

Minutes of the Fall VAR Region Meet

September 29, 2002

Endless Caverns, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:05

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by BATS to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. Sligo Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. DC Grotto moved to accept the Treasurers Report. Blue Ridge seconded. Motion passed

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report.

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Bowden Cave - Cleanup is temporarily suspended

Island Ford Cave

The draft of the Island Ford Management Plan is complete.

New River Trail - The plan is written.

Conservation Report form is available - need feedback. Will advertise on the VAR site

Goodwin's Cave Management - Blue Ridge

The cave is doing fine. The bat population has not increased.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus

No report

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Johnson

Presented to Miles Drake, Fred Grady and Phil Lucas. Write-ups need to accompany nominations

Landowner Recognition Awards - Don Anderson

There were 2 nominations. Dr. Webb Giles County Giant Cave. Upper Valley Regional Park Authority - Grand Caverns

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Deadline Dec. 15th - need material

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning

No report

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

There has been a surge of sign-ups. Approx. 200 members. The site has a virus filter. Has a spam filter but some does get through.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Jim McConkey has taken over maintaining the site. VPI moves to expresses appreciation to Vitas for setting up and maintaining the web site and event page. Sligo seconded. Motion passed. The site is being redesigned and updated. If something is not working please report it to Jim. Please check your grotto contact information. Will include Regional events page and Surveys.

Cave Bucks - J. C. Fisher

Is alive and well - Tri-State pushing 3K

VSS - Phil Lucas

4056 caves in VA. 447 miles increase of 18 miles in 118 caves 71 new maps. The primary function of the VSS is data collection. The Virginia Cellars is back on schedule. Contact at VACAVES.org

WVSS - Jeff Bray

Report finds. There are over 3900

History of the Region - Mary Sue Sockey & Meredith Hall Johnson

Getting a lot of material. WVCS offered access to material. Questionnaires are available from the web site

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - Bob Handley

Almost into Maxwellton - there is a lot of breakdown and air flow Persinger Cave in litigation. Bone Cave - promised - in litigation - others close - to be announced Cheat Canyon to be transferred to state - want to maintain status quo - letter writing campaign may be needed Notify if some caves are available. Will

accept Va. caves.

New Dixie - Blue Ridge Grotto

On hold. One more trip should finish the survey.

VA Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Very busy - There is a project to define Conservation Site Boundaries around Virginia's Significant Caves
BATS moves VAR support the nomination of these 5 caves for protected status and continued support -
Starr Chapel Saltpetre, Kelly, Rocky Hollow, Shires Saltpetre, Millers Cave. VPI seconded - motion passed
VPI moves to communicate the information on support. Bubble Cave LLC seconded - motion passed

SCCI - Walt Pirie

Wolf River Cave preserve - 8 miles of cave - was bought at auction- There was support from the Nature
Conservancy and BCI.

CCV - Bob Handley

A meeting will follow this meeting/ CCV & the NSS met with representatives from Grand Caverns. - Dave
Leatherwood. They toured the property. There is a need to build a grate to cover over the original
entrance. It needs to be bat friendly. BATS may adopt this as a project. VAR will incorporate this as a
part of the spring project. CCV will fund the gate (15 x 10) The cave could close due to lack of funding.
The need operating funding. The stone building is for sale. This is the oldest continually operating
commercial cave in the US. BATS will get exact dimensions for the gate.

Host Grotto Report

345 registered - 161 pre registered 180-200 went caving New River moved to thank BATS & FROG. VPI
seconded - motion passed

Old Business

Host for Spring 03 - DC & PSC

May 10-12 at the OTR site.

Host for Fall 03 - Front Royal

location to be announced

Host for Spring 04 - Tri-State

location to be announced

New Business

Host Grotto for the Fall 04 Meeting - no volunteers

Great X VPI moves The VAR supports the concept that the NSS acquires Great X Cave. Bubble Cave LLC seconded - motion passed

Caving Safely Brochures are available

Pigeon Mountain Flowing Stone a 224' pit - a letter writing campaign in place - this is an election issue - to limit a quarry permit & preserve the cave

Grant Requestsnone

Elections Bubble Cave LLC moved to reelect the current slate of officers. VPI seconded - unanimous

Announcements

James Cave - letters went out to scouts & church groups- visitation down New problem - Hickman Cemetery is duping excess dirt in the sinkhole

Cave week material is available- 6 minute spot on National Geographic Television

Return name tags

Jim Hixson is in nursing home - visit if you can. Briar Nursing Home in Lewisburg WV. Davis Stewart Road,

BATS moved to adjourn. Bubble Cave LLC seconded Meeting adjourned at 12:52

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman