

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – September 25, 2016
Preliminary Minutes – Final

In Between Meeting Vote 6-23-16:

MOTION: To authorize Sean Cain, as President of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, to sign the Executive Officer Certification of Application and the Applicant Assurances in the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Roadway Flood Mitigation Project. This is an application for FEMA Funds through the State of Kentucky to make long term improvements to water runoff control on the GSP entrance road.

The Motion also includes his signing a letter of commitment including the following:

The Board of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy (RKC) is in support of the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Roadway Flood Mitigation Project. This project will improve water runoff on the entrance roadway that has caused numerous problems over the years. Significant volunteer hours have already been invested in the study of the problem, and RKC is excited that the project may finally be implemented.

RKC stands behind the commitment to provide 13% matching funds, most or all of which is expected to be in volunteer labor. We have a wonderful crew of volunteers with significant professional knowledge that are prepared to engage in the project, as well as access to funds as necessary to fulfill the commitment.

(Motion J. Gott, 2nd W. Jud, 4-0-1, W. Jud abstain).

In Attendance 9-25-16:

Directors: Sean Cain, Werner Jud, Janice Gott. Tammy Otten attended part of the meeting by GOTO Meeting. (A quorum does exist.)
Steve Gentry was absent.

Others: Bob Dobbs, Howard Kalnitz (attended by GOTO Meeting), Neena Jud, Mike Wuerth, Richard Duncan, Fred Ball, Bill Addington, Bob Roth, Brian Pitcher, Bruce Soluski, Jerry Brandenburg, Jeff Young, Cindy Dobbs, and John Lambert (Pine Hill Property Owner).

43rd Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Shelterhouse of the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, KY. Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 10:04 AM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Announcements:

First order of business was a big thanks to Bob Dobbs for putting together a wonderful Dinner in the Mountain.

Secretary's Report: (Submitted by J. Gott)

Read summary of Minutes of Meeting of 6/12/16.

W. Jud moved to accept the Minutes. Second by S. Cain. Approved unanimously Vote: (4-0-0)

Treasurer's Report: (Submitted by W. Jud)

Dinner in the Mountain tickets and property acquisition donations have greatly increased the amount of Treasury activity lately. Current Fiscal Year details are in the September 25, 2016 Balance Sheet and June 12, 2015 thru September 25, 2016 Revenue and Expenditures Report.

J Gott moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Fund Report as provided. S. Cain seconded. Vote: (4-0-0)

(A) **Membership/Message Committee:** (T. Otten)

1. No Activity.

Committee Reports:**(B) GSP Committee:** (J. Brandenburg & N. Jud)

1. Dinner in the Mountain was a success.
2. They are planning a strategic planning meeting on November 6th.
3. Roadway Flood Mitigation Grant
Neena has no new information on the grant proposal for the FEMA grant money to make long term stability improvements to the GSP entrance road down to the shelter. It is moving along in the process.

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

1. No new activity. Brian reports that the access to Goochland Cave has been blocked. It has always been a public road, but the bridges are out and we are being denied access through Natl Forest land by a landowner. Pearsons would like us to contact the County on their behalf and ours.

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

1. No report.

Tammy Otten had to leave.

(E) Skylight Dome Committee: (H. Kalnitz)

1. The management plan has been completed & updated. Thor Bahrman and Dana Sutherland are co-managers, and have improved the property greatly. The trail has been re-routed away from the neighbor's house, and signage installed. Road grade and drainage improvements need to be made to maintain the integrity of gravel road. There is a plan to add a screen to the building porch for clothes changing area. Requests for the key have been made almost every weekend. Fundraising is going well. H. Kalnitz & T. Otten garnered a lot of donations at NSS with the help of Mary Kate Hutchins, who donated time as a (temporary) tattoo artist at KOR, as well as an NSS Fund donation of \$5,000. Dayton Underground Grotto held a challenge grant at Wormfest which brought in almost \$1,600. The South-east Kentucky Caver Invitational (SEKCI) awarded RKC their annual conservation prize for about \$500. Total donations have been over \$12,000 in the first few months. That is still only a portion of the total, and RKC still needs people to donate and donate often! First payments on the loan have been made. Fred Ball offered to donate creation of locks and keys. [See the attached Skylight Preserve report.]

(E) Fundraising Committee: (H. Kalnitz)

1. Dinner in the Mountain – B. Dobbs reports about 70 people paid full price to attend a catered dinner with music and a speaker, and with other attendees, including volunteers, about 30 more people paid the cost of dinner to attend, for about 100 total. The big push was to start getting money for an education center. About \$6,000 profit is expected, to be split between RKC and GSP. The Mt. Vernon Signal could use a press release about the event.

(F) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

1. The Acquisition Committee report was given by Bob Dobbs. The owners of the Schoolhouse entrance to Pine Hill cave sent a letter to RKC, and a representative to the meeting to discuss the future of that access point.

MOTION: To authorize Bob Dobbs as Acquisition Chair to negotiate as RKC's representative on the Pine Hill/Schoolhouse access. (J. Gott, S. Cain, 3-0-0)

2. Land Trust Committee (was Conservation Easement Committee) Report was presented by Janice Gott. LTA is updating the Standards and Practices, and may have a new set out this winter.

Old Business:

- A. RKC Key Policy (T. Otten) - No new discussion.

- B. Ann Nash Meeting (B. Dobbs) Meeting occurred on July 12th at Burlington Library. It was well attended by GCG, GSP and RKC. Ann pointed out that we should look for donations rather than focus on grants. Focus to the future and a paid staff as our work gets more complex.
- C. Strategic Plan (S. Cain)
- The GSP Strategic Planning meeting is in November. Our RKC President would like to call a special meeting to address strategic planning for RKC this winter.

New Business:

- Elections: Turning over this year are the terms of Sean Cain & Steve Gentry. J. Gott suggests if there are more than two applicants, we go to an on-line election service, rather than paper ballots. Nominations are open and we are looking for people who are willing to be active. J. Brandenburg nominated Bill Addington, who declined the nomination. N. Jud nominated Sean Cain, who accepts. Bob Roth would like to talk about a position.
- New donor cultivation – Dinner in the Mountain attendees need a thank you note, and donors need follow up.
- Southeast Kentucky Cave Invitational (SEKCI) – We received their Conservation Award of \$478. At their event, a drawing is held and the winner chooses the recipient of all profits from the event. The winner was Pine Mountain Grotto Chair Steve Vaughn, who designated RKC.
- Thank you to John Lambert for attending our meeting.
- LUSH Application – Lush cosmetic products has a very nice “Charity Pot” grant application for non-profit projects that are environmental or social consciousness oriented. The application is very project oriented, and has a \$25,000 limit per year. A new artifact display case in the GSP cave might be a good project. Richard Duncan and Jeff Young are interested in exploring display case options, and Janice Gott offered to submit the application.

Next Meeting: Will be held Sunday, December 11th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Burlington Library, if available.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by W. Jud, seconded by J. Gott at 11:36 AM
Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary



FALL 2016 MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, September 25, 2016
Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, KY

- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
- **Announcements**
- **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
- **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Tammy Otten/Janice Gott**
 - B. GSP Committee – Jerry Brandenburg**
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - D. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 - E. Skylight Committee – Howard Kalnitz/Thor Bahrman**
 - 1. Preserve Manager appointment
 - 2. Management Plan Revision
 - 3. Fund-Raising Report
 - F. Fundraising Committee – Tammy Otten/Bob Dobbs**
 - 1. White Collar Dinner – Bob Dobbs
 - 2. NSF Grant
 - G. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
 - 1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
 - 2. Land Trust Report – Janice Gott
- **Old Business**
 - A. RKC Key Policy – Tammy Otten
 - B. Meeting with Ann Nash – Bob Dobbs
 - C. Strategic Plan
- **New Business**
 - A. Elections/Nominations
 - Elections Policy
 - B. Donor/Membership Cultivation
 - C. SEKCI Thank You letter

- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**

Skylight Preserve management Committee Report
9/24/16

Wow - What a difference a few months makes!

Our last report was directly after the purchase of the property, but before the announcement and the beginning of fundraising. There is a lot of progress to report:

Property Management:

The Management plan has been completed and updated. Thor Bahrman and Dana Sutherland join me on the management committee as co-property managers. And they have started well. To date 2 maintenance days have already been held:

Sept 3:

- weed-eating around the bathhouse and up to the trailhead.
- removed downed limbs, and raked and cleared the trail to Hurricane Pit. I also partially raked and cleared the [upper?] trail to Skylight Pit. They both need more work.
- lined roughly a few places along the trail and temporarily blocked the section that leads from the upper connector trail section down to the former Skylight trailhead area at the top of our driveway. We can see if this works out since it will keep people away from the Thompson's house. I think this will be especially important at night so they don't have to deal with noise and lights fairly close to their home.
- Trails planned



Sept 24:

- Trailwork
- signs made and installed



- Gravel pulled out of road drains

Next Steps

- Continue to foster Good relations with our neighbors
- Maintain integrity of gravel driveway
- Place a screen on front porch of bathhouse
- Clean building trash
- Maintain one trail out of parking area

Property Use

There has been much rejoicing in the caving community with the opening of Skylight.

There have been trips almost every weekend, with Keys being requested by Dana Sutherland, Jerry Brandenburg, Thor, Jonathan Carmen, Tammy Otten and Myself. I would estimate over 50 people have dropped the pit in since the announcement at KOR

The managers or RKC officers have been handling most trips to date. As more, non-managers lead trips in the future, trip request forms will be filled out.

Next steps

- Get Skylight under RKC insurance policies..

Fundraising

Fundraising is going great as well, With Pam Duncan, Tammy Otten, and I on the committee. The grand announcement at KOR was a surprise to most. When anyone asked me what was up, I continually told them we had purchased Mammoth Cave! However the response was tremendous, and we raised almost 5000\$ including donations, Raffles and our Guest tattoo artist. We want to thank Pam Duncan and Tammy Otten among others who ran the raffle, and Mary Kate Hutchins, the Tatoo Artist who donated all her earnings giving temporary tattoos. Many of us wished they were permanent.

More good news followed soon after that. With Mike Hood, and Gary Bush's great help, the NSS Board donated 5000\$ to the Skylight Fundraising effort! We heard the news on the first day of the NSS convention in Ely, and it made the week for us! We want to thank the NSS and Kat Crispin of the Landowner Relations Committee who generously contributed. They have asked to have an NSS emblem on any signage on the property, we will be proud to.



and

And it has not stopped there - Dayton Underground Grotto recently held their Wormfest, and threw out a challenge grant netted almost 1600\$



that

And within days, we were also notified that SEKCI (the South-East kentucky Caver Invitational) Which met at GSP also awarded preserve their annual conservation prize for about 500\$



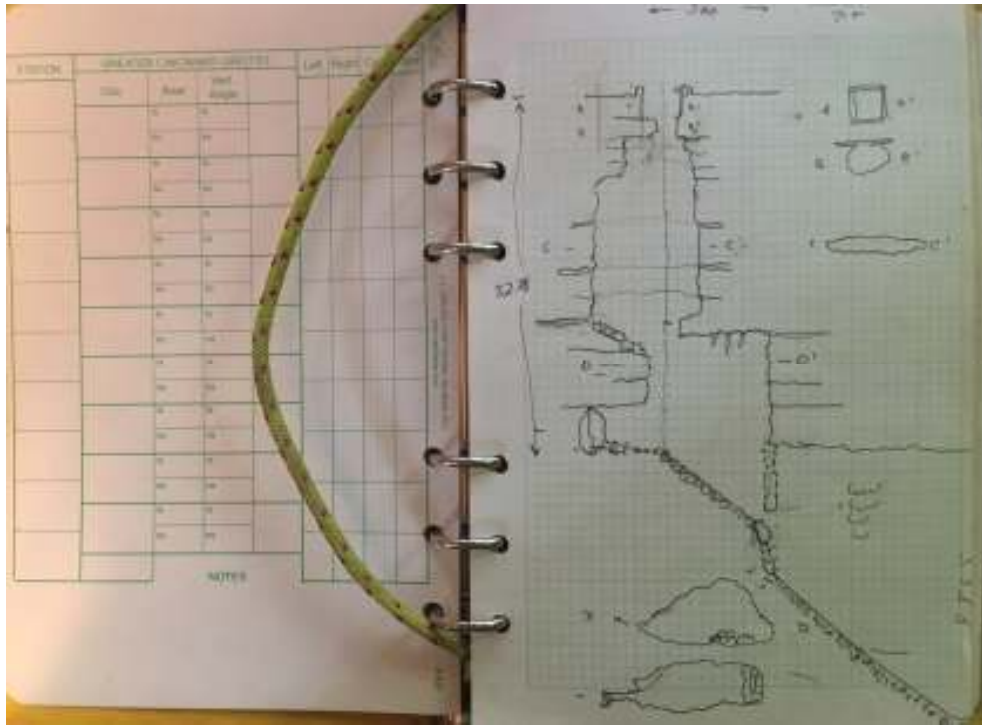
Skylight

So - If you are keeping count - that is over 12000\$ in the first few months

To help spur donations, we have some gifts for donors. Some of these are still in the works, but we have decided to drop the level of donation for the initial gift from 50\$ to 20\$! Every Donor who has, or who will give 20\$ or more, will receive the Skylight Dome Bumper Sticker! Work on these have already started, and we will be mailing these out to all previous donors over 20\$. Additionally we will send these to all donors who start continual giving..



Fundraising has slowed down somewhat, but we are still working hard, and we will continue to work hard. Just last week we surveyed both Skylight Dome, and Hurricane pit for donation maps:



Additionally, we have paid our first installment payment to our loan holders!

Howard Kalnitz

Management Committee: HJK, Thor Bahrman, Dana Sutherland

Fundraising Committee: HJK, Pam Duncan, Tammy Otten

Action Items

1. Bob Dobbs follow up with Lamberts on Pine Hill/Schoolhouse entrance access.
2. RD & Jeff explore display case details for Lush Charity Pot grant.
3. Set up Long term strategy meeting.
4. Tammy will begin process of creating key policy for RKC.