

Minutes of the Spring 2015 VAR Meeting

APRIL 26, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 9:11

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by WVASS to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. BATS Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

Making money on the NSF account - finally
Money came back from the Region Record

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report

Conservation CO-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Grand Caverns Restoration went well. 25 people painted the entrances to the cave, hauled and spread gravel, picked lint, weeded gardens, did algae abatement

Tri-Trogs cleaned caves

Blue Ridge has been working in the Caverns at Natural Bridge to clean algae.

There were three trips before the VAR. During VAR cavers repaired steps, removed coins from the pools. And cleaned more algae. More cleanup trips may be scheduled after the cave closes for the season

Graffiti was removed in Ogden's Cave. A sinkhole as cleaned on the property

Lo-more cave was cleaned

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

The award was presented to Walt Pirie

Three can be presented per year - submit nominations

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkhan

No nominations.

There is a form online

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No new is good news.

Region Record - Nikki Fox

No report

There is a new format. Submit articles

VAR List Server - Philip Balister

Yahoo causes grief

Server working well.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

The site is being redesigned after moving to a new server. We now can have guest editors. The closed cave list needs updating. Archives of the Region Record are online with a one year delay. Please check your grotto contact information. There is an index to the caves and people of the VAR from the Speleo Digests.

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Send your funds to pay for New River Cave.

VSS - Rick Lambert

No report

Federal Regulators and Consultants (FERC) working on data requests. They are required to provide information - pipe lines

WVASS – George Dasher

Have a data base - need info from the 70's on - maps, pictures, documents, survey data.

Removed FRO's and digs from the data base

Working with gas companies to keep them off caves.

The next meeting will be at Balfour's on May 15. Also at OTR

WVCC - Carroll Bassett

Hancock Cave in SW VA was donated

Finances are good

SCCI – Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

Project still going on. Conservation work done in Grand during the winter. Survey to go on in Fountain. The dig in Fountain continues. There is also a dig going on the hill

Virginia Cave Board – Meredith Hall Weberg

No position on the pipeline - sharing information- FERC sent letters which will soon be on the web site - talks about caves, karst and endangered species.

Representative from Dominion was at the meeting

Cave week just ended. Started well with the Save Lucy event. There were trips to

New River Cave. A cleanup at the Ogden's property, BCC did a cleanup at Aqua Cave. PCCS interested in helping next year
The Karts Trail is online
A Karst Workshop will be held at VMI before the Environment Virginia Conference for developers.

Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky

Had a logo contest and have a new T-shirt.
Finished New River Cave trail
Funding is available

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

No report

Youth Group Liaison – Joey Fagan

No report

Dominion Pipeline

Covered by other reports

New River Cave - Wil Orndorff

The donation from Ed Miller was shared between two projects.
This years payment was made from donations.
Over 1k was collected during the VAR
Stil need operations funding
There is a new trail on Spruce River road.
Parking at old river lot. Trying to work out a new parking location.
Slope restoration needed
May 10 is the next trail day. 5 to 6 hours of work planned
May go to CCV for matching grant.

Host Report – BATS

268 preregistered approximately 1/2 used Pay Pal - 6 on site registrations, 2 day passes, 14 no shows
6 cave trips
Thanks for coming
Sligo moved to thank, New River seconded passed

Old Business

VAR Hosts

Fall 2015 - no offers
Spring 2016 - Tri-State working on details
Fall 2016 - Pine Mtn working on future Fall VAR

WNS - remove from agenda

New Business

Walker Mountain Grotto requested membership in VAR - Bill Gross contact They are surveying caves in Smith, Wythe and Washington Counties

Grant Requests

\$400 granted to the Cave Board was used to to cover printing and mailing of their newsletter.

Announcements

Ernst Kastning has Natural Bridge books for sale

Please help drop canopies

Please put trash in one spot

Breakfast dollars go to conservation efforts

Adjournment

Bubble Cave moved to adjourn, New River. seconded. Meeting

Adjourned at 10:07 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman