

Minutes of the Spring 2007 VAR Meeting

April 29, 2007

Durbin, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:11

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented.

The domain name has been renewed - we are good for 6 years A motion was made by Bubble Cave to accept the financial report, BATS seconded - Motion passed

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Blue Ridge, WVCC & BATS cleaned Island Ford cave. Graffiti was power washed

Easter - the large pavilion was re-roofed. The remains of the Octagon were put into a dumpster, brush was chipped, paradise trees were pulled.

During VAR - Judy & JC Fisher pulled garlic mustard & removed trash from the Godner Scenic Area Virgin Red Spruce Forest

Poorfarm Cave needs graffiti removed

Can recycling was present VAR & will be at all future meetings.

Goodwin's Cave Management - Mary sue Socky

The cave was broken into in Aug. 06. The owner's repair is holding well. Craig Hindman designed a bat friendly gate. The design was sent to the owners & we are waiting for a reply.

Water pH sampling for a science fair project was done.

The week long NCRC will be held June 16-23 & is hoping to use the cave for a confined space mock rescue.

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Need nominations - write a paragraph why they deserve recognition - we can award up to 3 a year.

Nominations forms are on the web.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

No Nominations. Think of landowners who deserve this award.

There is a form online to use for submitting nominations.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No new is good news.

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Send articles - Deadline June 15th

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

No report.

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

The conservancies need your dollars.

VSS

Phil Lucas has stepped down & Rick Lambert is now in charge.

WVASS - George Dasher

WV cave protection signs are available. The WVASS meeting is next week at Shavers Mtn.

WVCC - Bob Handley

Bob Handley is taking over as president. They are looking for caves to acquire in WV and possibly Va.

Projects completed - Gating of Rapps Cave

Credit cards are no longer accepted, cash or checks only

New Dixie - Mary Sue Socky

Dixie Caverns - April 1 New River Valley & Blue Ridge did a cleanup and inspired tour guides to do some cleaning. The cave was vandalized. Someone keyed "Mexico" on the rim of the reflecting pool. The Conservation Committee is trying to find a way to repair the damage. There will be a Haunted Cave this fall.

Cave Management Forum - Joey Fagan

At the field event in Scott County 15 people surveyed several caves. Dye tracing was done. Approximately a mile of cave was reopened.

There is a bunk house & all are welcome

Data used in environmental review - Madison Cave isopod inventory

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Craig Hindman

A pseudo scorpion was seen in Fountain Cave

Grand Caverns Park requires a line item on the general assembly budget to become a state park.

There are new environmental displays as a result of punitive actions against Dupont.

Virginia Cave Board - Dave Socky

The Cave Board meeting will be a Natural Tunnel this fall

Cave week will be held in conjunction with Earth week.

Sink hole regulations are being revised

Storm water regulations are being revised

Roby Hollow Cave's gate was breached & the cave was spray painted. The vandals put their names in the cave. This information was turned over to the sheriff.

Wilderness Proposal - Bob Handley

Things are slowly happening in DC. Nick Rayhall is chair of the National Resources Commission. They are in the process of developing a wilderness bill for WV Dolly Sods. Expanding plans for Chestnut Hill & Seneca Creek & the E Fork of the Greenbrier, Spice run & 3 areas in Greenbrier. A concerted effort by some in the DNR to remove wilderness designation has been suppressed so far. Support is needed. The Wilderness Coalition is working hard to make things happen.

Virginia Karst Trail

Va. Outdoors plan is about to be published. Andy came up with statutes that will be in the upcoming plan. There may be some funding.

CCV - Joey Fagany

TLiving on Karst is a valuable resource & the supply is running out. They are about to republish with information on conservation easements added.

Ogden's Cave - they have an option but it is over one million. They have transferred the option to the Nature Conservancy. CCV was reimbursed for expenses. The Nature Conservancy will transfer option to DCR.

CCV is updating web site

Quorum Committee - John Pearson

Proposes all references to quorum rules be deleted. Blue Ridge seconded. Passed unan. The Committee was dissolved.

Host Report - [Front Royal Grotto]

There were about 280 attendees. Thanks for coming. The raffle brought in approx. \$300.

Bubble Cave moved to thank Front Royal Grotto, BATS seconded - passed

Old Business

VAR

Oct. 12-14 The MAR/VAR will be held at the OTR site. Preregistration forms are available. Caving will be available the week before. Price will be \$24 plus MAR or VAR fees.

New Business

Spring 2008 - there will be a joint SERA/VAR, hosted by the Mtn Empire Grotto. The event will be held on June 5-8 at the campground next to the Bristol Speedway. There will be new caves to visit. Closed caves will be open.

There were no other groups volunteering to host future meetings

Insurance will be needed if we are to hold another event at the fairgrounds at Fairly WV. John Pearson appointed as a committee to investigate with Ted Keys the possibility of having a rider on the NSS policy.

Grant Requests

None received

Announcements

Rocky has 3 bottles of Fluorescence for sale at \$5 per can - powder

Mary Sue announced the week long NCRC will be June 16-23. Marianne & Dan McConnell are the contacts

Joey announced the Appalachian Karst Symposium will be in Johnson City Tenn - the date TBA

Janet - There was an individual who was acting inappropriately on a cave trip & he was too drunk to drive home. They were spoken to & have been asked not to come back. It was suggested that they be refunded their \$3 and notified by mail that they are not welcome.

Adjournment

Bubble Cave moved to adjourn, RASS seconded.

Meeting Adjourned 10:17

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tiderman