

MEETING MINUTES
Karst Conservancy of Illinois

November 14, 2009
Rutland, Illinois

Call to order at 5:29 pm

Present:

Barb Coons
Don Coons (chair)
Don Kerouc
Steve Taylor
Dave Carson
Jeffery Gosnell
JoAnn Jacoby (recording secretary)

Have a quorum (5 of 8 directors), business can be conducted

1) Land acquisition committee

Twin Culvert Cave has been promised. Vivian Bennet, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contact, stationed in Peoria has indicated that KCI will be recipient. Steve suggested giving her a presentation on the cave. KCI has done a cleanup and has keys. Don Coons rewrote the management plan. Owned by TNC, jointly managed by TNC & INPC, INPC has recognized KCI as appropriate stewardship entity.

Jeffery moved that Don Coons should chair the land acquisition committee, carried unanimously. Don would look to involve people from the Monroe Co area. Jeffery suggested Todd McCartney good w/ people and finding cave. DC has been working with Little Egypt Grotto (Edmund Tucker compiling list of caves in the Shawnee, some of which are on private land)

Nichol's Cave - DK mentioned it may become available south of Paulter in Monroe Co. Small, but nice with potential digs. Dye-tracing suggests a trunk runs somewhere under there. A little bit of vandalism, gate would take care of that. Entrance near the livestock barn. Would need 3 acre buffer to protect from runoff. But land prices are expensive, St Louis bedroom community. Nichols will be selling, he or new owner may be willing to parcel, or maybe a conservation easement. Should re-establish contact. 10 acre parcel

Keller Cave - In discussing potential acquisition sites, Jeffery mentioned an undetermined amount of land around Keller Cave is not farmable. The owner is friendly towards cavers, and it might be worthwhile to talk to him about KCI. Don C mentioned zoning laws in Monroe Co make subdividing of property difficult: Zoning laws in Monroe Co, 3 acre minimum parcel near Waterloo, minimum size increases as move further out from Waterloo (10, 15 acres). Would need to negotiate exemptions with the County.

DC drafted list of caves to target for acquisition, those over 1000 feet (~25-30), also noted which are a mile or longer. DC noted just caves, but karst should be the focus. ST noted springs important to protect, should look for those as well (e.g., spring resurgence of Fogelpole Cave).

Joe Bassey – DC worked with him, but stalled out when attorneys got involved. Wanted to protect the recharge, but not curtail agricultural lease. Although land is not on karst, the drainage is into sinking stream, this is recharge.

Action Item: DC and ST will work with TNC on acquisition of Twin Culvert, DC will explore other leads for land acquisitions.

2) Director elections

Should we reduce number of directors *or* reduce the size of quorum (but the latter requires a Bylaws change) -- ST moved (Jeffery seconded) to reduce the number of directors from to 6 in the short term, but with the strong intention to bring the membership back up and expand the number of directors as soon as possible (when KCI has larger, more participatory membership). Passed unanimously.

Directors elected or retained:

Name (term period) [term number], affiliations

Jeffery Gosnell (2007-2010), [1st term], NNG

Steve Taylor (2007-2010) [1st term], LEG, ISS, NNG

Don Kerouac (2009-2012) [2nd term], Windy City, NNG

David Carson (2009-2012) [1st term], NNG

****Don Coons, Barb Coons, and Rick Haley have all completed 2 terms, and are not eligible this year; Mark Jones has not attended two consecutive meetings, and by our bylaws is dropped as a director

Action item: new President to notify Mark Jones and Rick Haley that their directorships have lapsed

Officers elected:

Steve Taylor – President

David Carson –Treasurer

JoAnn Jacoby -- Secretary

Other offices elected or retained:

Don Kerouac – Chair, Membership Committee

Don Coons – Chair, Land acquisitions Committee

Jeffery Gosnell – Newsletter Editor

John (Jack) White – Registered agent

Steve Taylor – Web site

Barb Coons – Cave manager, Pautler Cave

Dave Mahon -- Cave manager, Twin Culvert Cave

Action Item: ST will contact Jack White (Registered Agent) to notify him of new officers

Action Item: ST will contact Dave Mahon to inform him he's Twin Culvert Cave Manager

3) How to get back on the radar and attract active members

a. Membership drive

DC suggests an acquisitions project will attract members

Contact other state grottos, ISS Exchange

b. Get people involved in committees

c. Newsletter – Jeffery will issue a short newsletter (pictures, projects, letter from the President, time to renew membership, call for volunteers for committees)

4) White nose syndrome policy

Does Pautler have colonial bats? No. But we do have pipistrelles and they fly between caves – discussion during the recent WNS session at the NSS convention indicates that they can be carriers. How concerned do we need to be, if no colonials?

Do we need designated gear just for Pautler? That could get expensive.

KCI WNS Policy:

The impact of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) on North American bat populations should not be underestimated. Caves where WNS is found can see 95% mortality of resident bat populations. There is strong indication that human visitation to infected caves is a source of transmission to other caves. With this in mind, KCI has adopted the following policy:

No caving gear used in WNS affected states or bordering states is allowed in KCI managed caves. This currently includes Kentucky and all

states east of Indiana. As WNS spreads, more states may be included.

Caving gear used in non-affected portions of the country is to be decontaminated according to recommended protocols. This includes gear used in other Illinois caves. If possible, KCI requests designated gear be set aside for those working in either Pautler or Twin Culverts caves. Further WNS information, including proper cleaning protocols is available at:

USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html

USGS: <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/WNS/>

NSS: <http://www.caves.org/WNS/>

Action item: post **KCI WNS Policy** on website (Steve), put in Newsletter (Jeffery) and have Cave Managers (Barb Coons [Pautler], Dave Mahon [Twin Culvert]) to notify INPC contacts (Angela Morehouse [Twin Culvert], Debbie Newman [Pautler]) regarding our new WNS Policy

5) Dues

Are we charging too much? \$25 now, is \$10 enough to cover operating expenses. Decided to change dues to \$10. Get rid of student. Family \$20. Sustaining/organizational \$50 (but no free tee-shirts from this point forward)

6) Tee shirts

60-70 tee-shirts are owed to people. Barb has a design, Jeffery will get a quote from “his guy” and share this quote with Board of Directors, which will make final decision. We should order 100-150 and sell extras

Action items: Barb will email design to Jeffery, Jeffery will email the board when he gets the quote and will decide how many to order and how much to charge.

7) Twin Culvert Cave – Mark Jones moved to Dekalb and is no longer in the area. Dave Mahon is nearby and would be excellent – has been doing the work. There is a pile of stuff (railroad ties) from the last clean up that needs to be removed. Need to do surface clean-up. Also, more stuff in cave was revealed by subsequent flooding (historic boat should remain in place, it does not have creosote and is historically documented and should remain in place).

- a. Action item: Steve will recommend to Angela Moorehouse that we extend the closed season for Twin Culvert Cave through the hibernation period.
- b. Action Item: Need to remove railroad ties from the last cleanup that are on the surface at Twin Culvert Cave

- c. Action Item: Need to do another in-cave cleanup (but do not disturb historic boat) at Twin Culvert Cave.

8) Pautler Cave

Jeffery hasn't been there for ~1 year, DC and SJT noted that the flagging is excellent for navigating into the cave. Coming out, need to add a flagging to funnel people past the travertine near the "fire and ice" formation. Need to finish excavating mud bank near Pautler Falls to funnel people away from the flowstone. Concerns that it might be too messy at bottom of falls if mud bank excavation material was not washed away by flooding. Breakdown crawl – some additional work would be OK.

- a. Action item: Most critical is to finish excavating mud bank near Pautler Falls in Pautler Cave (Jeffery Gosnell).
- b. Action Item: Additional flagging needed at travertine so people are not confused on way OUT of Pautler Cave (Jeffery Gosnell).

Survey update – DC has 2 miles done, 4 miles of re-survey would cover the main corridor. Phillip Moss survey does not take clino or backsights. DC is leaving permanent stations.

- c. Ralph Sawyer is still interested in continuing photo monitoring. We need to more clearly define the project for him, i.e., tie locations to map, use to monitor conditions. Documents major features (including untouched areas as well as pretty speleothems) and coordinate the photos with the survey stations, with dates.
 - 1. Action Item: DC will write guidelines for Ralph (these will first be reviewed and formally approved by the Board of Directors) and archive the usable pictures.
 - 2. Action Item: DC will give good pictures for website and Newsletter
- d. May do a survey trip in December. DC can monitor the survey project, but needs notes from the 3-shot survey.

Action Item: DC will touch bases with Ralph to obtain Pautler Cave survey notes.

Steve distributed a report on a recent Pautler Cave springtail bioinventory, added to new species to the caves' faunal list

Action Item: ST will provide a summary of his bioinventory report to Jeffery for the newsletter

Is anyone monitoring the cave amphipod? Lewis was last there in 2007 – has not been there since due to difficulties with getting paid. Might be useful to go to a less silty spot in the stream – better habitat in the new part of the cave than in historic section

Sam Panno – collected speleothems, looking at deposition and seismic activity. Don Coons will get a copy of the report to Jeffery to include in the newsletter.

Action Item: DC will get Sam Panno report on his work in Pautler Cave, and will forward info to Jeffery for inclusion in newsletter.

Manganese dioxide study – doctoral student from Washington University in St Louis. Andrew J. Friedrich < http://envgeochem.wustl.edu/friedrich_research.htm >. His INPC permit expires in December 2009. Aaron Addison has visited the cave with him.

Action item: Don Coons will get status report from Andrew Friedich on his work in Pautler Cave

Bricks on surface at Pautler were not cleaned up because they are there to control erosion, if removed, would need to replace with something else.

Next meeting will be in July. Will meet in Springfield (or possibly Carlinville or Waterloo). Jeffery suggested on a Sunday afternoon, or an evening. Chair (Steve) will finalize meeting plans.

Action Item: ST finalize plans for next KCI board meeting

Adjourned.

Summary of Action Items from 14 Nov 2009 KCI Meeting:

Action Item: DC and ST will work with TNC on acquisition of Twin Culvert, DC will explore other leads for land acquisitions.

Action item: new President to notify Mark Jones and Rick Haley that their directorships have lapsed

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