

## **Minutes of the Spring 2009 VAR Meeting**

**May 23, 2009**

West Virginia State Fairgrounds, Fairlea, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:12

### **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.

**The Treasurer** - John Fox

A financial report was presented. A motion was made by Charleston Grotto to accept the financial report, Pine Mountain Grotto seconded - Motion passed.

**The Vice Chair** - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report.

**The Chairman** - Craig Hindman

Attended the Cave Board Meeting in Grottoes. There was a discussion on the proposed protocols for WNS. These should allow caving to continue in affected areas with clean gear. If entering non WNS areas you should not go caving if you have been caving in WNS areas. If you must cave in these areas, you should have different gear and decontaminate between trips.

**Conservation Co-Chair** - Meredith Hall Weberg

The Easter Cleanup was held at Grand. Gravel was hauled & spread in Grand. Also algae abatement was done A roof was repaired that had been damaged by a falling rock - the expenses were paid by Bubble Cave. Formation repair was done in Fountain. There were about 40 people present.

The sinkhole cleanup at VAR was canceled due to the conditions of the farmers field.

Island Ford was cleaned up during the VAR. Karst Trail work at done at VAR in April

**VAR Outstanding Service Award** - Meredith Hall Weberg

Nominate folks who help the region - e-mail a reason for the award or use the form online.

**Landowner Recognition Awards** - Janet Tinkham

Nominate folks who help the region - e-mail a reason for the award or use the form online.

**Landowner Legal Support Committee** - Bob Hoke

No new is good news.

**Region Record** - Bob Hoke

Send articles and pictures - Deadline for next issue June 15.

**VAR List Server** - Walt Pirie

No report.

**VAR Web site** - Jim McConkey

Contacts need to be updated for grottos.

**Cave Bucks** - JC Fisher

Alive and well. Tri-State is closing in on 5K. Send the funds out, don't sit on them.

**VSS** - Rick Lambert

One more caves than West Virginia. There is a proposal to establish a regional library for VA & WV. Request VAR and grottoes consider the need for this library and to provide ideas for building plans. 1 ½ acres have been offered in Highland County. We need to know how much space is needed. We are looking for partners and ideas. The NSS also is wanting regional libraries and outreach centers - it might be possible to share the facilities.

**WVASS** - Bob Gulden

There are plans to have two bulletins out by OTR and two more by the 2012 Convention. There are more bulletins in the works.

**WVCC** - John Pearson.

We have one new cave. It came at a small cost - the price of a survey and appraisal. We now own the Wild Cat entrance to Culverson Creek.

**Virginia Karst Program** - Joey Fagan

The government has cut the program. We have lost all funding. We hope the funding will be reinstated. The program is running in a very reduced capacity.

**SCCI** - John Pearsons

Consider Lobelia Saltpetre Cave as closed

**Grand Caverns/Cave Hill** - Jim McConkey

The project continues. The dig in Fountain Cave continues. We took city employees into Fountain and exited the cave via candlelight. The Forest Service did filming in Grand using some of the project caverns. Sweetbrier students came to the cave for a caver tour and to do conservation work in Grand..

**Virginia Cave Board** - Dave Socky

There was a meeting on May 15th to discuss WNS & the policy for Virginia. VA Cave Week was successful.

### **Virginia Karst Trail**

Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill - the karst trail is finished and permanent signs have been installed.  
Ongoing projects at Skyline Caverns and in Salem VA.

### **CCV - Joey Fagany**

The economic downturn has impacted income and the ability to make donations. We are still a strong organization, but cannot make grants at this time. Advise us if you have a major need.

### **Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan**

Continuing with monitoring. Chemicals are available.

### **Youth Group Liaison - Joey Fagan**

Joey is the coordinator for VA & WV say its time to take scouts, etc. out caving again.

### **Host Report - BUBBLE CAVE**

330 in attendance - there were 19 led conservation/recreational trips. 141 people used the decon center that was paid for by BUBBLE CAVE.

### **Old Business**

#### **VAR**

Fall 2010 - no volunteers  
Spring 2011 - no volunteers  
Fall 2011 - no volunteers

#### **WNS**

Covered elsewhere

### **Bailout Fund**

Baltimore moves a fund be created for groups who lost funds hosting a VAR due to no fault of their own. The fund cap would be \$600. The VAR fee would be raised 25 cents to fund it. The EC could approve the bailout after a review of the budget. Bubble seconded. TriState moved to amend to raise the cap to \$3000. Pine Mtn seconded - amendment passed. Blue Ridge moved to amend the increase from 25 cents to \$1. Pine Mtn seconded - motion to amend passed. Dingo moved to amend that the entire directorate could be petitioned to approve the bailout. Tri State seconded. Pine Mtn called for the vote - BATS seconded - motion passed - 1 abstention. The committee has been dissolved and is thanked for their efforts.

### **New Business**

Bubble moves to raise the VAR fee to \$5 per attendee. DC seconded - motion passed. This can be readdressed if it affects attendance

### **Grant Requests**

No requests

**Announcements**

The 2012 NSS convention will be at this site

Thanks to the host group

Talk to Joey re Youth Trips

**Adjournment**

Tri State moved to adjourn, Dingo seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:11 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tiderman