

Minutes of the Spring 2008 VAR Meeting

June 8, 2008

Bristol, TN

Meeting was called to order at 9:03

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. A motion was made by Tri-State to accept the financial report, BATS seconded - Motion passed.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

Due to the short time frame between the Spring & Fall meeting an executive decision was made to accept Blue Ridge Grotto's bid to host.

Suspended the agenda VIII B

The Fall VAR will be held from Sept. 19-21 at the Covington Moose lodge. Registration forms are available online

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Johnson

The Easter Cleanup was held at Grand. News crews were on site & interviewed Andy & Meredith.

Janet Tinkham reported on the planned gate modification/repair at Front Royal Caverns. Also a cave cleanup is planned.

Dave West reported on the planned gating of Trout Cave on September 17-21. The Indiana bat population has increased. The cave will be open during the summer. DNR, BCI & Fish & Wildlife are funding the project at a cost of approx. \$35,000. It is approximately 1 ½ hours from the VAR meeting. Contact Dave West for more information. The welder is being paid. The Preserve Committee will control access.

Goodwin's Cave Management - Al Stewart

The cave was gated around 20 years ago. The bats have not come back. The plan to keep the cave open year round.

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Send in nominations before OTR. Provide a paragraph with the reason behind the nomination.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

Two nominations made by Charlottesville Grotto & Shavers Mtn Proj. These were approved.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No report.

Region Record - Bob Hoke

No report

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

No report

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Send in the money you collect.

VSS

VA Cellars is coming soon

WVASS - George Dasher

No report.

WVCC - Meredith Hall Johnson

The next meeting will be held on July 12 at Dave Cowan's. The Open Cave is coming soon - send material.

Virginia Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Staying busy. A list of links was handed out. Dye tracing materials are available. Will be attending the Appalachian Karst Symposium

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Carol Tideman

The Fountain Cave dig continues. A breakthrough was made in Dante's. The state still has plans to make into a state park.

Cave Board - Dave Socky

The next meeting will be held next weekend at Crystal Caverns. A grant request has been made to make more cave protection signs & labels.

Wilderness Proposal - Bob Handley

No report

Virginia Karst Trail - Joey Fagan

Andy Reeder is working on a report to the VA Cave Board.

Janet Tinkham - Warren County has property near the river & may add it to The Trail.

CCV - Joey Fagan

Ongoing project in the stewardship of Powell Mtn. Karst preserve. Many projects are in the early stages.

WNS - the NE has opened their caves, the Guilday committee has opened the caves. Fish & Wildlife is working on a memo re the other caves, some caves may remain closed (on Federal lands)

Dave Cowan - the Portal is reopened

Host Report - Mountain Empire

No report

Old Business

Spring 2009 - Tri State still working on a location

Spring 2010 - Bubble Cave - will be held at the Fairlee Fair Ground

New Business

Spring Survey - Charlie Maus

Proposes a program to monitor significant springs & create a database. Would require monthly or quarterly monitoring at the sites - would include measuring flow, temperature, turbidity, pH, etc. A joint VAR VSS project is proposed. Training would be set up. Would start with 10 to 12 springs. A data compiler will be needed. The ultimate goal would be to develop a base line for abating future pollution. VA Highlands moved to approve this project. Bubble Cave seconded - motion passed. The Chair moved this project to the Conservation Committee

DINGO Grotto requested membership in the VAR. Bubble Cave moved to accept. BATS seconded - motion passed

The Cave Board requested membership in the VAR Blue Ridge moved to accept. BATS seconded - motion passed

Grant Requests

The Cave Board requested funds for cave signs and labels to update the existing signs - also they will need volunteers to install them. A request was made for \$500. VA Highlands moved to grant \$500. Bubble seconded - motion passed

Announcements

Karst fact sheets were distributed.

2009 Registration Committee said registration forms were ready to go, the final price has not been set yet but it should be online by the end of July.

Mary Sue Socky - she & Hoke have updated the closed cave list

Multiple Grottoes will be working on the Haunted Cave at Dixie Caverns to raise funds for conservation

Craig Hindman - Thanks to SERA for inviting us to a joint event

Adjournment

VA Highlands moved to adjourn, BATS seconded.

Meeting Adjourned 10:12 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman