

Minutes of the Spring 2006 VAR Meeting

April 30, 2006

Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:05

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tiderman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented.

The domain name has been renewed - we are good for 6 years

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

Nothing to report.

Conservation Co-Chair - Andy Reeder

24 people attended the Easter Conservation Weekend

Island Ford is in excellent shape & the camera is working, per Bubble Cave.

WVCC thanked Blue Ridge for monitoring the cave

Bowden - Monongahela Grotto is doing road litter cleanup. They will monitor the cave.

Island Ford Cave - Summer - BATS

Goodwin's Cave Management - Mary Sue Socky

The cave is doing fine.

Boy Scouts are wanting to do conservation work at the cave

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Call for nominations - Due by July. There is a form online to facilitate your input

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

There has been one nomination - Christie & John Shiflett of Glade Cave.

There is a form online to use for submitting nominations.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No report.

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Needs material - Deadline June 15

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Please keep grotto contact information current.

Cave Bucks - Judy Fisher

Is alive & doing well.

VSS - Phil Lucas

No report

WVASS - George Dasher

No report. There will be a meeting at Bill Balfour's next weekend at 4PM.

WVCC - Jeff Bray

Thanks for the efforts at Island Ford Cave

Volunteers and donations are always needed

Currently working with the owner of McClungs.

New Dixie - Dave Socky

The survey is complete. Going to start creating the map

Cave Management Forum - Joey Fagan

Resources are available to support dye tracing programs in Va.. Can assist with technical information and lab work.

Sink hole cleanup funding is available from the state up to \$2500. The state will fund 75% And the owner will be responsible for 25% of the cost. The owners 25% can be in-kind donated labor.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

The new map, representing 3.82 miles of surveyed passage in Grand Caverns, was presented to the Upper Valley Park Authority on April 29, 2006.

Virginia Cave Board - Joey Fagen

Cave Board minutes will be online

Development in the Shenandoah Valley is impacting karst.

Blasting in Strausburg has impacted Crystal Caverns

The next meeting will be on September 9th. Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

CCV - Bob Handley

The Monongahela National Forest requested comments last fall. They received 1300 regarding the new management plan. 90% favored more wilderness.

There is planned expansion of Dolly Sods, Otter Creek & Cranberry Glades by the Forest Service.

Cheat Mountain Wilderness being created.

No action in the Greenbrier

Roadless access will remain as currently established.

Need letters written to congressmen to author a bill to create WV wilderness.

A letter will be sent from the VAR, Help is appreciated.

Virginia Karst Trail - Andy Reeder

The concept is still alive. Contact was made with several departments of the state & park service.

Trying to put together a one day meeting to hash out logistics.

Letter to request a grant from the National Park Service - not for funding but to assign a planner to the project.

E-mail Andy if you are interested in getting involved.

CCV - Janet Tinkham

They are reprinting Living on Karst - a few additional pages will be added.

Host Report

The Grand Caverns/Cave Hill Survey Team said there were 363 registered attendees.

Old Business

Front Royal Grotto will be hosting the Spring 07 meeting at the end of April

New Business

Host Grotto for Fall 06 - VPI will be hosting around Lewisburg, WV - September 22-24

Host Grotto for Spring 07 - Triangle Trogs will be CO-hosting the MAR/VAR at the OTR site on the 2nd weekend in October

After the Fall of 07 Pine Mountain Grotto looking to CO-host a VAR meeting in Southern VA

Quorum Requirement - A committee was created to develop guidelines re member groups attendance & requirements regarding achieving a quorum at the meetings. Committee members appointed by the chair - John Pearson, Bob Hoke, Bill Biggers.

Web forum - www.caveconservation.org - to talk about conservation projects/issues etc.

It was suggested host groups should have a computer on site to see who is in attendance at a meeting and where they are camped.

Grant Requests

Andy Reeder requested a grant of up to \$500 for a study on reasons for & effects of cave gating. BATS moved to fund the study up to \$500, New River seconded - passed unanimous

Announcements

NSS Ballots are in the mail - vote

Conservation grants up to \$5,000 per year, \$1,000 per project - visit the NSS grant page

The NSS is looking for a Grant Committee Chair

Thanks to the Survey for a wonderful VAR

Silers Cave gate was vandalized - on May 20 there will be a trip to make repairs - help is needed

Thanks to the trip leaders for their help on the Easter Cleanup

Adjournment

DC moved to adjourn, BATS seconded.

Meeting Adjourned 10:10

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman