

Minutes of the Fall 2015 VAR Meeting

Meeting held in MT Jackson town center due to lack of host group for the VAR meet

OCTOBER 1, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 12:08

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by RASS to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. Blue Ridge Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox - not present

Treasurers report was presented

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

Four at risk caves are scheduled to be gated. Three are in VA one in WV. VAR was approached about handling the funds but declined when we were required to request the grand for the funds and to generate IRS forms for those who will be paid to build the gate.

Members of VAR gated Charlie Mauck Cave, per the owners request.

Conservation CO-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Ken Walsh has been added to the committee

Meredith has the Easter Conservation Banner

The Missouri Speleological Society has fast and slow setting epoxy available

John Guilday Preserve - Trout Cave - an area where persons attempted to breach the cave has been repaired

During the OTR, a cave was cleaned in Durbin

Easter restoration will be conducted at Grand

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

There were no nominations. Form is online

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkhan

No report. There is a form online

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No report - No new is good news.

Region Record - Nikki Fox.

No report

VAR List Server - Phil Ballister

No report

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

All member grotto's need to check their current contact information and send me updates when their officers or contacts change.

Update your project leaders and their contact information

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Send them in

VSS - Rick Lambert

No report - they were at their meeting

WVASS – George Dasher

No report

WVCC - Carroll Bassett

No report

SCCI – Walt Pirie

No report

There was a fatality at Stevens Gap

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

Fountain Cave is being surveyed

There is a new dig on the hill

VAR assisted with Heritage Days

Will assist the Ruritan's with Caroling in the Cave on Dec. 5th

Virginia Cave Board – Meredith Hall Weberg

Sent two letters to FIRK with reference to the pipelines regarding building on karst.

A Dominion representative was at the spring meeting

Participated in Environmental Virginia and put on 1/2 day workshop

The next meeting will be on Dec 5th. Location to be determined

|

Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky

Board meeting will be held next weekend.

This is a good resource for funding.

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

No report

Youth Group Liaison – Joey Fagan

No report

New River Cave

The cave has been paid off. Thanks to all who donated.

A new trail to the cave has been cut

Negotiating for a parking easement

DOMINION PIPELINE

No update

POSTING RR ON KIP

KIP has requested permission to post our publications

There was discussion of the pros and cons and what material we would be posting. There should be an article in the RR discussing the pros and cons.

This extended into what information we should be posting online. Should we be posting our financial reports? We should never post cave directions that could end up online.

HOST REPORT

12 people took the time to attend

Old Business

VAR Hosts

Spring 2016 – Tri State Grotto at Endless Caverns Apr. 22-24

Fall 2016 - Greenbrier Grotto Oct 1-2 location to be announced

Spring 2017 -possibly at Seneca Rocks

Fall 2017 -no offers

VAR Members who received awards at the NSS Convention

Victor Schmidt Conservation Award - Rocky Parsons

Certificate of Merit - Phil Lucas and Nathan Farrar -

Fellowship - Nathan Farrar, Tonya McLaughlin, Ray Sira, Ed Saugstad, Doug Feller

New Business

There was a proposal made for consideration and further discussion.

Proposal: to do away with the meal requirement at a VAR meet, provided there were restaurants within 10 miles, the price of registration was reduced accordingly and the attendees were notified, well in advanced, there would not be a meal.

Grant Requests

No requests submitted

Elections

The current slate was nominated by Baltimore DC seconded- passed unan

Announcements

Thanks to all who bothered to attend the meeting

Adjournment

Sligo moved to adjourn, DC Grotto. seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 2:12 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman