

Minutes of the Spring 2004 VAR Meeting

April 25, 2004

Grand Caverns, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:06

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by Bubble Cave to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. BATS seconded. Motion passed. I have been acting as the single point of contact for the VAR between the cavers & Grand Caverns for the survey project. Western Maryland & KARST have opted to stay affiliated with the VAR but have non-voting status.

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 - Craig Hindman

Everything is OK.

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Bowden Cave - no report - cave closed

Cleanups: Spring - DC, Fall - TriState

Island Ford:

The management plan has been accepted.

Cleanups: Spring - New River, Fall - Bubble Cave

Grand Caverns

Grand Caverns Cleanup has 32 people - a restraint was installed to prevent rocks from falling on the steps used by the tourists - old wire and electrical panels were removed from the cave, as well as lots of broken glass - the entrance steps and some of the steps in the cave were cleaned in Fountain Cave.

Goodwin's Cave Management - Blue Ridge

They are lifting the winter moratorium. One clean up was done. Socky's have the key for those requesting trips.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus

Requested to be dropped from the agenda

A conservation report form is online - use it to report your activities

There was discussion regarding documenting the conservation activities in the region and applying for the NSS Conservation Award

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Johnson

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

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkam

New River Valley has one nomination - to be announced. A submission form is going on the web site.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No news is good news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Needs material - Deadline June 15

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning

SOLD OUT - the committee is disbanding

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

Alive and well - currently approximately 150 members

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Has removed the live link addresses from the web site because of spam address thieves. The bulletin board, due to ads and junk mail, is being removed. Thanks to Vitas for his assistance.

Cave Bucks - J. C. Fisher

Is alive and well. There has been great progress, almost \$4,000 collected by Tri-State to date - send in your dollars to a conservancy.

VSS - Phil Lucas

124 more caves recorded - 18 miles of passage. A data base on Karst Springs has been started with 1590 identified. Please provide information. There are 4190 caves in VA with 1223 surveyed - there are 336 significant caves. There is a lot of exploration activity going on.

WVSS - Bob Gulden

Continuing to find and map caves.

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

Nears completion - working on the last chapter. There are some slackers who have yet to provide information. Hoping to publish by Convention. Will possible also put out on CD rom. Bids have been requested for a 400 page book at 250 & 400 copies - the approximate cost per copy for printing is \$8. A request was made for \$2,000 for printing the VAR history Vol. 2 - VPI seconded - unanimous

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - Jeff Bray

Fundraising.

New Dixie - Mary Sue Socky

VA Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Wants information on dye tracing for a hydrological atlas. Age dating water of water is going on. Also management of high traffic caves.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No new acquisitions - They are surveying what the have & managing debt lines

CCV

Data loggers have been placed in Aqua Cave - In Franklin Pit there are undisturbed saltpetre workings. The camp in Omega Cave this summer is active and ongoing. The dedication of the cave display at Grand Caverns will take place today after the meeting. Looking for ways to up revenues. Members within 2 hours of Richmond can provide volunteers in exchange for funding for long term projects. **Grand**

Caverns/Cave Hill - Carol Tiderman Jim McConkey

We have gone from 3100 feet of surveyed passage to 1.59 miles. Grand. The current depth is 84.1 feet there are 37 surveys by 39 participants and 1 dog. There are 50 loops. On Cave Hill we have gone from 11 to 15 known caves. There are several dig and dig sites. Most of the caves need to be surveyed.

Charles Kahn has photographed the names on Grand & Lisa Lorenz is creating a database. The names are located in zones and will be placed into a searchable format on the web. **Virginia Cave Board** - Barbara Moss

Sacrifice Cave Committee has been formed to determine how can the cave board help with land owner relations in heavily visited caves. **Host Grotto Report**

TriState said there were 263 registered attendees. Thank from the attendees.

Old Business

Host for Fall 04 - Monongahela Grotto

Will be held the last weekend in September in Tucker County or N. Randolph County.

New Business

Host Grotto for Spring 05

Host Grotto for Fall 05

VAR Meeting Financial Report

DC moves After each meeting a financial report will be published. All VAR organizations are strongly encouraged to submit a comprehensive financial report shortly after each event for publication in the Region Record. Germany Valley seconded - motion passed.

Virginia Highlands Grotto applied for membership - unanimous.

A program to collect old ropes for the Inuit Villagers - 16 thousand feet of rope has been collected thus far. The Canadian Air Force will fly it in for free. The rope will be used for boating. Contact Walt Pirie if you have donations.

Grant Requests

A request was made to waive the 30 day requirement for grant requests. Sligo moved to grant the waiver. BATS seconded - motion passed.

RASS moves to request \$1,000 to stabilize the area around Cemetery Sink. VPI seconded. Motion passed.

Elections

DC moved to elect the current officers., Bubble Cave seconded - motion passed.

Announcements

Please clean up your campsites.

Bruce Bannerman encouraged folks to take the Caver Cruise.

Bob Hoke announced the latest closed cave list was available.

Sligo moved to adjourn, Blue Ridge seconded.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman