

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – virtual meeting

Call to order: 7:07 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	Mike Wolf 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

Pete Stow	Gary Bush	Wendy Orlandi	
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Announcements

None

Secretary's Report

Werner requested some clarifications to last month's minutes. Fred Ball made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as amended. Kevin Lorms 2nd. No opposition.

Treasurer's Report

When Werner asks specific questions about things - like reimbursements for Open House, keep in mind that as he tracks the income and expenses, he is focused on the financial health of the Preserve.

Income exceeded Expenses in the month of June 2026. *Full Report available upon request.*

Kristen clarified one entry in Werner's report – instead of a Booze bottle game, it was a Booze (Hungover) dart game. She also mentioned that she has given a few tours to friends in the last month or so and asked them to make a note on the envelope. Werner saw one from Kim Lambert which mentioned K Harper and he figured that one out. He has not been to the Preserve in the last ten days, so any additional ones are probably still in the pay pipe.

Fred Ball moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kevin Lorms 2nd.

Caretaker's Report

- Kristen reported that five or six trees have come down or broken to where they will come down shortly. With Dan's (?) assistance, they cleared the downed black walnut tree near Scout Camp. It has been removed and stacked. They also worked on the other downed tree near the electric sites. It is mostly cleared – there are still some branches stuck in the standing trees – more people are needed. The other trees are out of the way enough and she hasn't had a chance to get to them.
- A lot of rain fell at the Preserve about a week ago. She observed it sheeting down the entry road, crossing under the road in the culvert towards the CR. When the flow hit the walkway, it crossed back over the road and washed out the inside of the curve, exposing most of the large boulders in the road. It then carried the gravel across the road again running into the grass at the upper field.
- As the rain ran down the roadway, it did flow into the upper swale. It carried a lot of rocks and debris into the first culvert across the road, and this can be seen around the Mimosa tree.

- The lower part of the Sara Corrie trail experienced more erosion (as it has many times in the past) carrying mud and leaves onto the start of the service road to the cave. The water then seems to have headed down the old road to the Tractor Barn, then down to the dumpster. It then flowed across the recent work and carved away much of the gravel at the end of the new Tractor Barn Drive culvert. This area probably needs some big rocks to hold the gravel back. *(Joe Smith had recommended some large slabs of rocks to act as a headwall, but this was not shared enough to get done.)*
- This gravel flowed down in the lower swale to the large drain and blocked it along with mud and debris, causing the water to jump the road and carry the rest of the gravel onto the lawn.
- Water from the upper hillside came down to the road to the cave *(surface sheet flow as well as concentrated flow at a few places: the drainage channel near the Green Latrine, two smaller channels between the top of the steps and the Cave, and the power line easement where Jackson Energy recently cut down some trees but also applied herbicide)*. It then ran down to the east of the upper steps where all the vegetation had been cut down and joined with slower surface sheet flow to wash out the gravel from the sloped pathway onto the tractor barn hillside.
- One of Darryl's Outreach groups gave an hour of service to assist Kristen on cleaning up the gravel and moving the logs from the downed trees. The collected gravel was placed in the trailer with the tall sides, which Kristen moved to the far side of the Kiosk loop and parked there. These kids were a big help!
- Rain is expected again tonight. The dam overflows every time it rains. More of the opposite bank caved into the creek near the timber barriers. There also seem to be holes developing in the lawn in the riparian zone near the trees and may be undermining those trees.
- Another big tree upstream fell from across the creek towards the camping area. It has many branches that are hanging into the water collecting debris. This mass and the trunk are diverting the creek water onto the bank – which was mowed very low before KOR and now the topsoil is eroding into the creek. We need to let the vegetation grow along the bank to slow the water and reduce the erosion.
- Kristen mowed last week but limited it to only the flat areas – no hillsides. This was partially due to the gravel, but also to slow the waterflow and allow more water to be absorbed by the grass. She mowed a path to the showerhouse, around Darryl's bus and for another camper that arrived. Some folks chose to camp in the point. Kristen warned them about the impending rains and potential to block them in, but they chose to stay there.
- Kristen observed a lot of water coming into the cave during recent rains.
- The kitchen has been repeatedly mopped, and it is cleaned up after all this rain and mud. There are still lots of buns in the freezer.
- We have some mail in the mailbox on her porch. One thing from the Dept. of Treasury (IRS) arrived a couple of weeks ago and there is something else from the internet provider. Werner requested that she write the date on the outside of the envelope when it arrives. Neena will collect it this weekend.
- A woodpecker (possibly a northern flicker) that she rescued has recovered sufficiently to be able to release it this weekend.

Status Reports

Sub-committee Reports

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms

- Kevin is satisfied with all the information reported last month about Open House.
- Werner does not anticipate any other expenses to come in related to this event. He reported that the “walking liberty silver dollar” that was placed in one of the donation boxes is worthless. It is counterfeit. Silver is non-magnetic, but this coin is magnetic. He took it to a coin shop because he was

liquidating other coins at the time. The guy at the coin shop said it would be more valuable if it was a foil-wrapped chocolate. Currently silver's exchange rate is about \$60 / ounce.

KOR – reported by Matt Sumner & Pete Stow

- The KOR Committee's final meeting is August 10th at which time they will resolve all the disbursements from the KOR profits. Debi anticipates that GSP will receive a nice donation in addition to the Camping and Facility Fees. So at the August meeting Debi will provide a full report.

Action items

- AED at the Shelter – it should be checked & serviced every three months. This includes manually checking to see if it is still functional and the batteries working.
 - Ron Hager installed the device and for a while was checking it. Werner reimbursed him for the purchase of a batch of spare batteries for it (although their current location is unknown). Gary Bush shared that batteries have a three year life. Any set of batteries needs to be dated. (*spare batteries are in the rescue box*)
 - Kristen offered to check the device, see if there is a log of past inspections, get the model number and report back.
 - Ron was also the contact for Rockcastle County for maintaining a supply of Narcan down there at no cost to us. The Narcan is stored on the wall near the AED.
 - Debi will look up the Kentucky laws about this.
 - Pete Stow has a close friend who is heavily involved with AED's. Pete will consult with him, understand what needs to be done and will inspect it when he is down in two or three weeks.
- Post story weather damage –
 - Regarding road repairs and gravel – We have reached out to someone with a lot of experience with this type of work. They will be re-arranging their schedule to do this work on a weekend – under the condition that there are not a bunch of people interfering (either offering to help or telling them what to do).
 - Werner will contact Joe Smith to get on his schedule to fix the damage to the Tractor Barn Culvert repair.
 - Downed trees - Scott & Jerry determined that this is more than one or two people can do alone. There needs to be a crew of people on site one weekend to work together. Be prepared to volunteer your time, and watch for notifications (maybe on Facebook) about a work weekend.
 - For future general maintenance – some of this erosion (like near the steps, near the propane tank, above the walls behind the Shelter, and along the bank of the Creek) is caused by the vegetation being cut too low to the ground – basically scalped. In these steep or not-so-steep areas, when water picks up speed, it carries the dirt away. We need the vegetation to slow the speed of the water. That is also the purpose of the vegetation along the creek bank known as the riparian zone. The water will rise above the bank, and when it does, we need it to spread slowly across the surface. So please let the riparian zone vegetation grow back.
- Caretaker Search Committee – We need to establish a subcommittee to look for the next caretaker. Kristen's term will be ending in September 2027.
 - Neena has the records from the initial caretaker search when Bill Carr was leaving. She has compiled notes from that time and more recently and offered to be on the Committee.
 - It was determined that we will start after Caver Appreciation weekend, with a goal to have something together by the end of the calendar year.

- Cave Key lockbox – Scott got the old lockbox open and gave the lockbox with the retrieved key to Werner. Werner placed them and the new lockbox in the Ticket House.
- Entry Drive Repair grant – the RKC Grant Committee continues to search.
- Bridge to the Point grant possibilities – nothing at this time. Mike Wolf sent an email stating he had some ideas, but we will wait until he can present those ideas himself. Werner wanted to remind folks to follow the Management Plan which calls for low impact and low visibility improvements. In this case, we know that restoring the dam as it was originally constructed under John Lair will continue to damage the banks of the creek downstream. So if we decide on a bridge, let's choose a low profile.
- Long term garbage collection – Werner recounted that the original proposal from Waste Connections was for a 10 yard dumpster “with lid”. This proposal looked like it would be a good deal for us. Later they said the lid would be an extra charge (\$600). He has been communicating back and forth with them, and now they proposed an alternative to us – a standard eight-yard dumpster much like what we have right now with the lid, same height, same width, same side doors. This proposal would cost an initial \$100 to bring it in and \$69.32 per change-out. Compared to the average \$295 per change-out from Bee Garbage, this seems like a great deal.
 - Werner to ask Sara Myers how long this pricing will be held for before a cost increase. And does it include everything – like will there be an additional dump fee, or fuel & material surcharge or anything else? Werner will confirm this with Sara and let the Committee know.
 - Debi suggested that as long as Waste Connections does not surprise Werner with a whole bunch of surcharge fees, or only says this price will be good for only a couple of months before they have to increase, then we should just authorize Werner to make the switch. Kevin seconded that motion.
 - Werner to send an email to the Committee after getting the answers to these questions.
- Property Boundary issues – still ongoing – no real update at this time.
- CR Septic tank inspection – The lids have been uncovered but not opened. It is ready to be inspected by Shawn Loveless, but he has not been there. Werner's having his usual difficulties reaching him.
- Search for new Treasurer (in line for Sept. 2026) – still on track.
- Charter Revisions –Debi sent a message Patrick last week to schedule a meeting between Patrick, Debi & Neena (the subcommittee) along with Werner to hear his concerns and try to get all this resolved. Awaiting Patrick's response.
- Temporary Camper parking – Debi Pavey still needs to talk with Lyla

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Sauna Construction – the only thing left is trim work.
- Kitchen Use / Cleanliness – Left-over stuff is being left in the kitchen. We need to keep pushing this with our grottos. Some things have gotten better – food is not being left out on the counters. The kitchen is not rodent proof! The freezer is safe from rodents. We just might have to throw the buns away if we can't come up with a use for them soon.
- Property clean-up of stuff laying around – Shelter clean-up is continuous. Everyone keep it up.
- Mowing – Werner shared that in the past we have averaged using 95-100 gallons of gasoline per mowing season (not diesel fuel). This covers eight months from April to November. He noticed that we are already at 95 gallons just in April and May of this year. Scott explained that we have been mowing more this year. Werner also learned that when Scott mows at home, it takes about a gallon per acre using his zero-turn. That prompted Werner to measure the acreage of the Preserve – which he did using Google Earth. He referenced what the Committee discussed in 2009 about mowing, when we

established priorities and how often we mow (or should mow) the various areas. (see attached diagram) He calculated 9 acres not including the Point, Long Bottom or Barton Field.

- Kristen shared that it takes 10 gallons to mow everything in the main campground including the Point. She has been mowing every week to 10 days over the last few months.
- Keeping the mower at 3.5” height and mowing every 10 days saves on wear and tear on the mower.
- Having the grass longer on the hillsides eases the risk of erosion and slows the water flow.
- Werner suggests that we go back to leaving patches that we don’t mow regularly– where people are not going to tent – like the Bench, a section of the upper field, parts of the hill near the tractor barn. We don’t need to make it look like a golf course – especially with the inflated cost of gas – likely to go higher.
- CR heat tape & insulation – Werner would like someone to commit to help him install this stuff under the CR this fall. He also needs to access the electric panel to confirm that this will not overload a circuit. Gary Bush offered to assist with a bit of notice.
- Recycling – James Renner ‘s folks came before KOR. The bins filled up again. Werner called Renner again within the last week. They haven’t picked up this latest batch. *Three days after the meeting Neena confirmed they had been there and the bins are empty.*

Miscellaneous Projects

- GSP website – Jared Embree been working a little bit on the website.
- Google Maps update (Darryl) – we need to get Darryl to commit to look at this to make adjustments.

Project List

- Smaller tasks and lower priority tasks are listed below:

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Quickbooks software upgrade	low		Werner Jud	Out in the distance
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point	high	???	Scott Pavey and others	They will come back when they have more information
Shower house roof vents install	low		James C.	
Outside shower enclosure walls		\$75	Scott & Jared	Paint after one year
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	Searching for grants
Ticket House Flashing	Spring		Scott Pavey	
Ticket House re-hang Gutters	Spring	none	Scott Pavey	
Ticket House side door	Spring		Jerry B.	Will modify old front door
Ticket house walls	After the above	\$500	Jerry B. & Scott Pavey, Neena J	glass faced gypsum board
Ticket house memorial plaques	low	?	Neena Jud	
CR Septic Tank inspection	soon		Werner Jud	Ready to inspect
Website redesign	Winter		Jared Embree	Taking a while
Atlas Pillar Electric panel replacement	lower		Werner Jud	New breakers have been installed in the interim.
Kitchen electrical panel replacement w/ main disconnect	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

Field Trips – Neena Jud/Mark Swelstad

- On Monday July 20, we have the Richmond Police Department Summer Camp. Nothing until Fall.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh/Mike Wolf

- Scout trips are listed on the Calendar.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Lyla has a group coming in on August 13. Always remember to check the calendar.

New Business

- Debi requested moving Caver Appreciation from September 19 to September 12. Werner will ask the RKC Board if the RKC fall meeting can be moved. Neena mentioned that the September GSP meeting is usually Sunday morning at 10 am. A few people would really prefer it. No objections raised.
- Jerry Lewis request – (NSS member over 55 yrs, member of CIG, IKC, past chair of IKC, cave biologist studying isopods) He asked for permission to collect isopods from cave streams at the Preserve. Neena will respond to him on behalf of the Committee after cobbling together our requirements – which includes getting some report from him. We encourage scientific research, but we want a report.
- 2026-2027 GSP Committee – In September the Committee will be identified and announced at Caver Appreciation Weekend. So Debi will reach out to all the grottos and ask for their nomination of representatives to the Committee as our Charter currently stands.
- GSP 33 celebration – Patrick to coordinate this party. Debi will reach out to Patrick.

Dates to Remember

- Richmond PD Camp Field Trip – July 20, 2026
- Wilderness First Aid Class – July 25/26, 2026, Stephanie Suen sponsor
- Brian Saul & Friends Family Camping Trip – July 29- August 2, 2026
- Lyla Work Group – August 13, 2026
- Caver Appreciation Weekend – **moved to September 11-13, 2026**
- GSP September meeting – September 13, 2026
- RKC Fall meeting – **moved to September 20, 2026, Deer Park Public Library**
- COG Conservation Group cleanup in Wells Cave – September 25-27, 2026, Jennie Hawkie sponsor
- CD Ward Masons Cave Degree Ceremony – October 10, 2026, Fred Ball sponsor, Jimmie Hampton
- Halloween – October 30-November 1, 2026
- Open House 2027 – May 15/16, 2027
- York Rite Masons Cave Degree – June 12, 2027, Fred Ball sponsor, Matthew Kirby contact
- NSS Convention 2027 – June 14-18, 2027, Del Rio, Texas
- Karst-O-Rama 2027 – July 16-18, 2027

Please check the Events Calendar. pw is niter1798

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 7 pm, virtually.
Werner Jud made a motion to adjourn, Mark Swelstad seconded.
Meeting Adjourned: 9:06 pm