

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 12, 2025 –virtual meeting

Call to order: 7:06 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	Pete Stow	Patrick Gibson	Tera Williamson
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Announcements

There will be an RKC meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2025, at the Deer Park Public Library. Werner has passed on the RKC Treasury duties to Janice Gott, but he will finish the 2024 tax return for RKC.

Secretary's Report

Kevin Lorms made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes. Jerry Brandenburg 2nd. No opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Werner gave a preface as the financial officer of GSP:

- Sales Tax:
 - Last month he reiterated that GSP is exempt from sales tax, and on 5/9/25 sent out an email with some sales tax exemption forms for people to use. He also offered to help people get the exemption if they are at a retailer that is being difficult with the documentation.
 - If it is a small purchase, with sales tax of less than about \$5, he considers that insignificant. But larger amounts can add up. GSP is operating on a tight budget as it is.
 - Werner recommends considering a policy that from henceforth, any purchaser that does not use the forms to get the sales tax waived, shall cover the sales tax amount of the purchase. This is not to disparage volunteers supporting GSP, but it doesn't do any good to pay this sales tax if we do not need to. It is far more thoughtful and appreciated if the purchaser respects the policy and gets the sales tax waived.
- Caretaker's Residence recap:
 - When we purchased the home, we took out several private loans.
 - Paying off the remaining six lenders has slowed due to the need for cash flow.
 - The GSP33 program meant that if 33 people contributed \$1500 (lump sum or broken into annual or monthly payments over five years) the debt would be covered. Through this program 15 people have helped reduce the debt. Eight of those contributed \$1500 in a lump sum.

- Additional fund raising efforts, including some direct donations to the CR fund, have contributed.
- He suggests a refreshed message to cavers and supporters to reinvigorate our fundraising efforts and get the CR loans paid off.
- Camping fees recap:
 - It has been observed that significant amounts of camping fees have not been paid recently. We have no way to enforce our requests for camping fees, other than direct reminders to individuals (which Werner regularly does) or general newsletter and/or Facebook announcements. We cannot sustain the Preserve without this income stream.
 - Thanks to recent information, GSP is phasing out the use of PayPal and has switched to Zeffy for online payments and recurring donations. This saves GSP the transaction fees, and Zeffy gives the payee the option to “tip” them. (You must actively change the amount if you want.) This will be a noticeable savings to GSP.
 - There are QR codes around the property to facilitate donations through Zeffy, and the link on the GSP website has been switched to Zeffy. Please use the description field in Zeffy to clearly state what your donation covers – camping (with the dates of your visit), camping at electric sites (also with dates), shirts, other items, or a general or specific purpose donation. This is important information to track GSP’s income with some degree of accuracy
 - Of course cash and checks are always welcome as well. Please use and fill out the donation envelopes at the Kiosk.
- Travel expense recap:
 - It is not GSP’s policy to reimburse people for fuel or mileage charges for GSP errands – unless arrangements or authorizations have been made in advance. This is usually for exceptional or special transportation expenses. There are three good reasons for this:
 - All trips made for GSP support purposes are voluntary, just like our own time and efforts. No one is hired.
 - GSP does not have the cash flow to be able to cover this sort of expense on a regular basis.
 - We have many volunteers in a 250 mile radius driving to GSP to take care of the Preserve. Additionally many local trips are made into town for the Preserve. No one expects GSP to pay these travel expenses.
 - GSP recognizes our supporters. Authorized expenses will be reimbursed whether or not they are necessary. We will work with volunteers, but remember, GSP does not provide private expense accounts. These have been our guidelines for over 30 years.
- GSP Treasurer:
 - In March of 2024, Werner made another announcement that he would like to step aside from the GSP Treasury position. But shortly thereafter he got roped into signing the loan personally for the new Scag Zero turn. He has been making payments out of the GSP coffers, but there remains a balance, which can be paid off in about a year. So he would like a task force to be established to search for a new Treasurer over the next twelve months. He suggests the following pre-qualifications:
 - A plan to stay involved and immersed a minimum of five years, preferably longer.
 - Dedicated to visiting GSP at least once a month to empty the pay pipe, more often during the busy season.
 - Located in Cincinnati or closer, for practical reasons.
 - Detail oriented, good at record keeping, and willing to use the Quickbooks accounting program.

- Able to provide a couple of references.

Income exceeded Expenses in the month of May thanks to Open House.

The water bill included in the Utilities was \$ 321.21. Werner jumped through a bunch of hoops to show the water company documentation of our leak and repairs. This was to get a credit or forgiveness for some of that. It seems like we will get a credit of around \$200, and it will show on our next month's bill. Werner will also contribute so that GSP will net approximately the same expense for that month as would be typical.

Werner reviewed the Balance Sheet as of end of May.

Werner did show several outstanding bills or estimates of amounts that will be due shortly. They total \$7,245.79. In communications with Meg Gaskin, he has been reassured that KOR did very well.

NJ moved to approve the Treasurer's report as delivered. JB 2nd. No opposition.

Caretaker's Report

Kristen was not in attendance. She is presently going through a course of radiation treatments, but she is still maintaining her primary obligation of being security on our property.

Sub-committee Reports

New Sauna Structure – Jared Embree

Jared was on vacation. The following was reported by Patrick Gibson. The sauna worked well for KOR. More work is planned, including the metal siding on the outside. The timing of this is being discussed.

Jared & Jerry patched the hole in the roof of the hot tub equipment shed on Monday 6/9/25. The woodburning stove in there used to heat the water in the hot tub was switched out in favor of propane due to some water pipe leaks (melting?). There are plans to remove the old and the recently decommissioned woodburning stoves, and they will be off the property.

Jerry and Scott discussed discontinuing bushhogging across the Creek from the Sauna/Hot Tub area. This is a difficult area to maneuver in, and letting it grow may help stabilize the bank and will help with a privacy buffer for the Sauna/Hot Tub area.

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Post KOR report: The dumpster for KOR has been emptied, and it is now about half full. The question was raised whether we should bill KOR for one and a half dumpsters. The dumpster, and its replacement, were filled carefully to minimize air locked in bags.

The new service person from Jackson Propane came out and put about 70-ish gallons in the tank on 6/10/25. The receipt with the actual amount was transferred to Kristen since she was going to forward other receipts to Werner.

We do need a new wheelbarrow. One has been promised to us. But the ash at the fire pit cannot be cleaned out until the new wheelbarrow arrives. Neena requested that the ash not be dumped directly on top of a grouping of Green Dragons that are growing on our hillside. She will mark the area when she gets back to the Preserve, likely not until the Fourth of July weekend. But nobody is expected to be there for a while anyway.

Jerry turned off the sub-panel that the Band plugged into.

- Signs –branded boundary signs remain on the list.

- Kevin Lindemuth still needs kitchen training.
- Wi-Fi – VOIP instructions are posted at the Shelter.
- Replace outside shower walls – installation is complete, except one wing wall and removing the old pine tree. We need to wait one year before painting the pressure treated lumber.
- Nina Soluski completed the mural painted inside the Women's side of the Showerhouse. She will be soliciting ideas for a mural on the Men's side, which she hopes to complete by Halloween.
- Long-term garbage collection remains on the list. Werner did some preliminary investigation and shared a written report. A Project leader is required.
- Caretaker Residence update – the plumbing upgrade under the house remains. It is difficult to access the location with the electric fence in place. Werner also needs a second set of hands to assist.
- Submeter for waterline to CR – The waterline valve & meter is still in the works.
- Reminder to all: the Caretaker's Residence is Kristen's private domain. Use common courtesy. When you go to the CR, do not just walk in, knock on the door. And when you leave, close the door, or leave it as you found it.
- MOU – Meg was waiting until after KOR to get back to those notes.
- Cameras & Wi-Fi– Patrick Gibson – installation is complete. They are up and running. Patrick trained Kristen on how to get in and see them. Patrick will also train others who have a reason to be on the system.

He reviewed the feed from the cameras, and the recorded images. It records the motion events. One camera points up to the entry drive and turn-off to the upper parking lot. The other camera points to the "T" intersection where one turns to the Shelter.

The features that were explained are all built-in. Going with the Ubiquity system gives us a lot of ability to scale up or add devices to the system and do fancier things with it if we want.

A system diagram with equipment listing was requested for long term maintenance purposes.

Andy Schofield, Kyle Reinhart and Matt Sumner have also been trained so there is redundancy in operating and maintaining the system. A lot of this is self-building and self-documenting.

Also the indoor Wi-Fi access point that was hanging in the window was relocated to outside on a post. Andy donated a new access point that is set up inside the caretaker's house.

Patrick set up a dedicated Wi-Fi for Kristen at the CR. She and only she has access to that network for any devices that she owns. This allows us to turn off GSP Wi-Fi – like for KOR, without impacting Kristen's use. Patrick and his team can manage this remotely or from their phones. Built-into this system is the ability to turn on a hotspot with a captive portal. They were good for seven days, and the bandwidth was capped at 5 megabits per second. This is not enough to stream videos, but it is enough for email, phone calls, text messages and credit card transactions.

- Utility pole with main electric panel outside of the Cave (remains on the list) – the marine grade plywood has been located – in the attic. In addition, Bruce Issacs brought additional material, and it is outside the Ticket House, on the north side. Reach out to Bruce for help, he lives only a half hour away in Berea.

- Scott & Pat Hutson are searching for material to resolve the spillway access to the Point. Bruce is also in on the search. Scott has spoken with Shawn Loveless to understand the criteria for him to drive across to the Point.
- No word yet from the Kentucky Colonels on our Road Repair Grant request. Mid-June is when we were led to understand that responses would be sent out, and that is when we are.
- Ticket house renovation (remains on the list) – Walls are next and a few more ceiling boxes for lights need to be installed.

Project List – listed here to track.

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Quickbooks software upgrade			Werner Jud	Awaiting RKC's progress
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point	high		Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	They will come back when more information
Shower house roof vents install	low		James Clements	He is looking for time to do this
Leopold bench by Ellie's Plaque	low		Werner Jud	On hold
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	No word until June
Ticket house walls			Jerry B.	Next, after KOR
Ticket house memorial plaques	low		Neena Jud	
Water line upgrade – Submeter & shut-off for CR		No cost	Werner Jud	Waiting on Rodney
Website redesign	Winter		Jared Embree	
Replace showerhouse walls	High	\$200	Scott & Jared	
Atlas Pillar Electric panel replacement	Lower		Werner Jud	
Kitchen electrical panel replacement	lower			All these items require a deep dive to attack; it will be intensive work
Kitchen exterior conduit repair	lower			
Repair and seal walls against rodents	lower			
Waterproofing kitchen walls	lower			

Preserve Calendar

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms & Kelly McNamara

- There is not yet a final report for Open House.
- Werner shared that this year Open House income was remarkably lower than in the last ten years, but still well over breaking even. This is no doubt due to the tornado in London, Ky. This information has been added to our chart of Compiled Open House Data through the Years and will be attached to these minutes.
- There were 83 or 84 volunteers helping with this event. With that number we were able to give the guests the full tour, which we have not been able to do for a few years.
- Nearly half the donations that came in came from the QR codes that were distributed and on signs. This was a great idea! Two notable donations were received via Zeffy – one for \$200 and one for \$250.
- Kevin and Kelly will work to update the Standard Operating Procedures Manual. This will be good for the Committee to have a copy of this as well as for all the volunteers to see the game plan for the event.
- The differences in advertising this year included a) missing the advertisement in the Mt. Vernon Signal, b) posting the event in facebook two weeks prior and making it a small post directing

folks to our website for more info, and c) the Tourism Board did include a small post added to the calendar, not a feature post. These reductions were mostly a concerted effort to not be overwhelmed. We will definitely get something in the newspaper again next year. We will repeat the small post on our facebook page, possibly one month prior rather than just two weeks. And we will ask the Tourism Board to do the same thing. After next year's Open House we can re-assess to get a better feel about whether the reduced attendance was more due to the tornado vs the reduced advertising. We have 6,400 people that follow our facebook page with all the pictures that we share. Also the traffic on our website is through the roof, especially right before Open House.

- Pete asked if we have added anything on Google Maps to make it clear when we are open vs closed? A random person drove in on Friday before KOR and asked which way to the Cave. Pete was surrounded by folks and couldn't really help them. We tried to edit our information on Google Maps once before and the person who handled that is no longer around. We don't know the password to get back in. It would be great if someone would recover the Business Profile (and share the password for back-up coverage). Most reviews on Google are positive – 4.8 stars out of 208 reviews, which shows that whatever we are doing, we are doing it right.

KOR (June 6-8, 2025) – Pete Stow

- A report will not be available for a few weeks. Very loosely there were just over 300 people at KOR. Firm details should be ready for our next meeting.
- Once the KOR Committee generates the camping numbers and sends them to Werner, he will generate an invoice based on those numbers with the facility fees of port-o-lets and garbage and send it back to the KOR Committee. This is the same process as in previous years.

Status Reports

Field Trips – Neena Jud

- Three field trips are scheduled in July. The 7th & 21st for the Richmond Police Department and 22nd for Sonlight Preschool summer session. Neena has emails out requesting volunteers.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)

- Darryl keeps the Scout trips listed on the Calendar.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Saturday, June 28th is Ralph Powell's family reunion (listed as Bertha Ramsay reunion).
- July 26th is a Church Group of a friend of Lyla's.
- Lyla will ask for a couple of dates in August, but she does not quite know yet.

New Business

Grotto member lists

GSP requested a list of members from all the managing grottos for the Caretaker and Treasurer. This is desirable monthly for the first half of the year, due to membership renewals and in the second half of the year, on a quarterly basis is fine. From a security point of view, the concern is if they are an active paid up member. From the Treasurer's perspective, responding to camping pass requests, he also wants to know when their membership is due for renewal. This is so that a person doesn't get a camping pass and then does not renew their membership. Werner has prompted cavers to renew their membership before he sends their camping pass.

So the list needs to have the name, active status, and membership renewal date at a minimum.

Landowner relations

Landowner relations has recently mostly fallen to RKC. But considering the recent issues with the Pine Hill landowner requesting no caving, and people spreading the word, which gets into hearsay and confusion. We need a better way of communicating information to the caving community.

Debi had a chance to talk with a BIG member who does a lot of relationship building with landowners. They had been dealing with similar issues regarding a few caves in the Bloomington, Indiana area. They talked with their local landowners and found out that they were afraid of being sued if something happens. He created a waiver specific to that cave. The process includes getting approval from the landowner before the trip; everyone who is going on the cave trip signs a waiver; the cave trip leader takes a picture of every signed waiver and sends it to the landowner which reassures the landowner that everyone who goes on the trip has agreed not to sue either going to or within the cave.

This doesn't seem to be a GSP Committee issue, but Debi can bring it up to RKC at the meeting. Neena suggested that this should be between RKC and the four managing grottos to work together to develop such a waiver and process. All GSP reps should take the message back to our own grottos to work together for landowner relationships and communications. Then someone or a small group can approach this concerned landowner to discuss. It will also need to be communicated that this delegation does not speak for all the cavers who may attempt to go into Pine Hill, just the ones that are members of our four grottos and RKC.

Adjacent landowner

Debi heard through the grapevine that GSP was looking to purchase adjacent land near Icebox cave. This is a bit inaccurate. Back at the March RKC meeting, Patrick reported that Josh Gilbert, who owns that adjacent parcel, was wanting to possibly sell RKC some of that land. Those in the meeting wanted to hike around to get a better idea of the condition and possibility of more than just Icebox on it. Patrick tried to contact Josh after the meeting but has not received a reply. His initial invitation to walk the property should still be open.

There is a Realtor.com listing for a parcel in Livingston at 9999 Ember Road. This is advertised as a 100 acre lot for \$180K with one barn on the property. It has been logged. This is not the Josh Gilbert parcel. It is much closer to Livingston off Red Hill Road on the east side.

Maintenance Training

There have been requests for another Maintenance Training like the Committee last held in April of 2019. It will involve a walk about the property led by Werner including information about the concealed and visible infrastructure about the campground, showerhouse, the water lines, the septic lines and so forth along with the necessary maintenance of all these aspects. An Operations Manual, compiling the years of data he has collected in file folders, should be produced out of this for reference by future stewards. This would be in a binder plus optimally a digital version for the Committee's digital devices. We'd like a fair number of people to be involved and will request at least one member from each grotto plus a focused invite for Kristen, our caretaker.

It was decided to schedule this for Sunday morning of Caver Appreciation Weekend, 9/21/25 at 9 am. Meet at the shelter. Anticipate it taking four hours. We will move our Committee meeting to Saturday morning before cave trips go out to accommodate this walk-about.

Werner to get a few bullet points about this to Debi for distribution to the Grottos.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday July 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm in person at Jerry Brandenburg's. Virtual option will be available.

MS, KL, FB moved & seconded Adjourned: 9:14 pm

Dates to Remember (please check the calendar on the GSP website):

Vertical Class – 6/12-15/2025

NSS Convention in New York – 6/23-27/2025

Ralph & Lyla “Powell” (Descendants of Bertha Ramsey) Reunion – 6/28/2025

Camp & Cave with Vets (Scout Shelter) - 6/28-29/2025

Gibson Group – 7/11-13/2025

Everything but the Squeal 2 – 7/18-20/2025

Lyla’s Friend’s Church – 7/26/2025

OCR class – 8/23-24/2025

Caver Appreciation Weekend – 9/19-21/2025

KSS annual meeting – 9/27-28/2025

Wolfe-Thornton Wedding – 10/4/2025

Mason Cave Degree Ceremony – 10/11/2025

Halloween Party - 10/31-11/2/2025