

Minutes of the Spring 2005 VAR Meeting

May 1, 2005

Fairlee, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:20

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. A motion was made by Bubble Cave LLC to accept the financial report. Tri State seconded. Motion passed

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Has given up being the representation for the Va. Highlands Conservancy. Bob Handley has taken over that position.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

Everything is OK

Conservation Committee - Don Anderson

24 people attended the Easter Conservation Weekend

Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend - March 25-27 35 people planted 2 dozen trees, installed railings in the cave, did algae abatement in Grand, tore down an unsafe overlook, installed blue board in the kitchen, & did formation repair in Fountain Cave. All projects started that weekend have been completed.

Island Ford Cave - Fall - Front Royal

Goodwin's Cave Management - Mary Sue Socky

No problems. Two scout groups requested to go in. Will meet with them.

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Send in nominations along with reasons. Forms are online.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

Charles Cassell of Cassell's cave, the Luns of Tawney's & Mooney & Baker of Higgenbothams have been awarded.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No news is good news

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Deadline June. 15 - send material & calendar events

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Nothing new. If grotto contacts change, please advise Jim.

Cave Bucks - Judy Fisher

Send in your bucks..

VSS - Phil Lucas

No report - Highland County has a new depth record - 436 feet

WVASS - George Dasher

Three Bulletins are in process - Culverson, West Slope & Renick. Send in your finds to county coordinators or Bill Balfour. Report forms are under development for submissions through the web site.

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

Money collected has gone to the VAR. 10 books are left. DC moved the profit from the book sales go to the WV Cave Conservancy. WVASS seconded. Germany Valley moved to table. Bubble Cave LLC seconded. Motion tabled.

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - Bob Handley

Maxwelton being mapped. A new cave has been found. Finds are always needed

A Karst Hydrology preserve is being worked on.

Storm drain marking was not done due to rain.

New Dixie - Mary Sue Socky

Planning a photo trip in October. Dave says one more survey trip.

Virginia Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Clover Hollow - Stay High Cave (biologically significant) has been purchased along with 30 acres. There has been one inventory trip. The cave is open with limitations.

A Karst Hydrology Atlas is being worked on. Will fund dye tracing & provide technical assistance.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

Nothing new - they are paying down the debt & surveying

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Josh Rubenstein / Jim McConkey

Cave Hill - 13 caves are on the hill, the park was only aware of 7. We still have not been able to locate

Fire Cave. 4 more caves have been found - 2 on a hostile land owners property. The surface survey is complete.

Grand - current maps are on display - cave has grown from 3800' to 3.5 miles - dip & strike has changed in the new discovery area - less vertical - survey still has lots more potential

Carol - a barrier has been installed between the new discovery & the tourist cave.

Cave Board - Joey Fagen

VA has a state bat - the VA Big Eared Bat

Posters were made from the \$500 donated by VAR. Thanks for the funding. \$500 from the CCV, \$500 from RASS & \$750 from NSF and assorted small grants from Speleo Vendors were received

Work is under way on a pamphlet on the state bat to be put out in brochure display cases.

The next meeting will be on July 30 - location to be announced.

Wilderness Proposal - Bob Handley

WV Wilderness proposed 15 areas be added to the Wilderness areas in Monongahela National Forest.

All 5 WV delegations are on the board - 4 have limestone & caves. Seneca Creek, N Fork Mountain & Dolly Sods

Virginia Karst Trails

A list of trails has been received from Judy Mulnar

Host Report

389 registered. Please clean up your trash.

New River moved to thank the host, Tri State Seconded. Passed unan

Old Business

Fall 05 Meet - R.A.S.S. Volunteered to host on the last weekend in September at their field station.

New Business

Host Grotto for Spring 06 - open

Grant Requests

A request was made but it was out of scope

Announcements

Bannerman - the Caver Cruise was a success. Next cruise - western Caribbean - will include caving.

Carnival Cruise Lines

Dasher - A 65' pit is located in downtown Lewisburg - a gas spill in the area may have drained into it

Adjournment

Bubble Cave LLC moved to adjourn, DC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Tiderman