

Minutes of the Fall 2017 VAR Meeting

Spruce Knob, WV

September 24, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 9:06

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

Financial report was provided

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Thanks for a lovely day in the meadow

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report

Conservation CO-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Sinkhole cleanup in Rockingham Country is ongoing effort. Next date Oct.14th.

Sinks of Gandy cleanup performed on Sept 23rd

Seneca Caverns wants assistance with algae abatement

VAR Outstanding Service Award - JC Fisher

Awarded to Earl & Cheryl Suitor

Submit nominations

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkhan

No nominations received

Submit nominations

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No report - No new is good news.

Region Record - Nikki Fox.

Deadline for material is December 15th

Nikki is doing it fantastic job

VAR List Server - Phil Ballister

Everything seems to be in order

Responding to requests

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey
Still here
Keep grotto contains up to date

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher
Alive and well
Tri-State over 7k collected & donated

VSS - Dave Socky
Meeting November 18th at Natural Bridge from 12 to 5

WVASS – George Dasher
Database contains maps, survey data, pictures
Report to county coordinators to fill in the gaps
Next meeting on Oct 5 at WVACS Field Station. Bring a covered dish
Will send a list of county coordinators to the Region Record for publication

WVCC - Carroll Bassett
Not much going on
Nick Socky surveying Windy Mouth
Banquet November 11th

SCCI – Walt Pirie
No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey
Continued trail maintenance, replacing lights and algae abatement
Dig on the hill progresses
Surveying close to complete in Fountain Cave

Virginia Cave Board – Meredith Weburg
Meets quarterly
Developed the Virginia cave and karst trail
Need volunteers
Spring tour this past year was a success and will do it again
More signage is planned for the trails at commercial locations

Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky
Doing well
Well funded
Grants are available for projects, etc.- go to website to apply
Online membership application
Meeting in Morgantown Nov. 11th
Have a Facebook page

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

Still happening

5 temperature loggers are installed in WV - collecting baseline data

Youth Group Liaison – Joey Fagan

Program is active - coordinating info on trips

N VA is active

New River Cave

No Report

DOMINION PIPELINE

NC & WV pulled the 401 certificates which deals with stream crossings

Letters need to be written in VA to get them to pull their 401 certificate

DCR provided alternate routes

Dominion has political power and money

Mountain Valley pipeline - same concerns

2000' blast zone

HOST REPORT

151 registered thanks for coming

Great weather

Should break even

Will make payment to VAR

Old Business

VAR Hosts

Spring 2018 - Walker Mountain will host on April 27-29 near Hungry Mother

Fall 2018 VPI - possibly near New River Cave

Spring 2019 James River Grotto -Lynchburg area

Fall 2019 - DC Grotto

New Business

A COG Report

1 Passed a motion to gender neutralize bylaws

2 Bernice Gotshalk will write a request for publication regarding cavers planning their estate to leave gear, data and logs to the NSS

3 We expect the BOG to give a detailed accounting of how money is spent for the office and how long the NSS can remain viable with membership declining
28k is needed to repair the indoor bathroom & 28k is needed to build outdoor showers

B We need to get student groups involved

Elections

Baltimore Grotto moved to reelect the current slate. CCV seconded passed

Grant Requests

No requests submitted

Announcements

Rich Geisler - a bid will be submitted to host the 2020 NSS Convention at the TRA site. Improvements have been made. Will be looking for help.

Adjournment

Dingo Grotto moved to adjourn, Tri-State seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 10:17

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman