

Minutes of the Fall 2004 VAR Meeting

September 27, 2004

Camp Kidd, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:09

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tiderman

A motion was made by DC Grotto to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. Bubble Cave LLC seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. A motion was made by Blue Ridge to accept the financial report. New River seconded. Motion passed

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report.

The Chairman's - Craig Hindman

Everything is OK

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Bowden Cave - report was in the Region Record

John Pearson volunteered to rebuild a power washer for cleaning rocks outside the cave.

Island Ford Cave - Fall - Front Royal - removed one bag of trash

On the 10/2 weekend some graffiti will be removed from the outside of the cave. This will be a joint effort between James River Grotto & Bubble Cave LLC

Bowden Cave: Fall - Mountain State Grotto

Island Ford: Spring - New River with Pine Mountain Grotto

Andy called for conservation reports to be submitted so we can submit to the NSS for the conservation award. Send to Cavecon@earthlink.net

Goodwin's Cave Management - Blue Ridge

Doing fine. Scouts are showing interest. A cave sign is in place. The cave inhabitants are doing well.

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Johnson

Awarded to John Holsinger, Chuck Hempel, George Dasher, Craig Hindman & Carol Tiderman

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

Has 2 submissions

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No news is good news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Needs articles - Items of regional interest & conservation are wanted - Deadline Dec. 155

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

Fairly active. Approx. 150 members. A great forum for surveys & conservation activities

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Has new forms posted

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Is alive and well. There has been great progress, almost \$4,000 distributed by Tri-State to date

VSS - Phil Lucas

No report

WVASS - George Dasher

The web site is being updated. It will allow online reporting. Balfort will hold a WVASS weekend near his home in the spring. Hellhole, Memorial Day & Schoolhouse are currently the big projects. Maxwelton is to be surveyed - to tourist trips. 4120 caves

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

Has been published & approx. 90% have been sold. Cost \$20. \$25 is mailed. It has been well reviewed

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - John Pearson

Need money for Maxwelton. Dick Blentz has a matching funds challenge for \$3500. They are close to making the match

New Dixie - Mary Sue Socky

Plan to survey 3 weekends in October - 1 or 2 trips will finish

Cave Management Forum - Joey Fagan

362 caves have been designated as significant by VSS & the Cave Board. 136 of them encompassed in 66 conservation sites that protect the environment

The Karst Hydrology Atlas for VA is in progress. Volunteers will be needed for dye tracing in VA caves.

There is ongoing funding for supplies & analysis.

Cave week 0 Oct. 10-16

SCCI - Walt Pirie

Nothing new - they are paying down the debt & surveying

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Josh Rubenstein / Jim McConkey

There have been new discoveries made. There are still leads in Grand. We have permission to survey on most of the adjoining properties

Cave Board - Karen Kastning

Dec. 4th is the next meeting of the Cave Board at the Nature Conservancy. HQ in Charlottesville. New people will be put on the board. Nikki Rovner from the Nature Conservancy, Drew Harrison from Historical Resources & Judy Mulnar from the VA Living Museum.

The 15th Cave Owners Newsletter has been published & sent to 1040 landowners. It will eventually be available online

Cave Preserves - Carol Tideman

The NSS has changed the names of the Cave Preserves to Nature Preserves. Trout Rocks was changed back to the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve - reinstating the work Cave

Host Grotto Report - Monongahela Grotto

215 people were registered - 195 adults & 20 kids of paying age. The cave trips went well. New River moved to thank Monongahela Grotto for a wonderful VAR. Blue ridge seconded.

Old Business

Host Grotto for Spring 05 - open

New Business

Host Grotto for Fall 05 - open

Wilderness Proposal - Designated roadless areas in the Monongahela National Forest to be added to the Wilderness designation. Approx. 6% of the land would have no logging, no motorized vehicles, no wheeled vehicles. There will be no new land acquisition & no funding is needed.

Charleston moves to endorse supporting the proposed wilderness designation to roadless areas in the Monongahela National Forest. Blue Ridge Seconded.

Motion by Madison Student Grotto to postpone to the end of the meeting. BATS seconded

The Chair established a committee for VA Karst Trail (see page 3 of the Summer Region Record). The committee members are Janet Tinkham, Andy Reeder, Karen Kastning, Judy Fischer

Grand Requests

A request was made for \$500 to defray the cost of printing posters for Cave Week. Charlottesville Grotto moves to grant \$500 to produce posters for Cave Week. Charleston Grotto seconded - passed - unanimous.

Motion to endorse the Wilderness Proposal recalled - passed

Announcements

Mary Sue Socky - Roanoke Oct. 22-24 & 27-31 Dixie Caverns will have the Haunted Cave tour

Hoke - There are copies of the closed cave list - help yourself.

Bannermen - Inviting all on the Caver Cruise

Cheryl Jones - Copies of the 2000-2001 Bi-Annual Reports are available- help yourself.

New River - Asks that no one sings at 4AM

Adjournment

Bubble Cave LLC moved to adjourn, Blue Ridge seconded

Meeting adjourned at 10:58./p>

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman