

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Summer Board Meeting – June 15, 2025

In Attendance 6/15/25:

- Directors:** Patrick Gibson, Werner Jud, Janice Gott and Mary Gratsch were present onsite.
Gary O'dell present online
(A quorum does exist)
- Others:** Richard Duncan, Debi Pavey, Scott Pavey and Neena Jud were present on site. Sean Cain, Suzanne Gagnon, Ryan Braga & Tristan Phillips were present online.

76th Meeting of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy was held at the Deer Park Library and online. Called to Order by Chair Patrick Gibson at 2:03 PM.

(6/15/25 Meeting Agenda at end)

Announcements:

1. Austin Traut filming a segment of Kentucky Life for KET TV- update by Neena Jud: Austin has been corresponding with Chelsea Parada from BGG. Gary O'dell has also been in contact with Austin. He suggested filming at Slacks Cave and has the owner's permission, however, the cave needs some dry weather. Another problem appears to be that the KET film crew is not permitted to enter caves. Gary will check with Austin to verify this.
2. There will be a living memorial picnic for Bill Addington on Sunday, June 29, arranged by Janeen Sharpshair. Details are on Facebook. Contact her to RSVP
3. The RKC Board was contacted by William B Richardson who self published a book, "Some Caves in Pulaski County, Kentucky", which has several chapters on Sloan's Valley Cave. The book is 130 pages and costs \$15.77

Secretary's Report: (M. Gratsch)

1. Asked for comments/amendments to the Minutes of regular Meeting of 3/9/2025 as posted on the RKC website; no response

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of the 3/9 /25 meeting (W Jud, J Gott 2nd, by acclaim).

Treasurer's Report: (J. Gott)

1. As of 5/31/2025 membership is up
 2. Greater Cincinnati Grotto sent a \$500 contribution and Jeanie Trowbridge sent \$300. The Board appreciates these donations
 3. Migrating Quickbooks – Werner has shared the old desktop version of Quickbooks data with Janice, she has a bit newer desktop version
 4. Werner applied for the Life Membership annual distribution from the National Speleological Foundation. We received the entire distribution requested
 5. Werner will finish the tax filing for 2024
- Patrick thanked Werner for his many years as RKC Treasurer

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

Committee Reports:

(A) Membership/Message Committee: (Gratsch)

1. An RKC Display was set up at Open House. Thanks to Janeen Sharpshair, Connie Flamm and Dalene Burke for manning the table. They collected the contact info for several landowners that have property to check for caves
2. One regular membership was sold during KOR
3. The 2026 NSS Convention will be in Corydon, IN. Mary intends to set up the RKC Display

(B) GSP Committee: (Debi Pavey reporting)

1. Neena and Jared submitted the grant application to the Kentucky Colonels for the GSP entrance drive improvement. They haven't had a response yet.
2. Work on the Caretakers Residence (CR) water line feed is waiting on Rodney Trowbridge, who works for KY American Water, to complete.
3. Ticket house renovations have been on hold but will soon resume. Scott Pavy and Jerry Brandenburg will work on the walls and ceiling.
4. Jared Embry and Scott P rebuilt the outside showers. The wood shouldn't be painted for 1 year
5. The turf took a beating from the heavy rains during KOR, Scott P will attempt to drag out the ruts when the turf dries out
6. There needs to be a culvert installed where the tractor barn road meets the main road.
7. Patrick G stated that the WiFi worked well for KOR. Cameras at the CR are pointed up and down the road and have the capacity to recognize faces and vehicles

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

1. No trips so far this year. Sean inspected the preserve and reported it to be in good shape. Jennie Hawkey (COG) is planning a trip on 8/2/25. Sean will cut a path to the cave for them

(D) Skylight Dome Committee: (Thor Bahrman, Jerry Brandenburg; Mary G reporting for Jerry)

1. The main entrance to Pine Hill has been closed by the new owner. There is an aggressive no trespassing sign at the entrance
1. The neighbor reported damage to the road. Jerry is expecting an estimate for regrading from the same contractor who did the last repairs

(E) Cornhole Cave Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Nothing new.

(F) Sloans Valley Cave Preserve: (Mike Harrington; Patrick G reporting for Mike)

1. Mike said that all the Sloans Tee shirts sold out at KOR. It is unclear whether he meant his tie dye shirts or the gray ones

(G) Fundraising Committee: (Gratsch)

1. The KOR raffle brought in \$397 in cash sales. No word on how much was collected with credit at Registration. Mary also found \$100 from Tammy Otten which was left from some previous sale
2. Two Sloans shirts were sold at the RKC tent during KOR, for a total of \$40
3. Mary still has a few survey vests and lots of hats made at Stitch and Bitch. Suz Gagnon offered to try to sell them at Winter Adventure Weekend 2026
4. Mary will have items to sell for RKC at Consignment at the 2026 NSS Convention

(H) Land Acquisition: (Wendy Orlandi)

No report

(I) NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee: (Gratsch)

1. Nothing new

(J) Grant Committee:

1. Jared Embree met with his grant committee, including Camille Anderson and Neena Jud on May 21. 2025. Their next meeting is set up for July 1 at 7PM.
2. The committee would like 2 lists from all project managers; one of immediate work projects and the other, a list of long term (5-10 year) projects
 - A, GSP immediate needs – bridge to the Point. 5-10 years – a new tractor (\$50K budget)
 - B. Sloans – Kiosk, ladder in pit (needs priorities and and budget)
 - C. Cornhole – immediate – road gate, road repair (culverts & gravel), stabilizing cave entrance; there is no desire to put signs that are visible from the road
 - D. Misty – nothing really; barn is still in good shape; there are signs at the cave entrance

(K) Waiver Committee:

1. No action on creating an electronic waiver
2. Suz suggested contacting SCCi to see how they handle their waivers

Old Business:

1. Archeology Research – Gary O’dell has no other candidates. Table this for now.

New Business:

1. A meeting was held in May to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between RKC and GCG, DUG,COG, and BGG. They hope to have a finalized draft in July then it will be set aside to address the Charter for the Committee.
2. After the MOU is adopted, the Strategic Plan will need to be updated.

Next Meeting: The next Meeting was set for Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, at the Deer Park Library

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m. (Gratsch, O’dell 2nd, by acclaim)

Meeting Minutes prepared by Mary Gratsch

Action Items

1. KET TV filming with Austin Traut
2. RKC/Grottoes MOU approval – Gibson, D. Pavey, Kyle Kreutz
3. Review revised GSP Charter – whole Board and interested others
4. File taxes – Werner Jud
5. Waiver Committee - meeting & recommendations – Gibson, Bush
 1. All Preserve Managers – submit lists of short and long term projects
 2. Plans for SVCP Kiosk – Harrington
 3. RKC Website link for SVCP logo merchandise–Harrington, Bush, Treasurer

4. Develop an emergency contact plan with Pulaski County Sheriff Department for Sloans Valley Preserve – Harrington, Philip Francis, Joe Morgan, Patrick Gibson
5. NSS Preserves Program MOU Committee
6. Cornhole Cave survey –Gratsch
7. Create letter or brochure explaining to landowners how to preserve their cave property – Orlandi, Gott
8. Update RKC Bylaws
9. Update RKC Strategic Plan



SUMMER 2025 MEETING AGENDA

Sunday June 15, 2025

Deer Park Branch Library, Cincinnati OH - 2:00 P.M.

4020 E Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati OH 45236 – meeting room B

- **Call to Order – Patrick Gibson**
- A. **Announcements**
 1. Kentucky Life- Neena Jud
 2. Bill Addington Picnic - Sunday 6/29 (pot luck)
 3. William Richardson 'Some Caves in Pulaski Co, KY' 130 pgs/\$15.77
- B. **Secretary's Report – Mary Gratsch**
 1. Minutes 3/9/2025
- C. **Treasurer's Report – Janice Gott**
 1. Life Membership & Endowment Funds
 2. Migrating Treasury Records to new Quickbooks platform
- D. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Membership/Message Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 1. Open House – Thanks to Janeen, Janice and others for manning booth
 2. NSS Convention – 2025 Indiana (need to set up Display)
 - B. **GSP Committee – Debi Pavey**
 1. Water Line Repair
 2. Ticket House Renovation
 3. Road Repair Application Grant - Neena
 - C. **Misty Committee – Sean Cain**
 1. ??? KOR trips
 - D. **Skylight Committee – Thor Bahrman/Jerry Brandenburg**
 1. Closure of main Pine Hill- entrance; posted???
 2. Road damage from recent rains
 - E. **Cornhole Committee – Mary Gratsch**
 1. Assess eroding entrance
 2. Survey trip
 - F. **Sloans Valley Preserve Committee – Mike Harrington & Joe Morgan**
 1. Kiosk Plans
 2. Ladder Plans
 3. Emergency Contact Plan with Pulaski County
 4. Cathy Crockett Memorial Trail ownership?
 - G. **Fundraising Committee - Mary Gratsch**
 1. SVCP Logo merchandise link on RKC website- Etsy website?
 2. KOR -\$\$\$ proceeds from raffle
 3. 2025 NSS Convention-Consignment sell vests/hats etc...
 - H. **Acquisition Committee - Wendy Orlandi**
 1. Acquisition Report

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 - 1. Acquisition Report
 - 2. Brochure for landowners about preserving cave properties
 - 3. Conservation Easement Committee Report – Janice Gott
 - J. NSS Preserves Program / MOU Committee – Gratsch, Gibson, Jud**
 - K. Grant Committee – Neena Jud for Jared Embree**
 - 1. Requested a list of all projects from each Preserve Manager to be used by the Grant Committee when searching for additional grants
 - L. Waiver System Committee**
 - M. Old Business**
 - 1. Archeology Research– O’Dell
 - 2. RKC Non-discrimination Policy – Neena
 - N. New Business- Patrick Gibson**
 - 1. Memorandum of Understanding
 - 2. GSP Charter and Management Plan Changes
- Next Meeting Date – September 2025**
- Motion to Adjourn**