

2010 KCI Board Actions Via Email (through 23 June 2010):

1. 13 May 2010: Taylor moves: All KCI managed caves are closed until further notice.

(motion failed for lack of a second)

2. 13 May 2010: Taylor moves: Andrew Frierdich is allowed one last trip into Pautler Cave for his research. He will very strictly follow decontamination guidelines as outlined in the email from him, below.

On Wed, Apr 28, 2010 at 10:16 AM, Andrew J. Frierdich wrote:

> Hi all,

>

> Thanks for the email. When I heard about the IDNR closure on Monday I  
> expected that KCI would be following suit and I would be hearing from you. I  
> would like to thank you all and let you know that I am extremely  
> appreciative of the KCI's support of my research project. I've accomplished  
> a great deal of work and hope to publish the results of my project in two  
> peer-reviewed journals.

>

> I am supportive of a cave closure and think it is a good preventative  
> measure to take. However, I was hoping that before the closure  
> takes effect, I could have your permission to enter Pautler Cave one last  
> time to collect final samples to complete my project.

>

> A few weeks ago, I was awarded a \$1200 graduate student research grant from  
> the Geological Society of America to help pay for water analyses. My project  
> would greatly benefit if I could collect one last round of samples from the  
> cave and get them analyzed. Please note that this would be my final visit to  
> the cave and that any additional work on my project will be completed in  
> the laboratory.

>

> If this final visit is approved, I would be taking a group of 3-4 into the  
> cave early next week. I will ensure that all gear is properly decontaminated  
> according to one of the FWS protocols.

> <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenose/FINALContainmentandDecontaminationProceduresforCaversJune2009.pdf>

>

> Again, thank you for your support. I will respect and abide by whatever  
> decision that you all make.

>

> Andrew

(motion failed for lack of a second)

3. 19 May 2010: Gosnell moves: Decision to close KCI caves is considered temporary, and will be revisited regularly, with a minimum of one annual review at KCI board meeting, until the caves are reopened or a decision for permanent closure is made.

Second: Taylor

For: Kerouac

Against: Gosnell, Taylor, Mahon

Abstain: Carson [by failure to weigh in]

(motion failed)

4. 28 May 2010: Gosnell moves: Andrew Frierdich is allowed to finish the research project formerly approved by KCI, allowing for as many trips as was previously proposed in his application for the project. He is required to follow strict decontamination guidelines as outlined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the following attachment:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenose/FINALContainmentandDecontaminationProceduresforCaversJune2009.pdf>

Second: Taylor

For: Gosnell, Mahon, Taylor, Kerouac

Against: None

Abstain: Carson [by failure to weigh in]

(motion passed)

5. 15 June 2010: Gosnell moves: As bats succumb to White Nose Syndrome, the Karst Conservancy of Illinois recognizes the urgency to slow the spread of this disease to other bat populations. However, KCI cannot ignore other important studies taking place in the caves it owns and manages. These studies include, but are not limited to, hydrology, zoology, and geology. Indefinitely closing access to KCI owned and managed properties denies the opportunity to monitor the overall health of these caves and the health of the endangered Illinois Cave Amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*). With these factors in mind, the Karst Conservancy of Illinois' plan of action is as follows:

1. All previously approved projects in KCI owned and managed caves will move forward. Any new projects will be considered under the parameters of established management plan.

2. Anyone entering KCI owned and managed caves will follow the most current WNS decontamination protocols that are in place. Any gear that cannot be decontaminated under these protocols is barred from being taken into any KCI owned or managed cave.

3. Additionally, KCI has implemented a "dedicated boot" policy. Those entering KCI owned and managed caves may only do so with footwear strictly dedicated to that cave.

4. Any person entering a KCI owned or managed cave, for whatever reason, is expected to make cursory observations of any bats encountered in the cave, specifically looking for the tell-tale symptoms of WNS. Unless the purpose of entry is specific to a WNS study, it is expected that bats--healthy, ill, or deceased--will not be handled or disturbed in any way during these cursory observations.

5. Any person entering a KCI owned or managed cave will communicate, either orally or electronically, to the board on the observed conditions of any bats encountered--healthy, ill, or deceased--within 24-hours. This communication will include the approximate number of bats encountered, location within the cave that bats were encountered, observable conditions of bats, and, when possible, species.

6. The KCI board will revisit WNS policy annually at its board meeting, and as changes and/or discoveries pertaining to WNS warrant.

Second: Taylor

For: Gosnell, Mahon, Carson, Kerouac

Against: Taylor

(motion passed)