. Sustaining Membership. Sustaining members are persons who pay sustaining membership dues. Sustaining members shall have the right to vote for the Board.~~

2. *Sustaining Membership. Sustaining membership program allows members to continually sustain RKC by making monthly or quarterly payments Billed to their credit or debit card. The minimum sustaining membership is 5\$ per month, but can be as high as the member is willing to commit. Sustaining members have the right to vote for board*

~~3. Lifetime Membership. Life members are persons who pay a one time life membership dues payment. Lifetime members shall have the right to vote for the Board.~~

3. *Lifetime Membership. Life members are persons who pay a one time life membership dues payment. Life memberships are being retired in favor of Sustaining memberships. However current existing lifetime members shall retain all rights and privileges of their memberships for life. Lifetime members shall have the right to vote for the Board.*

4. *Transition Memberships. Any previous sustaining member making payments will be allowed to continue paying towards a life time membership. This is only available for those members who have made at least one sustaining membership payment before July 2009*

Accordingly the Membership policy will be amended as follows:

1. Membership Dues

The following membership dues amounts are set:

- a. Individual Membership - \$15.00 per year.
- ~~b. Sustaining Membership – \$75.00 per year.~~
- b. *Sustaining Membership – Minimum 5\$ per month billed directly to credit Card.*
- ~~c. Lifetime Membership – \$300.00 one time.~~
- c. *Lifetime Membership - retired.*
- d. Supporting Membership (for grottos, non-profits, youth groups) - \$25.00 per year.
- e. Supporting Membership (all other organizations) - \$50.00 per year.
- f. Benefactor Membership - \$1,000.00 one time.
- g. *Transition Memberships – \$75 until lifetime membership is achieved.*