

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

December 11, 2014 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Werner Jud

Neena Jud

Also attending:

Bob Dobbs
Ron Hager

Darryl Marsh
Brian Blake (via phone)

Meeting started at 7:23 pm.

Secretary’s Report:

Minutes from the last meeting was reviewed.

Bob Dobbs heard that James Robinson plans to be in Florida for maybe one to three months. Bob will contact James regarding Open House.

Caretaker’s Report:

New binder for Kiosk register acquired, register sheets were replaced, requesting reimbursement for expenses. Ron Hager will also get some thick paper to Bill for the next time new sheet are needed.

Antifreeze will be purchased.

Treasurer’s Report:

Income exceeded expenses this month. Financial report available upon request.

Old Business

Scout Shelter: No progress this month. Werner still plans to “rally the troops” to complete the T1-11 siding installation.

Pat Hutson suggested (rather than installing gutters) constructing french drains along the drip lines with culverts to discharge to the Creek.

The floor of the Scout Shelter is still dirt, but it seems to stay dry.

Road Repair: No information received from Bill Carr regarding the cost of repair by Clifford Collins.

At this point Brian Blake joined the meeting via cell phone. He used to work with the Hamilton County Soil Survey Office. He posed the question: How much money can be budgeted towards reconstruction of the road vs continually repairing it?

The solution should 1) slow the water down, and 2) divert water off the road.

Larger gravel will help to slow water down. Improving the swale on the side of the road can help to control the water’s path. There is a significant berm on the downhill side of the road from above the Two-holer to below the Sycamore that should be cut off. Huge limestone boulders in/under the road have thwarted attempts to re-grade the road. Larger gravel may in concept help but car drivers may be less happy with that choice.

There was a suggestion to shape the road a bit, cut a small grooves (every so often like 50' intervals) and put the cut material on the "beyond" side to act as a water stop and diverter. This will seem to drivers like speed bumps.

In regards to the culvert across/under the road just before the drive to the Tractor Barn, Brian suggests constructing a "level spreader" at the outflow end. Rip-rap is not particularly attractive, but it works. For a fully vegetative "level spreader", Brian suggested using [Flexamat](#), a geotextile with small concrete blocks in it which allows natural vegetation to grow up through it.

Brian would like to be kept advised of the progress on this, and let him know when a work weekend is called to work on this.

Darry suggested that our stormwater management issues could be a Capstone project for a Civil Engineering, Construction Management or Stormwater Engineering student from a nearby University.

Bob Dobbs told the group that a Cooperative Extension Agent from University of Kentucky recently joined GCG. His name is Rex A. McBride, and he is located in Burlington, Kentucky.

Project List: will be tabled to another meeting.

New Developments

Water Pressure: Ron Hager, Jerry Brandenburg, Werner Jud, James Robinson & Bill Carr inspected the three pressure regulators in the line from the road down into the Preserve. They seem to be working together to achieve the pressure reduction. The plan is to replace the middle one. When it is removed, it can be inspected to assess whether the other two can be refurbished or must be replaced. A friend of Jerry's who is a licensed plumber may be able to visit the preserve and assist with the replacement work. Werner is looking for a replacement regulator for a 2" water line.

The Showerhouse failed because water lines froze during a quick cold snap. The Tankless water heater was not shut off properly by a User and the O rings were failing. Werner has replacement O-rings to install. It was a coincidence that these two failures occurred about the same time.

KOR: Werner attended the meeting. Scott Pavey's roaster will be used for the pig. KOR will split cost of dumpsters & Port-o-Lets; \$5.00/person/night camping fee; same for extra nights and per night for electric sites.

Kitchen: It is important that people who are using the kitchen know how to turn everything off, and DO it. A suggestion was made to get new keys and lock for the kitchen. The keys will be distributed to the same people as the recent cave key.

This issue will be revisited at the next meeting when we have a quorum.

A related suggestion was made to review the kitchen Shutdown Checklist that is on the back of the Kitchen Door to make sure all actions are covered.

Duties of Committee Members: There are many tasks required to care for the Preserve. Some are visible like making sure there are enough garbage bags in the Kitchen. Others are not often seen like reading the water meter to verify the water bill. A few are infrequent, like refilling the register with blank pages.

As new people join the Committee, they should know that in addition to participating in the meetings, they need to be responsible for (or be the back-up person for) certain tasks. Therefore a list of tasks should be created. Please bring a list of the tasks you do for the Preserve to the February meeting (or email it to the Secretary) so a master list can be compiled.

One of Werner's tasks is to collect money from the pay pipe. He would like a back-up person to check it occasionally. Bill Simpson was his back up for many years. Bob Dobbs has done it. Darryl Marsh offered to help.

Volunteer Service Hours have been logged in a binder that was kept hanging next to the telephone. A new binder (that can be closed to protect the pages) is needed. Keeping track of how many hours are spent by Volunteers on behalf of the Preserve can help when applying for grants.

Scout Projects: Darryl Marsh requested information about Large Scale Projects that can be Eagle Scout projects, and Small Scale Projects that scouts could do after cave trips. The lists can include projects in the Cave.

- Small Scale projects should be very detailed so that anyone can lead them. Include where to go to get tools, and be very specific about scope of work.
- Large Scale Projects should be outlined as suggestions or ideas;
 - Eagle Scout Candidates can consider GSP Committee members as manpower resources they can call on.
 - One Committee Person is needed to be a Point of Contact for Eagle Scout candidates (see above Duties of Committee Members) so they will not get conflicting information and give up.
 - Eagle Scout Candidates will be required to make a presentation of their project to the Committee, either at a regular Committee meeting or some weekend at the Preserve when there is a quorum.

Virtual Meetings: James Clements attempted this at the KOR meeting, but was foiled by spotty or non-existent WiFi service at the meeting location. The GSP Committee will try the TeamViewer option once a meeting location with reliable WiFi service is identified.

Meeting Announcements

RKC will have a meeting on Sunday December 14, 2014. Two board positions need to be filled. Many people have not renewed their memberships and have just a few days within which to renew if they want to vote in this election.

The Greater Cincinnati Grotto meeting for January will be postponed due to the university being closed for holiday break.

Adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Next meeting will be:

7 pm, Thursday January 8, 2015, location to be determined.