

Minutes of the Spring 2016 VAR Meeting

APRIL 23, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 9:08

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by BUBBLE CAVE to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. Baltimore Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

Upgraded printed reports with new data.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report

Conservation CO-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Grand Caverns Restoration went well. 34 people worked on breaking the gravel on the trail r clearing brush and trees along the road

Attendees worked on cleaning our a sinkhole during the VAR. More work needs to be done

Reports forms are online

WV cave protection signs are available from George Dasher

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Weberg

Submit nominations

Forms and a list of previous winners are listed online

Deadline for submissions - OTR

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

NSS newsletter reviewer wants to get a copy of the Region Record.

Concerns were discussed about publishing online

Sensitive material should be redacted

Author can send two copies, one clear and one redacted

New River moved No sensitive material will be published in the Region Record seconded by WVACS - motion passed
Tri-State moved Do not post the Region Record on KIM - Bubble seconded.
Motion passed

VAR List Server - Jim McConkey

Have moved from the VA tech server to Google Groups
Probably will list add and remove directions to subscribe on VAR website.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Being used
Some folks report there is a Trojan on i./ This has been checked and the system is clean.
It is a false positive on McAfee.
Keep your grotto contacts updated
Contact information can be updated using the forms on the web
Need an index to the Region Record

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

Doing well Tri-State is nearing 7k

VSS - Rick Lambert

Printed monograph on Virginia caves for sale - \$25. It is available through Rick Lambert

WVASS – George Dasher

Spring meeting on May 7th at 1PM at Balfour's house
Work continues on the data base for significance, maps, archiving survey data, dating photo's

WVCC - Carroll Bassett

Gated Haynes Cave. It is open to cavers. Contact Ed Saugstad.

SCCI – Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey

The manager has changed
Trail work has been ongoing - floors are being broken up and leveled
Fountain reopens in April

Virginia Cave Board – Meredith Hall Weberg

Next meeting will be on June 11th in the Charlottesville area.
Cave week ended yesterday. Several projects were accomplished
We have a FB page. Please take a look.
April 5th the Virginia Department of Conservation hosted a Karst Symposium.

There were approximately 30 attendees.
David Ek is the new chair
There is a Cave and Karts Trail website
Has a web page. Please send comments for improvement.

Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky

Helped with the funding of the gate for Haynes Cave
Funded the kiosk for New River Cave
Funding is available for sinkhole cleanups
Funds available for grants.

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

No report

Youth Group Liaison – Joey Fagan

No report

The Boy Scout district hosted a University of Scouting. Mary Sue Socky attended and talked to the scouts.

Dominion Pipeline

The WV southern route puts more of Greenville karst in the route
The pipeline moved south route #3 is a good route karst wise.
Route #4 is not good from the karst point of view.
VA - Mountain Valley. Balfour managed to get through areas outside of conservation areas
Atlantis Coast - the new GW 6 route is worst. It crosses 10 sinking streams.
Dominion still working to fine tune

New River Cave - Wil Orndorff

Paint in the register room
A path has been taped off to avoid bats
The new trail is beautiful
There is a new kiosk
Cave has been paid for.
The survey continues

Host Report – Tri-State

295 total registrants 234 pre-registered There were 61 walk ups. 17 no shows
We urge folks to pre-register
16 grottoes from different states were represented
There were 16 cave trips and 2 conservation projects

Old Business

VAR Hosts

Fall 2016 - September 30th to October 2nd at Poorfarm in Greenbrier County
Greenbrier Groto hosting

Spring 2017 Tentatively at Seneca Rocks - Tommy Carpenter and friends
Fall 2017 Mountain Institute near Riverton - Pine Mtn

New Business

Information on Natural Bridge
Financially shaky Owes over 1+ million
Employees unsure of continued employment

No dinner at VAR option
People like the camaraderie
People do not have to clean up to go out to eat
Restaurants would be overwhelmed
Dinner is not mandatory

Grant Requests

No requests

Announcements

WVACS Classic will be the 2nd weekend in June
There will be fire works, trips to Lost World, trips to other caves, open at all
cavers

Adjournment

FUN moved to adjourn, New River. seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 10:4 AM

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Tiderman