

Minutes of the Spring 2002 VAR Meeting

April 29, 2002

Grand Caverns, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:10

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by Germany Valley to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. VPI seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

Everything is OK

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Bowden Cave - Fall BATS - Spring DC & Tri-State cleaned graffiti - corrected vandals who were spray painting in the cave

Island Ford Cave

Fall - Front Royal, Spring - Blue Ridge

Bowden Cave:

Spring - DC & Tri-State, Fall - BATS

Island Ford:

Spring - BATS, Fall - Blue Ridge

Grand Caverns

Cleanup has 40 people - 800 feet of passage were graveled - 13 formations were repaired in Fountain Cave.

The draft of the Island Ford Management Plan is waiting approval by the West Virginia Cave Conservancy.

New River Trail - no update

Goodwin's Cave Management - Blue Ridge

The cave opens shortly. There has been little visitation. The cave is holding up OK.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus

No report

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Johnson

Seeking nominations - need suggestions and a short bio to justify. Deadline August 1.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Don Anderson

New River - The Farrels are upset (James Cave owners). They are concerned about the amount of visitation and the size of the groups using the cave. A letter is being drafted to be signed by the owner to be sent out to the scout council and others

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Needs material - Deadline June 1

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning

No report

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

It is operating - Users need to sign on and respond to a request for a short bio. NO SPAM!

VAR Web site - Vitus Eidukevicius

The site up and running. Jim McConkey has added and is maintaining an event page.

Cave Bucks - J. C. Fisher

Is alive and well - \$2,700 collected by Tri-State to date

VSS - Phil Lucas

4027 caves in VA.

WVSS - George Dasher

Cave Law signs are available - an extensive written report was submitted indicating who was maintaining the database and who was coordinating the county surveys.

History of the Region - Mary Sue Sockey & Meredith Hall Johnson
Send materials for part 2 - 1971-2000. Part 1 pictures have been returned

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - Ed Swepson
Working on Kersinger Entrance to Benedicts Cave.
Please submit any leads for caves that need protection.

New Dixie - Blue Ridge Grotto
Still surveying - 1 mop up trip and land survey to be done.

VA Karst Program - Joey Fagan
The project will use stream tracing & developing construction site boundaries to protect karst areas from development
Planned sinkhole cleanups
May 21 - Shenandoah County
Lee County
Their mission includes environmental education, surveying caves etc.

SCCI - Walt Pirie
Valhalla purchased for 100K - VPI raised 3K for Valhalla
Snail Shell Cave has been purchased

Host Grotto Report
WVCC thanked all for coming 262 registered attendees. VPI moved to thank the WVCC - Blue Ridge seconded. Motion passed

Old Business

Host for Fall 02 - BATS
Will be held the weekend on September 27'th at Endless Caverns. Preregistration will be available online. Front Royal will offer breakfast on Sunday

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

International Congress 2009

An inquiry was made to see if there was any interest in the region hosting. DC moves to decline to get involved as a region. Germany Valley seconded. Motion passed.

New Business**Digital Line Graph** - Ira Sasowsky

Germany Valley moves to write a letter of support contingent on no cave locations be indicated on the ,map. VCC seconded A generic letter is to be produced and reprinted in the Region Record - referred to the VCC

Rumbling Falls

No action

Grant Requests

none

Announcements

Cheryl Jones - Fragile Underground brochures are available

Sligo moved to adjourn, Tri-State seconded

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tiderman