

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 13, 2026 – at GSP Shelter

Call to order: 10:13 am

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	Mark Swelstad COG Rep	Mike Wolf BGG Rep	Janeen Sharpshair DUG 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

Terri Wolf	Mary Gratsch	Mike Wuerth	Brian Pitcher
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Announcements

Due to recent difficulties: THE ENTRANCE DRIVE GATE SHALL BE CLOSED AT ALL TIMES OR SOMEONE MUST BE STANDING ON GUARD DUTY AT THE GATE.

Debi announced the members of the GSP Committee for the year 2026-2027 at the Pot Luck Dinner the night before. Those people are:

Debi Pavey, Chair; Werner Jud/Pete Stow*, Treasurer, Neena Jud, Secretary, Jerry Brandenburg, GCG rep; Fred Ball, DUG rep; Mark Swelstad, COG rep; Hippie-Mike Wolf, BGG rep; and Janeen Sharpshair, DUG rep taking the eighth position since Kevin Lorms felt the need to step back. Welcome Janeen!

*And welcome Pete as you transition into the Treasurer position!

Secretary's Report

Mark Swelstad made a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes. Fred Ball 2nd. No opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Werner gave a verbal report as there was no projector or WiFi for this meeting.

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

Fred Ball moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mark Swelstad 2nd.

Caretaker's Report

- After observing frequent & intense rains over the past couple of months, Kristen shared her concerns about deepening erosion channels. The electric easement over the Cave which was cut back and sprayed three months ago has fed water into nearby rivulets which have grown. She also sees that the Sara Corrie trail (as viewed from the upper parking lot) is eroding rapidly. In her view, the use of personal vehicles on the Sara Corrie trail is contributing to this and suggests preventing it by placing cables across the trail at the upper parking lot and east of where the trail crosses over the Cave. Discussion ensued.
- A family of beavers lives upstream near Scout Camp. They have been eating bark from trees in Crooked Creek which has helped clear blockages. Scott interjected that there is one large tree across the creek that no one should touch with a chainsaw. It is currently too dangerous with the current mass resting on the opposite bank and is apt to kill someone. He is working on a plan to get it down safely.

- Kristen shared that her house in Alabama is getting fixed up, but if our search for the next caretaker runs long, she is willing to stick around until the next one is on board.

Status Reports

Action items

- WiFi at the Shelter – No estimated time for the restoration of service. Patrick & Matt were troubleshooting the problems. Darryl also looked into it. Patrick thought that replacing the bridge (the two devices that talk wirelessly to each other) would be \$1,000 today and feels that money would be better spent on running fiber to the shelter. In the Meeting Matt reported that fiber only purchased through his company would run just under \$2,000.
- AED – Pete updated it with fresh batteries and fresh pads. Dates are written inside the box.
- Narcan – Pete is looking into this. So far, he has seen that the Narcan should not be frozen (practically it cannot be used in a frozen state). A suggestion was made to store it in the CR during winter.
- Post storm weather damage –
 - In order to reduce erosion on the steep section of the Sara Corrie Trail from PRV2 down to the end of the upper parking lot, we need to install water diverters and repair the dirt ditches.
 - There is a cedar tree near the caretaker's residence which needs to come down within a year.
 - Werner has not heard from Joe Smith. He will touch base with Joe before Halloween. What he remembers is that Joe wants #2's around both ends of the culvert. Scott suggested using large flat rocks from near the cedar tree at the CR.
- Caretaker Search Committee – Not discussed – but will start after Caver Appreciation weekend.
- Cave Key lockbox – this is for emergency use only.
- Entry Drive Repair grant – we are still looking for grant possibilities.
- Bridge to the Point grant possibilities – ongoing item.
- CR Septic tank inspection –Werner will reach out to Shawn Loveless again. Kristen said he borrowed a shovel to look at it.
- Charter Revisions – Debi, Patrick, Werner & Neena met to discuss this. In a few days (after final proofreading) it will be shared with the Committee and RKC for review.
- Temporary Camper parking – Debi Pavey has not spoken with Lyla, so we are taking this off the list.

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Sauna Construction – the only thing left is trim work.
- Kitchen Use / Cleanliness – It looked good this weekend, but we need to keep at this. Don't leave stuff, don't take stuff in the kitchen. If you bring ice from somewhere with water in the bag, put it in the refrigerator's upper freezer (which will automatically defrost), NOT in the tall freezer.
- Property clean-up of stuff laying around – Keep at this. Scott plans to bring a trailer down to collect the scrap metal from around the Tractor Barn and the pile beyond the Upper Mondo and take all that to a scrap yard. Werner recommended going to Midstate Recycling, a subsidiary of River Metals. He will get contact info & address to Scott.

Miscellaneous Projects

- GSP website –still a winter project.
- Google Maps update (Darryl) – We hollered Darryl over during the meeting to relay our desire to see it say "closed except Open House Weekend". He explained that Google is obnoxiously difficult to deal with but would like us to look at the website on our preferred platform, take a screenshot and send it to

him with info on our platform. Then he can work on it. As it is, at least one person per month walks down the drive to ask for a tour of the Cave.

- The Quickbooks software upgrade is being taken off the list.
- Ticket House Projects – Interior work is on the back burner until Scott talks with James Clements about the roof. Scott saw that bottom 4' of the roof sheathing was in poor condition.
 - Install flashing from under shingles into gutters.
 - Rehang Gutters closer to building and sloped to drain.
 - Modify old front door to fit side door location (out-swinging).
 - Finish interior walls and paint.

Project List

- Smaller tasks and lower priority tasks are listed below:

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Shower house roof vents install	low		James C.	
Outside shower enclosure walls		\$75	Scott & Jared	Paint after one year
Ticket house memorial plaques	low	?	Neena Jud	
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			

Old Business

- Jerry Lewis request – Jerry emailed Neena earlier this week to say he drove by on I-75 but didn't stop since he hadn't heard any approval of his request. She responded by saying that schedules need to be coordinated since we have a locked gate and any new visitor needs assistance/direction to get to cave outflow streams that have the potential for isopods. There is still the potential he might visit this year. Neena will keep the Committee informed.
- Kentucky Cave Recording Project (Wild Hunt Records – Aryeh) – Debi reported that Coy Ainsley didn't know much about how Carter Caves handles requests like this. Other Park Staff deal with those inquiries.

New Business

- Chris Hayes of Big Blue Construction – Mary Gratsch met with this guy who will be pouring a concrete slab at Sloans Valley Preserve. He explained that although his business is based in London, KY he is willing to drive an hour to project sites, and he is very happy to work with conservancy organizations. Mary suggested we keep him in mind for future projects. Also his daughter runs a company that does signage and embroidery & printing of spirit-wear.
- Increase in expenses – All utility costs have increased. Electric was running 7 cents per kilowatt hour, now it is over 10 cents. Werner anticipates the cost of water going up this winter (that's been their pattern). He mentioned the propane cost increase last month. Basically we need to be mindful of expenses.

Preserve Calendar

Field Trips – Neena Jud/Mark Swelstad

- Friday, October 2 – Mt. Vernon Elementary Fourth Grade Field Trip – need guide & 2 tailgunners
- *Thursday, October 15 – Berea Community School Fourth Grade Field Trip - need guide & 3 tailgunners*
- *Friday, October 16 – Calico Homeschool Field Trip – need guide & 2 tailgunners*
- Saturday, October 17 - The New Opportunity School for Women - covered

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh/Mike Wolf

- Scout trips are listed on the Calendar.
- We need to spread the word that Scout Troop & Outreach sponsors need to always be on site when their group is on site. Also see the “all caps” announcement at the beginning of these minutes – keep the gate closed. Debi will add a post on facebook about this.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Lyla requested September 19 for a Powell Family Reunion – spur of the moment. Then September 24 for a Work Group and September 25 for a Work Group. Our policy with Lyla is to try to accommodate her and, in all cases, communicate with Debi.

Dates to Remember

- RKC Fall meeting – September 20, 2026, Deer Park Public Library
- COG Conservation Group cleanup in Wells Cave – September 25-27, 2026, Jennie Hawkie sponsor
- Mt. Vernon Elementary Fourth Grade Field Trip - Friday, October 2, 2026
- *Berea College Professors Cave Tour – Saturday, October 3, 2026, Neena Jud sponsor*
- *Berea Sister City Delegation from Japan Cave Tour – Sunday, October 4, 2026, Anna Tomboly sponsor*
- CD Ward Masons Cave Degree Ceremony – October 10, 2026, Fred Ball sponsor, Jimmie Hampton
- Patrick Gibson work & friends’ weekend – October 10-11, 2026
- *Berea Community School Fourth Grade Field Trip - Thursday, October 15, 2026*
- *Calico Homeschool Field Trip - Friday, October 16, 2026*
- The New Opportunity School for Women - Saturday, October 17, 2026
- Halloween – October 30-November 1, 2026
- New Year’s Eve Event CIG/COG – December 27, 2026- January 2, 2027
- GSP33 Payoff Party – Spring 2027
- 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 (Day of the Dead theme)

Italicized items were added after the meeting, before the minutes were issued.

Please check the Events Calendar. pw is niter1798

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 7 pm, virtually.

Mak Swelstad made a motion to adjourn, Werner Jud seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40pm