

Minutes of the Spring 2017 VAR Meeting

Thorn Springs, WV

APRIL 30, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 9:11

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tiderman

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

The Treasurer - John Fox

Organizers of the Fall Meet did not pay the VAR dues
Investments making a small profit.

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report

The Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report

Conservation CO-Chair - Meredith Hall Weberg

Grand Caverns Restoration 23 people participated. They painted, cleared algae and cleared brush along the river

Trout Rocks -did trail maintenance, planted trees and flowers . Repaired fence Tri-State doing work, but committee has not received reports.

Sinkhole cleanup in Rockingham Country is ongoing effort. There is a potential cave. This is a collaboration between VAR,CCV & DNR

Janet Tinkham has joined the committee

Need grotto contacts for conservation projects

We need to identify sinkholes that needing work

A Conservation Chair may need to be replaced

Report forms are online

VAR Outstanding Service Award - JC Fisher

JC is the new committee chair

The criteria have been clarified

Need nominations

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkhan

We need to thank Alex Lewis he received the award and is leaving his cave to the WVCC

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke
No report - No new is good news.

Region Record - Nikki Fox.
Deadline for material is mid June

VAR List Server - Phil Ballister
Everything seems to be in order

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey
Use for announcements
Link other sites to access recent information
Keep grotto contains up to date

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher
Alive and well
Tri-State over 6.5k donated

VSS - Dave Socky
Alive and well

WVASS – George Dasher
Next meeting Saturday at Balfour's in Unus
Working on bulletins
Lidar maps are in the works for Greenbrier
Mountain pipeline going through Rich Creek Springs
Dominion pipeline going NE of Simmons Mingo
Trying to minimize impact to caves
WVASS Classic 2nd weekend in July

WVCC - Carroll Bassett
The tower is running to teach vertical
Holding sketching classes
Big feed - speaker George Dasher John Fox providing music

SCCI – Walt Pirie
Acquired an entrance to Mammoth and Roppel Caves

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Jim McConkey
Continued trail maintenance, replacing lights and algae abatement
Looking for more caves
Surveying to continue in Fountain Cave
Formation repair in Fountain will be ongoing

Virginia Cave Board – Karen Kastning
CCV grant paid for printing the Cave Owners Newsletter.

Cave Week was very successful
Next meeting in Stanton

Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky

Gave an emergency grant to the cave board
Grants are available - go to website to apply
T-shirts are available to members
Checkout their Facebook page

Spring Survey Project - Joey Fagan

No report

Youth Group Liaison – Joey Fagan

Marianne McConnell is working with youth groups
Inner city group had a presentation and went caving and loved it
Boy Scouts helped with Trout Rocks and went caving

New River Cave

Some vandalism
Weekly visits by cavers
Signs at road re parking and trail

DOMINION PIPELINE

Covered in other reports

HOST REPORT

270 registered 150 preregistered
6 led trips 3 horizontal 3 vertical
Sligo moved to thank Tommy Carpenter New River seconded passed unan

Old Business

VAR Hosts

Fall 2017 -Pine Mountain grotto will host at the Mountain Institute on Spruce Knob. There will be showers and dorms. One mile to the east of MI is a cavers farm - 80a of flat meadows at 4k feet. Great views and star gazing. September 21-24

Looking for conservation projects

2018 Baltimore and DC

Fall 2018 VPI

New Business

A. A bailout fund was created in 2009. The guidelines are not being followed and groups are not paying the VAR fee New River moved to repeal the Bail Out Fund Tri-State seconded passed unan Sligo moved \$962 from the former Bail Out Fund is to be moved to the general fund. Blue Ridge seconded passed unan
B. JSS We have been donating \$300 when it is available WVASS moved we

cease paying \$300 to the JSS. FUN seconded passed unan Monongahela
Grotto moved Keep the \$300 in the general fund WVASS seconded passed
C. Bubble stated The VAR fee is collected by each host make or lose money and
it needs to be paid. WVASS seconded
D. PSC Cave rescue contact lists need to be updated and sent to Tony Smith
E. COG - No issues to present

Grant Requests

No requests submitted

Announcements

Monongahela Forest Boring Spring =s needs to replace the gate with a bat
friendly type. Unknown if the second entrance will be gated

John Taylor distributed cards for fall VAR

Pastries and goodies are available

Breathing Cave Monogram is for sale \$25

Adjournment

Monongahela moved to adjourn, DINGO. seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 10:52

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Tiderman