

Minutes of the Spring 2011 VAR Meeting

May 23, 2011

Durbin, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:19 AM.

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. There was a discussion on where to move funds. Bubble Cave moved - to evaluate over the next year where to move our money and we can made a decision next year. Tri-State seconded. Motion passed Bubble Cave to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. FUN seconded. Motion passed.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Thanks for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

A committee was created and a report will be covered in the agenda items.

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Grand restoration - 22 attended

Need a replacement for the NSS Conservation liaison.

Conservation report form will be put on the web.

A letter from Grand Caverns was read.

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Nominees needed. Deadline is mid July. There is a form on the web.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

GVKS nominated the owner of the cave. 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. - seems to be working.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Use the forms. Contacts need to be updated for grottos.

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Still works. Tri-State is closing in over \$6K. Send the funds out, don't sit on them.

VSS - Rick Lambert

No report - One more cave than West Virginia.

WVASS - George Dasher

2 more caves than Virginia.

WVCC - John Pearson.

Carroll Basset is the new President.

Looking for caves and actively talking to owners.

Virginia Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Wil Orndorff is the contact.

There have been severe budget cuts.

Odgen's Cave Preserve - there have been several work weekends. The website is being updated - organizing work weekends - the cave has been gated

Clover Hollow - had a successful rescue in Stay High Cave.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No report.

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

Easter Restoration - a new epoxy was tried in Fountain Cave. The project is going strong.

The Biggers Diggers continue their work in Fountain Cave.

Civil War Signature documentation continues in Grand.

Heritage Day will be on June 4th.

There is now a display at the cave regarding the historic signatures.

Virginia Cave Board - Meredith Hall Weberg

Met in March and discussed Cave Week.

Lesson plans for cave creatures and bats can be found on the web.

Virginia Karst Trail - Meredith Hall Weberg

VCB has taken over the karst trail.

Skyline Caverns is forming a trail, built fences, but needs signage

Cowpasture River has a karst trail

Crystal Caverns trail reopens in May
Lost World Caverns is establishing a karst trail.

CCV - Joey Fagan

Visit the web site - the economic situation persists - possible grants in the fall.

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

The survey continues - Virginia water quality in springs, especially areas that may be developed.

Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill

There is a proposed management plan. It is a great resource. Insurance is a stumbling block, we cannot foresee making enough money to pay for it. Waiting for more information from the NSS regarding insurance costs.

Youth Group Liaison - Joey Fagan

Needs to cultivate a list of grotto's/people who wilol take scouts etc. on trips.

NSS is developing a program of standardized training.

NSS web has information on youth group caving/

BSA also has a book.

Host Report - Front Royal Grotto

Approximately 250 attendees

BATS moved to thank Front Royal Grotto. Baltimore seconded - motion passed

Old Business

VAR

Fall 2011 - no volunteers

Spring 2012 - Tri-State

Fall 2012 - no volunteers

WNS

Still moving along.

Clean your gear/

Thanks to Wil for going to bat for the cavers.

WV will continue acoustical monitoring over the summer.

Forest Service training will be held in late June in conjunction with the local DNR & NSS.

These people will be monitoring the caves.

New Business

None

Grant Requests

None

Announcements

Russ Kennedy - the 2013 NSS Convention is being bid for Shippensburg Pa. at the University. Help is needed to fill staff position and committee positions

Adjournment

Baltimore moved to adjourn, Blue Ridge seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman