

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
General Meeting – March 24, 2019
Preliminary - Draft Minutes

In Attendance 3/24/19:

Directors: Sean Cain, Werner Jud, Janice Gott, Bob Roth.
(A quorum does exist.)

Others: Neena Jud, Mary Gratsch, Mike Wuerth, Kevin Zachary, Rob Coomer, Scott & Debbie Pavey, and Bob Dobbs were present.
Philip L. Francis III and Gary Bush were present online.

53rd Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Boone County Library, Burlington KY.
Called to Order by Chair Sean Cain at 2:06 PM.

(Meeting Agenda at end of Minutes.)

Seating of the New Board

Janice, the newest RKC Board member, had her position renewed for another term in December. The slate of RKC officers will stay the same, with Sean Cain as President, Bob Roth as Vice President, Werner Jud as Treasurer and Janice Gott as Secretary. Gary O'Dell is member at large.

Announcements:

Gary O'Dell had reported that Bill Russell, who pioneered cave exploration in Rockcastle County in the 1960s, has passed away in Austin, Texas, at the age of 82.

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

Read summary of Minutes of regular Meeting of 12/2/18 and Special Meeting 3/14/19.

MOTION: Motion to accept the Minutes of 12/2/18 (W.Jud, B.Roth 2nd, 4-0-0).

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/14/19 special meeting (W.Jud, B.Roth 2nd, 4-0-0).

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

The Greater Cincinnati Grotto sent a donation towards the Sloans Valley entrance, and several individual donations were received as well. Three new life members have joined, largely due to the Sloans Valley Preserve, and annual membership dues are being collected. The Winter Adventure Weekend brought in a modest amount for the Sloans Valley fund. RKC now has 60 life members. Sloan's Valley donations now total \$3,075.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Life Member Fund Report as provided (B. Roth, J. Gott 2nd, 4-0-0).

Committee Reports:

(A) **Membership/Message Committee:** (J. Gott/B.Roth)

1. A Winter newsletter was sent out. Material is due now for the Spring newsletter, which will go out with an annual membership renewal appeal. Gary Bush needs articles and pictures for the newsletter.
2. The RKC tri-fold flyers need to be revised, to include all four preserves, plus the incipient Sloans Valley Preserve. Rob Coomer prepared the original flyer, and has it in inDesign format. The RKC Tri-fold Sign for the information table has good new language that can be used. Sean will send Rob a blurb for Skylight Dome, and Mary will send materials for Sloans Valley.

(B) **GSP Committee:** (Scott Pavey)

1. The Roadway Flood Mitigation FEMA grant is complete and paid for. All grant funding, just under \$30,000, was finally approved and received from KYEM with persistence by N & W Jud. It is holding up pretty well in this extremely rainy year; only one drainpipe clogged.

2. They are working on a plan to help the vendors/parking field drain. An October work weekend accomplished much and pushed back the woods around the developed area.
3. A music video was filmed in the GSP cave. Dan Zubal's wedding is planned for next summer.
4. Scouts and school groups have been making great use of GSP.
5. Power lines and tractors have had improvements.
6. Sara Corrie Trail has had a rough year, part of it may need to be re-routed.
7. The kitchen had a lot of damage over the winter. The dumpster and port-a-potties had to be moved out of the flood zone, as the Crooked Creek bank is washing away. The sauna washed down the creek. The main relay for the cave lights needs to be replaced.
8. April 14th, GSP will have a "meeting in the field." On April 13th, they will have a "how to" walk-around the grounds to learn how the systems work.
9. Werner Jud points out that Scott Pavey has done a really good job as Chairman of GSP since December, not only with managing all of the problems that have arisen, but all of the people involved.

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

1. S. Cain reported that Misty needs trash pick-up along the creek.

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Thor Bahrman)

1. No one visited Skylight Preserve over the winter.
2. The road needs work; it is hard for non-4-wheel drive vehicles to get up the hill. Gravel has washed down the hill, and the hillside above the parking area drains into the driveway, causing a ditch to develop.
3. The trails to the pit entrance are holding, although they have some debris. Thor and a friend have done some trail maintenance.
4. Thor gave his contact info to the new neighbors.

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

1. The road is very rough, and needs work. Alternative access and parking is also a problem, because of the rough weather.

(F) Fundraising Committee:

1. Mary Gratsch reported that the survey has been completed of the RKC portion of the greater Sloans Valley property. Eric Sellers is waiting for an update on Tara's credit to refinance with their bank. Mary suggests that we could close on our 5.24 acres in the meantime, for the \$25,000 agreed upon.
2. Do we need T-shirts or mugs for donors of a certain amount? Bumper stickers? We also need a banner. We need a unique design, and a budget request for items. Rob Coomer may do some design work. Gary Bush suggests pushing for sustaining memberships, with an award such as a T-shirt.
3. The NSS Convention is June 17-21. KOR is July 19-21.
4. Rob Coomer suggests a GoFundMe site, which costs about 5% in fees, and may appeal to a wider crowd.
5. To apply for an NSS grant, we need a description of history and importance of the entrances, which are being composed. We also need estimates of the costs for closing, fencing around the pit entrance, constructing a kiosk/changing area, and defining and graveling a parking area.
6. Selling fleece items at Winter Adventure Weekend was slow, but our presence for Sloans Valley information was valuable. Gary O'Dell gave a well attended evening talk Saturday night.
7. Neena Jud noted that there is an Acres for America grant, that needs a preliminary application very soon, within a month. However those grants are targeted at larger properties, 300 acres to thousands of acres.

- 8. Bob Dobbs has asked Philip Francis III to give a program on Sloans at KOR. Philip is also willing to lead a KOR trip to the new Sloans Valley Preserve, and bring volunteers to help promote it.

(G) Acquisition Committee: (B. Dobbs)

- 1. Bob Dobbs reported that the Sloans Valley purchase is proceeding as reported.
- 2. J. Gott is tracking our compliance with Land Trust Standards and Practices during the Sloans Valley process.

Old Business:

- A. NSF Investment Fund – The Board had a special meeting about placing our Life Member Fund in the (NSF) endowment fund investment program. All agreed that the Life Membership principal should not be touched, and income for the RKC general fund should be drawn off of the annual proceeds. More comments have been incorporated. Bob Roth would like to see a prospectus from the NSF. Another meeting with NSF representatives will be arranged.
- B. Friends of Great Saltpetre Cave – A subcommittee of the Great Saltpetre Preserve Management Committee is being formed, called “Friends of Great Saltpetre Preserve.” The FoGSP Charter and revised GSP Management Plan were submitted to RKC for approval, after being approved by the GCG Grotto and the GSP Management Committee.

MOTION: To approve the revised GSP Management Plan and the Charter for the Friends of Great Saltpeter Preserve (Roth, Gott 2nd, 4-0-0).

- C. Waiver Consolidation – Permanent waivers are being stored in the ticket house at GSP. Kevin Zachary is willing to set up a searchable digital database of them.
- D. Corning Grant – Bob Roth has arranged for an annual grant from Corning, dedicated to educational purposes. He has several ideas for this year’s grant.

MOTION: To authorize \$300 from the Corning Educational Grant to purchase 1,000 promotional pens (Gott, Jud, 4-0-0).

MOTION: To pay a teaching group \$500 to run a vertical workshop at Skylight Preserve. The motion was tabled as there was not enough time for a discussion.

New Business:

- A. Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque – W. Jud is asking for a \$1,300 budget allocation towards a bronze plaque, 1/3 of the cost which will be shared with GSP and The Felburn Foundation. The Board did not have time to address this issue in the meeting.

Next Meeting: The Summer meeting was later set for Sunday, June 9th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., presumably at the Burlington Library.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Janice Gott, Secretary.

**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
In-between Meeting Motions - 3/30/19**

As time ran out in the library reserved space at the 3/24/19 spring meeting, several measures were tabled that needed to be addressed in a timely manner before the summer meeting.

There was some discussion about how education fit into RKC’s mission. In the future there is a need to establish what our goals are pertaining to education and the process that will be followed for requests.

MOTION: To authorize payment of \$500 from the Corning Educational Grant to a teaching group for them to run a vertical workshop at Skylight Preserve (Gott motion, Roth second, 5-0-0).

MOTION: To allocate \$1,300 from general funds towards a bronze plaque for an Ellie Schiller Memorial. This is 1/3 of the total cost, which is being shared with GSP and the Felburn Foundation (Gott motion, Roth second, 5-0-0)

Action Items

1. Spring Newsletter to be composed. – Bush, with input from all
2. Mail newsletters and membership renewal letters – Gott
3. Close on Sloans Valley Preserve property – Dobbs, Gratsch, Gott
4. Discuss Education Grant expenditure for Vertical Workshop – Roth - **Done**
5. Discuss Ellie Schiller Memorial Plaque expenditure – W. Jud - **Done**
6. Own Sloan needs a logo - Coomer
7. Banner, T-shirts and other donation perks for Own Sloan are needed before NSS & KOR
8. Tri-fold brochure update – Cain (Skylight), ??? (Sloans), Coomer
9. Meet again with NSF representatives about the NSF endowment fund with tentative contract – Cain
10. Database of waivers – Kevin Zachary
11. Write proposal for Education Grant Program – Roth & Gott



SPRING 2019 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Main Boone County Library, Burlington, KY

- **Call to Order – Sean Cain**
 - A. Announcements**
- **Seating of New Board Member - Gott**
- **Secretary’s Report – Janice Gott**
 - A. Minutes 12-2-18**
- **Treasurer’s Report – Werner Jud**
- **Committee Reports**
 - A. Membership/Message Committee – Janice Gott**
 - a. Next Newsletter content
 - b. Membership renewal mailout
 - c. RKC tri-fold flyer revision
 - B. GSP Committee – Scott Pavey**
 - a. Roadway Flood Mitigation Grant
 - b. Flood & Kitchen problems at GSP
 - C. Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 - D. Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 - E. Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 - F. Fundraising Committee**
 - a. Sloans Valley Fund
 - b. Acquisition Fund Replenishment
 - c. Winter Adventure Weekend report, plans for NSS, KOR
 - d. NSS grant, Acres for America grant
 - G. Acquisition Committee – Bob Dobbs**
 - 1. Acquisition Report – Bob Dobbs
 - a. Sloans Valley Preserve property survey
 - 2. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
- **Old Business**
 - NSF Investment program for Endowment Funds – Draft Agreement
 - Sloans Valley Preserve manager & management plan
 - Waiver Consolidation - Bob Roth
 - “Friends of Great Saltpetre” revised GSP management plan – Bob Dobbs
 - Grant for Education – Roth, Gott
- **New Business**
 - 1. Ellie Schiller memorial plaque
- **Next Meeting Date**
- **Motion to Adjourn**