

Minutes of the Spring 2012 VAR Meeting

April 29, 2012

Williamsburg, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

The status of the treasury was presented & distributed.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Thanks for attending the meeting.

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

There is a grant request that will be covered later in the meeting.

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Grand Caverns Restoration was attended by appropriately 30 people. Gravel was spread & formations were repaired.

We need a rep to send conservation reports to the NSS - Janet Tinkham volunteered

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

No report. Form is online.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

The McConnel's were very surprised and appreciate the award. Currently there are no nominations. Please submit your suggestions. There is a 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 30.

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

There are approximately 200 members. The system is working well. No spam.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

There have been a lot of complaints lately about what info is not on the web, particularly in regards to this VAR Mtg. Just a reminder to everyone - the VAR website, and the RR is only an outlet for publishing info on regional interest. I have published everything I have been given about the Spring VAR on the web site Bob Hoke & I are only publishers and occasionally editors, we generally DO NOT generate the info we publish. If you are not happy with what is not published remind the people who generate the info that they need to submit it to be published.

Grottoes hosting cleanups, VAR meetings and other events are welcome to set up their own pages if they have the facilities and I can link to it, or I will be happy to work with groups to do web publishing for them, but they need to send the info to me to publish, likewise with the RR. I get far more complaints about the old Grotto contact info being out of date or not working than I get updates from grottoes. People out there are trying to contact grottoes using info off the VAR web site and cannot because the grottoes do not keep their info updates. If you have an election of change of contact, please notify webmasterva@region.org.

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Still works. It's easy. For more information contact JC. Send the funds in, don't hold onto them.

VSS - Rick Lambert

No report.

WVASS

No report.

WVCC

No report

SCCI - Walt Piriee

Consider sending funding to support their effort.

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

We have been shut out of Fountain Cave for the winter for WNS, despite almost no bats in the cave, but at the same time we have been severely restricted as to activities in Grand, so we have mostly been concentrating on historic signature research. The dig and historical research in Fountain will resume this month and cavers will conduct an in-service training for park employees in Fountain Cave this month as well.

Like last year Grand Caverns Park will sponsor its second annual Heritage Days festival on Saturday June 16, 2012. A rand Ball, illuminated by candle light and featuring two bands, will be held that evening. Virginia's Civil War 150' mobile museum will be on site, along with Civil War encampments, cannon firing and folk craft displays. If you missed it last year, you missed a great event, but now you have another chance. Heritage Days activities are free, but the ball, which includes a light dinner is \$25.

Virginia Cave Board - Meredith Hall Weberg

No report. It's almost over. For info vacaveweek.com.

CCV - Walt Pirie

They own a waterpark and have funding for grants. They like to do projects - rent heavy equipment for sink hole projects.

BCC wants to purchase Robin's Rift.

Providing education support for Project Underground

Megan Porter is creating a field guide to cave fauna & flora.

Sponsoring the 2012 NSS Convention

Sponsoring the NSS HQ Fund

Would like info on the history of the CCV projects -some were lost or final reports were not submitted.

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

Continues - contact Charlie Maus or Joey Fagan

Getting base line info on the condition and quality of the springs.

Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill

Bubble Cave moves to defer action to the Fall meeting. Pine Mtn. Seconded - passed.

Youth Group Liaison - Joey Fagan

Still active and getting inquiries from scout groups.

Need volunteers to help lead one or two trips a year.

Host Report - FTri-State

235 registered, 18 no shows.

New River moved to thank Tri-State. CCV seconded – motion passed

Old Business

VAR

Fall 2012 - Fall 2012 – Rolland Moore – Rockbridge Co. 1st weekend in Oct. Need help leading cave trips

Spring 2013 - Tri-State at the Boy Scout Camp between Huntersville & Dunmore, Pocahontas Co., WV.

Possibly the last weekend in April.

WNS

Decon your gear in how water - 122 degrees for 20 minutes

Monongahela National Forest closure expires June 30th.. Chair will ask Peter Youngbaer to draft a letter for the region to send to them asking for no renewal of the closure.

Sligo moved - The chair will send letters to the Regional Administrators of the Monongahela National Forest, the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests requesting they do not renew the blanket closures that expire on June 30th. Monongahela Grotto seconded - passed.

New Business

None

Grant Requests

MayaCon 2012 - in the spirit of communications is requesting \$250 for stenciling the storm water drains in Union & Lewisburg WV

Announcements

Donations are needed by the Appalachian Karst Conservancy to pay for Gilley Cave.

Put your trash in the green dumpster.

WV proclaimed cave week June 25-29

Requests come in for directions to and/or the phone numbers of cave owners. This will not happen.

Adjournment

Bubble moved to adjourn, CCV seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tiderman