

The West Virginia Cave Conservancy

Board of Directors Meeting
Lost World Caverns, Lewisburg WV
14 November 2010

In attendance:

Directors: Frank Abbato (President), Pauline Apling, Carroll Bassett, Fred Grady, Cliff Lindsay, Alex Sproul, Ed Saugstad, Ed Swepston.

Members: Bob Hoke (Treasurer), John Pearson (Secretary), Bill Balfour, Jeff Bray, Bob Thren.

Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m.

I. Reading of Minutes of 6 June 2010.

Motion: Swepston moved to accept and dispense reading of the minutes. Seconded by Bassett. Passed unanimously.

II. Treasurers Report. Hoke.

- A. 2010 Financial Report. It was decided that \$625 will be moved from the Wild Cat Entrance Fund to the General Operating Fund.
- B. 2011 Budget. Will be completed for the first meeting in 2011.

III. Newsletter. Meredith Hall Weberg-Editor. Jean DeVries Layout-Editor.

- A. WVCC published a Spring 2010 and a Summer 2010 newsletter, *The Open Cave*. Jean DeVries became the layout person for the Summer issue (Thank-you Jean!). It appears that two issues per year is about all we can scrape up material for.
- B. It was decided that the Annual Report will be the meat of the next "Open Cave".
- C. Property Managers are to update all cave preserves, even if there is "no change". Obviously, send articles.

IV. Web Site. Charlie Williams.

- A. The conversion of the wvcc.net web site to an open source CMS application was completed in June. Since then a few articles with link problems have been identified and corrected. In August, the latest Open Cave newsletter was posted on the site. All past 18 newsletters are now available for download in PDF format from the web site.
- B. The web site is an underutilized resource for communicating with our membership. Most articles are only reprints of what appears in the newsletter and updates pertaining to cave access are rarely received.
- C. At a minimum, valuable content would be regular (at least annual) updates for each of the managed properties and at least an update to the date pertaining to cave access. If there is no change to the access status, that can be part of the

report or simply an email saying that there is no change to the cave access status will suffice.

- D. Pearson is to get all approved 2010 minutes to Williams for posting on the web, with "DRAFT" removed.
- E. Need to get the Directors terms posted.

V. Membership. Apling.

- A. Reported that there were 206 members and 17 complementary memberships.
- B. Will be making a list for Renewals for OTR.

VI. Future Meetings.

- A. April 2, 2011. Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA at 1:00 p.m. Apling to check with Weston to determine if the place is available that date.
- B. June 25, 2011. Lost World Caverns, Lewisburg, WV at 1:00 p.m.
- C. November 12, 2011. Banquet at the Brier Inn. Happy Hour 6:00 p.m. Banquet at 7:30 p.m.
- D. November 13, 2011. Members and Directors Meeting. Lost World Caverns, Lewisburg, WV at 9:30 a.m.

VII. Committee Reports.

- A. Acquisitions Committee (Abbatto). Had nothing to report.
- B. Advisory Committee. (Balfour). Had nothing to report.
- C. Fundraising Committee (Bray).
 - 1. 2012 OTR. Bray and Pearson are stepping down from running booth for a break.
 - 2. Bumper stickers were located in trailer, obviating need to order more.
 - 3. Large laminated Cave Maps are desired.
 - 4. Suggested to look into getting television with DVD player for booth.
 - 5. Look into getting additional banners.
 - 6. Booth issues.
 - i. Bray and Pearson to set up to determine repairs and bungee needs.
 - ii. Pearson to acquire trailer dolly.
 - iii. Lighting to be looked into.
 - iv. Suggested that the booth be closed during non-peak OTR hours.
 - v. Advertise that volunteer(s) needed to set up booth for OTR. Volunteers will be let into OTR a day early as a "vendor".
- D. Directives Committee (Lindsay/Pearson). No update.
- E. Foundation Committee (Lindsay).

1. Lindsay proposes to make one last effort and give attorney a “drop-dead” date for legal work already promised. If no action, then proposes to get a new attorney
2. The Committee will discuss when to give attorney the “drop-dead” date. Suggested between 12-24-2010 and 1-1-2011 and then discuss with President.
3. The Committee will draft content of contract between the Foundation and the Conservancy.

VIII. Old Business.

- A. Motions regarding Bylaws. To be deleted from Agenda until time is appropriate.
- B. Appointed Board Members. None received. An informal discussion between board members brought up the name of Britt Ludwig, a Lewisburg attorney that is the former President of the Greenbrier County Planning Commission. To be discussed at next meeting.
- C. White Nose Syndrome (WNS) and WVCC Cave Closure. The Conservancy has not received any official correspondence from the State of West Virginia or any scientific evidence that closure is necessary. Therefore, the Board position will remain unchanged. All Caves are open except Lobelia Salt Petre and Rapps, which are closed.
- D. Wild Cat Acquisition Closeout.
 - a. Appraisal was received and given to Mr. Bantel.
 - b. The pictures promised to donors at OTR need to be sent out.
- E. WV Landowner Liability Law. Pearson reports that Bubble Cave will continue to pursue this endeavor and requests that a letter from WVCC would be useful. It was discussed that getting House approval wasn’t the problem, Senate sponsorship and approval was. New Senator elected this November will be approached for sponsorship. It was discussed that once the bills are before the House and Senate, that we ask WVACS, WVASS, Tri-State Grotto and WVU Student Grotto for letters of support. Pearson to coordinate all.

IX. New Business.

- A. Annual Report (Weston).
 1. Content is requested by the end of November.
 - i. Summary of Funds to be handled by Hoke
 - ii. Summary of Properties to be handled by Property Managers.
 - iii. Membership to be handled by Apling.
 - iv. Banquet Report to be handled by Hoke.
 - v. Major Accomplishments. Wild Cat acquisition to be handled by Balfour
 - vi. Summary of OTR to be handled by Bray.

vii. Wild Cat sponsorship to be handled by Pearson.

- B. Bassett was approached by Greenbrier River Watershed Association to prepare a narrated Power Point presentation to distribute to local schools to use grant money GRWA has received. WVCC will consider support if not “political” and a draft of the product is presented.

Motion: Lindsay moves to resolve that the President is authorized to seek new legal council for the establishment of the Foundation upon recommendation of the Foundation Committee. Seconded by Abbato. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

C. Officer elections.

Motion: Lindsay moves to re-elect Weston for Vice President, Hoke for Treasurer and Pearson for Secretary. Seconded by Swepston. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Lindsay moves to nominate Bassett for President. Seconded by Saugstad. Passed unanimously.

The entire board expressed appreciation to Abbato and the other officers for serving in 2010.

Motion: Abbato moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Swepston. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.