

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

November 19, 2015 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Pat Hutson (online)
Neena Jud

Werner Jud
Scott Pavey
Dan Zubal (online)

Also attending:

Bill Carr (online)
Sean Cain (online)
Bob Dobbs

Patrick Gibson (online)
Dennis Green (online)
Gary Bush (online)

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Caretaker’s Report:

Showerhouse was drained and winterized today. The heating elements were removed from the water heater, and they look fine.

There are more difficulties with the tractor, specifically the four wheel drive coupling. The pinion gear front splines look rather bad, but we might as well run it until the pinion gear fails. Bill investigated, and the replacement gear can be obtained for \$157.66 (there is one in North Carolina). Bill was authorized to order the part so we have it on hand when needed.

The zero-turn also needs to be repaired. It doesn’t back up well and doesn’t pull straight. Scott recommends taking it to someone who knows hydraulics to have the seals replaced. The closest Cadet dealer is in London, Ky. It can fit on Jerry’s trailer for transport. Scott & Bill will discuss the problems next time Scott is at the Preserve.

Critters getting into the outside garbage can is still a problem. At the end of each weekend, the can needs to be emptied and put into the kitchen.

Bill still has the large job-box available for the recycling. It has a sloped top, 5’ high in the back, 4’ high in the front, 4’ long, raised up on wheels. The front opens to remove the cans. It can hold three rectangular cans. Holes can be cut in the top, with hoods added so that rainwater will not get in. It is currently green, but could be repainted or decorated. It needs to be conveniently located to be used. No decision was made, but Scott, Werner & Neena will look at it the next time they are at the Preserve.

A red Grand Prix or Grand Am ran into the front gate post last weekend (front grille parts were found all around). The impact moved the wood post significantly, and moved the yellow hinge post an inch such that a new mark is being made by the rebar support when the gate is opened. A sensor for the security system was broken so Bill ordered replacement parts.

Treasurer’s Report:

Expenses exceeded Income for the month of October. Financial report available upon request.

Old Business

Unlimited Long Distance & WiFi: It was clear that asking for lump sum donations from each Grotto was unworkable (we just wouldn't get anything). This left two options: Raising camping fees and/or camping passes and considering WiFi/LD as a utility; or continuing with WiFi/LD passes which still need to be managed. The issues were thoroughly discussed. All present or online contributed their thoughts, and comments were read from those unable to attend.

The first vote established this as a utility expense, with a corresponding increase in camping rates.

Additional discussion and a second vote established the amount of increase. As of January 1, 2016, nightly camping will be \$6.00, electric sites will also be \$6.00, and camping passes will be \$40 for individuals and \$60 for families. Scouts will remain at \$7.00/person/night.

Camping passes are for grotto members only. When new people write Werner for a camping pass, it helps to have a current membership list to check. Neena will request membership lists from all four grottos.

Bill Carr asked if COG has membership cards. Other grottos write the front gate combination on the back, and seeing someone's membership card helps BC when he doesn't recognize new people.

All utilities have been steadily increasing. Please put camping donations in the pipe.

WiFi modem/router: has not been replaced yet. It is still working and Bill is looking for a good deal. They are currently running \$50. He has seen them available for as low as \$25.

New Waiver will be delivered to the Preserve in the next couple of weeks. It is already on the website.

Water Regulator repair project: Bill Carr is having problems with his water pressure. Jerry is trying to get Keith down to the Preserve. Let Werner & Gary know when.

New Business:

Gravel Road Flood Mitigation Project: Neena submitted a preliminary grant application to Kentucky Emergency Management for funding for the gravel road repair. This is from the top of the hill, beyond Bill's house, to just before the Sycamore tree near the Shelter. It is being presented as a Flood Mitigation project through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. GSP is eligible to apply since the Cave is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The scope of the project includes what has been discussed in the past to restore this section of gravel road:

1. Re-cut the uphill side swale to carry the calculated flow volumes. This will be in two sections.
2. Install a new catch basin just before "the tractor barn driveway", discharging into a pipe culvert crossing the road into a rock dispersion structure.
3. Install a new catch basin just before "the steps to the Cave", discharging into a pipe culvert crossing the road into a rock dispersion structure.

4. Install open top culverts (formerly referred to as waterbars) across the roadway to collect the surface run-off, preventing it from increasing velocity and scouring the road surface. At least five open top culverts will be required for this length and slope of roadway. Discharge these into rock dispersion structures on downhill side.
5. Restore and re-compact subgrade. Install DGA surface course.
6. Add vegetation filter areas on downhill side of roadway.

The Total Project Budget submitted was \$28,060. If GSP is approved for this funding, we will be responsible for 13% of the project cost. \$6,240 was included as the value of our volunteer labor, which easily exceeds our portion, so we should be fully reimbursed for the costs.

The preliminary grant application will be reviewed in early January. If approved, additional information is due by March 15, 2016. We will not hear final approval until at least August 2016.

GoToMeeting: We can get this through TechSoup for \$20/month plus a yearly activation fee which can accommodate 25 participants. We heard that the GCG Executive Board is considering this for their monthly meetings. We wonder if RKC would be interested also. The idea was proposed that the three groups could split a single license proportionally (RKC only meets quarterly). Werner/Neena will present the idea to RKC at the December meeting. Dennis will share GSP's interest at the next GCG Executive Board meeting.

Werner officially notified the Committee that a New Treasurer for GSP should be identified in 2016. After 20 some years, he needs to hand the responsibility on to a younger, detail oriented person. He will work with the new person for a conscientious transition.

Donations for GSP: When the Strategic Plan was developed years ago, we included something about a new Educational Center. Bob Dobbs & Neena met with a fundraising consultant, and realize that GSP does not have a donation card with which we can solicit directed donations – for a specific project, for general operating funds or whatever.

Small projects or tasks that could be accomplished by one or a few people in an hour or two could be compiled into a list and hung on a bulletin board at GSP. In addition, folks can stop by and ask Bill Carr (if the front door is standing open). One task that is always needed is to walk the trails and remove downed limbs.

Upcoming associated meetings:

December 4, 2015 GCG meeting & holiday party.

December 6, 2015 RKC meeting

Meeting ended at 9:32 pm.

**Next meeting will be:
7:00 pm December 10, 2015 at Jerry Brandenburg's home.**