

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2025 –Virtual meeting

Call to order: 7:09 pm

Committee Members

Debi Pavey Chair GCG Rep	Werner Jud Treasurer GCG Rep	Neena Jud Secretary GCG Rep	Jerry Brandenburg GCG Rep
Fred Ball DUG Rep	Kevin Lorms COG Rep	Mark Swelstad COG Rep	David Lindemuth BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	Meg Gaskin Social Events Coordinator	Darryl Marsh Scouts Coordinator
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Additional Attendees

Sean Cain	Patrick Gibson	Stephanie Suen	Andy Schofield
Jared Embree	Tera Williamson		

Announcements

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy will hold its annual meeting on March 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Please see the website for directions to the meeting location (St. Bernard Public Library in Cincinnati) or log-in information for virtual attendance. www.rkci.org

Secretary's Report

No opposition to the January meeting minutes as distributed.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses exceeded Income in the month of January. Full report available upon request.

January activities are slow. The water bill in February was twice as high as normal for this time of year. Possibly the excess was lost at the line which runs on the surface of the hill down to near the campground electric meter serving Scout Camp since it was not disconnected before the freezing weather set in. That spigot has been turned off. Camping passes are being sold (eleven so far for 2025).

Werner will send out the Finalized Budget for 2025.

DP moved to approve the Treasurer's report as delivered. No objections.

Caretaker's Report

Kristen was not on the call at this time, but Debi shared information.

Significant gravel washout ruts have occurred from the CR to the Shelter due to the extremely heavy rains. Pat Hutson is willing to bring his equipment to the Preserve and smooth out those deep ruts, but weather has not cooperated. Also, Scott expects the tractor parts to be delivered early next week and he should have it fixed by the end of the week. If so, he will bring it down also once the weather breaks. Between the two of them the goal is to get the road passable by cars. Later we can figure out the best way to minimize this problem in the future. Patrick shared that there are more heavy rains expected this weekend, in the range of 4-6 inches. Repairs prior to this may be of little value.

The bridge to the Point has been flooded.

There were emails distributed in the last few weeks regarding an icicle found protruding from the Kitchen faucet. There were no leaks associated with it, so it is a non-issue.

Sub-committee Reports

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- See above for comments on the Tractor repair.
- Ticket house renovation – ready for Jerry & Scott to install the ceiling boards.
- Utility pole outside of the Cave (remains on the list) – wooden support panels are ready, waiting to be installed.
- Lights in the Cave (remains on the list) – A few lights and sockets in the Cave still need to be repaired.
- Atlas Pillar Electric Panel Replacement (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting.
- Signs – Scott still plans on fabricating new directional and speed limit signage for the Preserve and will have this completed and installed by Open House.
 - We installed many of the temporary QR Codes during our January meeting at the Preserve. Werner will reach out again to the Sign guy to get pricing for an initial order of 20 GSP/RKC branded boundary signs.
- WiFi – Patrick Gibson (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting
 - Patrick will prepare an instruction sheet on how to make phone calls over the internet on individual cell phones (VOIP) and post it at the Shelter.
 - There has been a landline phone in the mailbox at the CR for emergencies. We will still add a sign in the Shelter directing people to it.
- Cameras – Patrick Gibson – He has a camera in mind. He will put together a list of equipment and the accessories (peripherals) with costs. The equipment will be Ubiquity to be consistent with the equipment we already have. He anticipates installing them in March or April. The budget established for this last year was \$1300.
 - Andy is Patrick's back-up on this. Andy has a spare Ubiquity access point that he is willing to bring to the Preserve. It would reside inside the CR, allowing the mesh access point hanging in the window to move outside and provide better coverage for KOR registration and the upper area. Andy and/or Patrick will contact Kristen to coordinate access to the CR to work on the equipment.

New Sauna Structure – Jared Embree

- Last month Jared introduced the idea of a New Sauna structure to be built higher on the hillside before getting into the trees. The whole building will be 8' x 20'. The actual sauna part will be 8' x 12' with the remainder as the vestibule/"air lock" to minimize blasts of cold air entering the sauna. This will be funded by donations to the Sauna Committee. Following are questions and answers that were asked over the last month.
 - Q: What is the occupancy? A: 14-20 depending upon whether there are folks sitting on the two tiered bench on one side.
 - Q: Will it be a wet or dry sauna? A: It has the capacity to be either. It will have a tiled floor with a drain to make cleaning easier.
 - Q: What is the insulation? A: There will be spray foam insulation below the floor, mineral wool (aka rockwool) in walls. The intent is for it to be useable year round.

- Q: Will there be emergency lighting? A: There will be foot lighting for general illumination so people can see to move around, but there also will be ceiling lighting that can be turned on to fully illuminate the space.
- Q: Will there be any ventilation? A: Yes, both passive and active. The passive ventilation is in the form of fresh air intake openings low in the walls below the benches for the wood burning stove (required for combustion). The active ventilation will be exhaust fans (aka fart fans) that can be switched on as necessary. And there will be an operable window at the end.
- Q: Please explain the structure. A: 12" reinforced concrete piers up to 36" deep unless rock is encountered shallower. There will be two beams of three 2 x 10's sandwiched together with 2 x 6 floor joists at 12" o.c. This floor framing will all be of pressure treated lumber and will get the floor up out of the flood zone.
- Patrick suggested a carbon monoxide detector. He likes the way the wood burning stove is at the end, away from the flow of traffic.
- The design intention was to increase capacity, safety and construct a long lasting sauna out of the flood plain.
- Requesting approval tonight from the Committee so that they can get started with construction in March which should allow them to have a functional sauna by KOR. It may not have the insulation, or the cedar finishes by then, but it will be useable.
- Jerry made a motion to approve Jared's plan as submitted to the Committee, FB seconded. Vote was unanimously in favor, no opposition.

Social Activities

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms (not in attendance) report arrived via text

- 97 days to Open House. The Leads are set for each section of Open House, and the volunteer roundup has kicked off. Kevin & Kelly will be going to the Preserve next weekend.
- He invited the Mount Vernon City Administrator to visit the Preserve & take a tour of the Cave. He will let us know if he takes us up on the offer.
- Andy suggested we have a few preparatory tours through the Cave on Open House Work Weekend. They would be led by various experienced guides so that younger members can improve their tour scripts. We need to emphasize that each talking stop should only take a short time. Total tour length will be 30 minutes and not go to the North Entrance.
 - Neena will send the Cheat Sheet to all in response to Meg's request for talking points.

KOR (June 6-8, 2025) – Meg Gaskin

- The KOR Committee has been meeting every other week. There are people from all four managing grottos on the Committee. Below are some of the decisions they have made:
 - After paying GSP for Camping & Facility fees and covering all expenses, \$250 will go to each of the grottos for their use and the remaining profit will go to GSP.
 - They are still considering having the Howdy Party in Echo Auditorium. Right now, it is being left up to the band.
 - They are raising the pre-registration rate for adults to \$35 with the on-site rate going to \$40. Youth (13-17) are currently at \$15 but will probably raise that to \$20 to cover the camping fees. Children (12 & under) will remain free.

- The meeting invites have been kept to the KOR Committee members to keep things moving. If you have any questions, contact Meg who will either get answers from the Committee or possibly invite you to a meeting.
- A hog roast is in the works for the banquet.

Status Reports

GSP Committee Grotto Composition

- Debi reported that RKC is working with GCG to revise the MOU. The first meeting with Kyle Kreutz and Patrick Gibson has occurred and he hopes to get a draft by March. This will also require modifications to the Charter for the Committee and the Management Plan.
 - Andy was questioning whether the camping rates should be spelled out in one of those documents, or if it should be a separate Policy document.

Field Trips – Neena Jud

- Not mentioned, but Spring Field Trips are blocked out in the calendar starting in April.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)

- Not mentioned, but the calendar shows wild cave trips in February and March.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Not mentioned, but no requests anticipated until around Open House.

Kitchen Training

- Not mentioned, but David Lindemuth still needs Kitchen Training as a Committee member.

New Business

Preserve Calendar Requests

- Stephanie Suen requested permission to have an Orientation to Cave Rescue class at the Preserve on August 23-24, 2025. She anticipates 30 people in the class with 10 instructors/specialists. She further requested free camping for 4-5 instructors for the weekend. This would likely be for two nights each. JB spoke in favor of all that since it is supporting the Cave Rescue Community. No opposition was expressed. Approved.
- Stephanie also was proposing GSP as the site of an annual Kentucky Speleological Society meeting. She asked for which weekend(s) she could offer. There will be a presentation on Saturday and on Sunday a cave trip. Last year the attendance was about 20 people. We identified the weekends of September 13-14 and 27-28. She will let us know their selection.
- As a Vertical Commission Trainer, Stephanie would like to offer a vertical class at the Preserve. This class would have up to eight students. We tentatively settled on June 12-15, 2025.
- Terri Wolfe sent in a request to be able to have a wedding in the Cave on October 4, 2025. She will be marrying Mike Thornton. Discussion ensued. Terri is a DUG member. It was agreed that additional sponsors will be needed to support her and the guests, and at least one knows the kitchen. Meg & Jared offered to be additional sponsors as did Debi. Neena will respond affirmatively.
- Aaron Deal sent in a Group Request for the weekend of July 18-20, 2025. It is entitled “Everything but the Squeal 2” and is a mixer between COG, Pitt & COG. He is requesting access

to the kitchen, and he needs a key to the Cave. Andy Schofield will probably be there. It was added to the calendar when he requested it, but no one let him know. No objections.

TV Show Concept

- Since the January meeting Debi received a request from Hannah Burr with Wrigley Media Group out of Lexington to see if we would be interested in being a site for a competitive television show they are considering. She forwarded it to the Committee and discussion ensued by email. Debi & Neena worked together and composed a response to her asking a number of questions to be able to consider the request. The response also explained that this is a nature preserve, and the Cave is listed on the National Register of Historic Places which causes us to limit some activities in the Cave. She will consider and will get back with us once they have more details.

Berea Tourism

- A separate request came in from Berea Tourism for information about GSP to be posted on their website under adventure tourism. Neena will handle the response by gently explaining why we do not want additional publicity. It is private property, not a public park.

GSP Website

- A Scout Request came in through the Group Request form. Debi could not find the Scout link after an extended search and suggested that our website be redesigned to put certain links like that on the front page. She cited the COG website as being clear and fairly well organized. Patrick has begun talks with Gary Bush about webmaster succession planning, and this may be the time to bring in a new webmaster to redesign the site.
 - Andy suggested that GSP's site be a subsection of RKC's website – which could improve RKC's overall site and its visibility to landowners and supporters.
 - GSP's website has been hosted on the NSS server, and the web page and email address are well known.
 - All are requested to review the website and list out what things we want to see on the website.
 - Look at the School Field Trip page and give feedback on the layout of that page. Information is provided in bullet points with a few photos.
 - Jared offered to collect those requirements.
 - We need to launch the new site with the minimum requirements and slowly add other things to fill in the other information.

Long-term garbage collection considerations – Werner Jud

- Werner sent a lengthy email for all to think about and he would like the email to be incorporated by reference into the minutes. Please review it and we can discuss it in a later meeting. Hopefully by then he will have information from another potential garbage collection person that he heard about through Kristen Harper.

Project List – minimally discussed under Miscellaneous Property Maintenance, listed here to track.

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Due Date
Quickbooks software upgrade			Werner Jud	
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point			Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	
Shower house roof vents install			James Clements	
Leopold bench by Ellie’s Plaque			Werner Jud	
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	
Kitchen electrical panel replacement				
Kitchen exterior conduit repair				
Repair and seal walls against rodents				
Ticket house electrical			Werner Jud	
Ticket house ceiling			Jerry Brandenburg Scott Pavey	
Ticket house walls			Jerry Brandenburg	
Ticket house memorial plaques			Neena Jud	
Security Cameras		\$1,300	Patrick Gibson	
Water line upgrade – tab meter & shut-off for CR		No cost	Werner Jud	

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday March 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Jerry Brandenburg’s, and virtually.

Motion to Adjourn (9:24pm): NJ

Second: FB

Vote: No opposition

February 2024 New Business

Thoughts on alternatives to Bee Garbage.

Last month GSP Caretaker Kristen Harper said she spoke to a person who might be willing to help us with handling our trash pick-up. The proposal was that this person would construct a trash container for us which we would purchase. Once filled, he would come and pick up the unit with a trailer, haul it to the London, KY landfill and return it to GSP. We would pay him for each round trip service. More details are necessary.

Clarifications, requirements, inquiries:

We require a container(s) reasonably close to present capacity (8 cu yds) to keep trip costs at a minimum. We have been averaging about 6-7 change-outs a year.

A sketch/drawing showing dimensions, access doors, lids, and method of handling the container.

It must be easy to fill, relatively easy to compact the trash, and animal proof.

It should be durable, reinforced at stress points, with a weather resistant finish for long life span.

It must be able to sit comfortably in our designated dumpster site.

We may want to consider two smaller units for easier loading and unloading

The Laurel Ridge landfill is actually in Lily, KY a couple miles south of London, run by Waste Connections. They have a website but I think we should visit this place for ourselves, see what their dump fees are, vehicle access and procedures to unload, etc; basically a full report to the committee.

It must be understood that during transport, the driver carries all liability. All DOT rules and safe practices for transporting must be followed. Any damage, loss, or destruction to our dumpster(s), or incidental damage caused by the dumpster, is entirely the driver's responsibility. Any repairs replacement, or restitution must be agreed on and made without additional expense to GSP. If we are paying for this transport we should have a signed agreement to this effect.

We average about 6-7 dumpster change-outs annually @ \$250 each. Expect this to increase this year. Rental fees are \$45/month at present. If, for example, we purchased our own container(s) for \$2500 it would be 4.63 years of rental fees before we paid it off; less when the rental fees are jacked up again. This is probably worth the investment as we have been using a dumpster on site for over 30 years and there will be a constant need for trash management in the future. We will likely continue business with Bee Garbage for special needs and events, like for a roll-off dumpster

Per the recent budget report to the committee, our present financial situation is not favorable for a large capital expense. We have major debts to pay off, plus our usual property expense for the coming year. It is necessary to see what our cash flow will be before any decisions. For now, these ideas are for consideration by our committee and stewards of the property. Perhaps someone can investigate a suitable gently used dumpster(s), if there is such a thing, and what they would cost us.

Werner Jud

1st draft 2/7/25