

Minutes of the Spring 2000 VAR Meeting

May 6, 2000
New River, VA

The Meeting was called to order at 9:11.

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by PSC to accept the minutes as published. DC Grotto seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A printed copy of the financial report was distributed.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

We are waiting on this years tax forms. At that time we will know if we back on track or if we owe the state more money to settle our account.

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Grand Caverns cleanup has 23 people - Grand - no gravel this year Fountain 21 formations were restored.

Bowden Cave cleanup - spring - PSC/DC Grotto - 65 people participated

Island Ford cleanup - spring - Charlottesville - scheduled for June 10

Bowden Cave - Summer - Frederick, Winter - BATS

Island Ford Cave - Winter - Front Royal

New River Valley has gated and put a new fence around **James Cave**

Sinkhole from Hell

Cleanup 4/15 - 500 tires, kitchen appliances and vehicles were removed from the sink and put into 2 rolloff dumpsters - 20 people participated

Goodwin's Cave Management - Blue Ridge Grotto

Is doing well. The gate has not been checked in a while, but the property has been very quiet since Fall/Winter 1999. A mop up trip took place to finalize all data - the cave resurvey is complete and Marian McConnell will be drawing the map. Blue Grass Grotto will be leading a scout trip on May 13.

Long Ash Cave - Blue Ridge Grotto

The gating is still on hold. Still no reply from the ranger.

New Dixie Cave, Roanoke Co. may be affected by a proposed interchange for the new I-73 if the western route for I-73 is chosen. Dave Sockey is slowly resurveying the cave to get a better idea of its location, hydrology to see how the proposed interstate may affect it. Survey through a low tight lead to the remainder of the cave has been stopped by high water levels thanks to the recent rains.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus

Feeling less positive than before. The city has inquired if the VAR has liability insurance that would cover the site. They were informed, probably not.. A simple outline of a management proposal has been created as a foundation to resume a dialog with the city.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Don Anderson

One nomination received - Ferrell James, Zitt James JR. Owner of Ferrell Caves #1-26

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Tom Spina - no report

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke - no news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

The Region Record needs material. Deadlines are June 1 and Aug. 15. Address changes should be reported to Evelyn Bradshaw - please write legibly.

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning

37 patches remain There have been \$33 in sales. The question was raised if we should make more.

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

The list server is 2 years old. There is good traffic There are approximately 100 to 110 users.

VAR Web site - Vitas

The site will have to move. We need a domain name The cost will be approximately \$75 for 2 years.

TRAIN BREAK

BATS moved to provide funds to obtain and maintain a domain name. VPI seconded 1 against - rest for motion passes Site will be linked to the NSS page

Cave Bucks - Judy Fisher

Is alive and well - Frederick is nearing \$1,000 Tri-State nears \$1,500. Remember to get the money off to a conservancy.

VSS - Bob Thren

3654 - 3812 caves

There will be a presentation at the US Exploration session Monday afternoon at the NSS Convention

The National Heritage Program has agreed to send a project copy to the VSS for review to prevent cave impact

Front Royal is surveying Warren County Thanks were made to the CCV for granting funds for the copier

WVSS - Jeff Bray

3800 caves

Anyone collecting data should send it to Bill Balfour Culverson County survey is in progress

History of the Region

Mary Sue Sockey has edited the text on the first four disks - that means half the editing is done. Mary Sue is sending a hard copy to Tom Spina, and will be working on the remaining disks.

Host Grotto Report

VPI Grotto approximately 280 people plus day passes. 150 pre-registered T-shirt are 4 sale for \$12.

Old Business

Region Non-Profit Status - Craig Hindman

No change - expect forms in May

Host for Fall 00

WVACS - preregistration forms are available at the booth. Dates Sept. 22-24 at the field next to the WVACS field station. There will be food, music, no trains, beer, caves - 10 caves within 1 mile 100 within 10 miles. Preregistration \$20, at the gate \$25.

Host for Spring 01

Pine Mountain - at Cumberland Gap - date - working around bat closures - possibly the first weekend in May

Cave Board - Evelyn Bradshaw

Only one vacancy remains - A letter sent by Evelyn, the chair was copied on what was sent. Newly appointed were Carol Zokaites, and Barbara Moss

Power Lines - Ernst Kastning Will Orndorff

No letter has been sent. It will not be effective. Hearings will start on 5/1 in Richmond regarding the final route.

New Business

Host for Fall 2001 - RASS at the field station

Host for Spring 2002 - WVCC

COG PRO's CON's - Bob Hoke

DC moves to drop. VPI seconds. Motion passes

COG ISSUES

DC moved to let the officers decide the VAR position on the issues. Tri-State seconded. Motion passed
Walt Pirie volunteered to be the VAR representative at COG

Legal Defense Fund

Tri-State moved to empower the legal defense committee, with the officers approval, to spend funding to support the Spring Hill suit if needed. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimous

WVCC Conservancy - Dave Cowan

Haynes Cave work has been done on the fence, trail building and maintenance

Work has been done at Organ Cave

They are working on a cave in Tazwell County

If you need a cave, contact a board member

Grant Requests

NONE

Announcements

VOTE - send in your NSS ballots - answer the questions about caver insurance

Sit upwind of the fire

Cave Vandals Award - turn them in to Jim Washington or John Wilson

TRAIN BREAK

The meeting was not adjourned - no one was left

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Tideman