



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting - February 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 pm by President Pat Minnick at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

The following officers were present: **President** P. Minnick **Vice President** C. Catherman
Secretary G. Schock **Treasurer** J. Boswell

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	Mike Spencer
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	Dean Snyder (proxy)
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Cave Hill Grotto	Dave Briggs	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Commander Cody Caving Club	Mike Mostardi	York Grotto	Randy Hurst
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick		

Secretary Report: The minutes from the September 27, 2015 meeting were read and accepted as published in the January 2016 MAR Breakdown.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell provided the latest treasurer's report (see below). The current CD interest rate with F&M Trust Bank is 0.25%. John researched possible avenues for investment that would continue to keep the PCC funds available for use when needed. The results of that research were provided to the meeting attendees, concluding that the best interest rate was found to be approximately 1.0%. Due to the minimal monetary benefit for moving funds to one of these accounts, it was decided to keep the CD funds in their current location, knowing that the researched accounts continue to be a possible option for the future.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 9-27-15 Thru 2-27-16

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 9/27/15	F&M Trust Bank checking	9/27/2015	\$7,497.46
York Grotto Coy Cave gating	Check 999	9/29/2015	-\$110.67
Withdrawal for checks		10/6/2015	-\$29.70
Deposit	Lost River Caverns donation	12/31/2015	\$100.00
Interest Payment			\$-
Ending Balance :			\$7457.09

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):

		Maturity Date	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,114.91
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,114.91
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,114.91

* \$1.40 Interest credit applied to each 1/26/16

COMBINED TOTAL : **\$10801.82**

Web Page: Dave Fricke reported via email that the PCC Web Site can be found at: <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc/>. The Web Site has been up and running with no issues or problems.

The contacts for the grottos on the Member Grotto web page have been updated with links to the NSS Internal Organization web page for each grotto. As a reminder, all grottos should periodically check their NSS IO page to ensure that the contact information is correct. As always, comments and suggestions on improving the Web Site are welcome.

PCC Breakfast: Pat Minnick stated the PCC plans to host a pancake breakfast at the upcoming 2016 Spring MAR field meet in Shade Gap. All the PCC breakfast equipment is currently stored in Steve Shawver's barn with the exception of the griddle, which is with Joe Schock. Karen and George Bange will provide the paper products (plates, utensils, etc) for the next PCC breakfast. Karen and George also offered to transport the breakfast equipment from Steve Shawver's barn to the Spring field meet site. Additionally, MAKC will be selling coffee, etc on both Saturday and Sunday mornings of the field meet as a fund raiser for MAKC.

PCC Brochure: George Bange stated that he still has a supply of brochures available and was unsure of the last time any were requested. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George.

Mail: Dean Snyder indicated that the PCC only received bank statements since the last meeting. The PO Box fee was paid by Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG) this year.

Christmas Cards: Karen continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners and provided the current list:

Peiper Cave (Franklin County), McClure Cave (Snyder County), Onxy Cave (Berks County), Red Church Cave (Berks County), Dreibilbis Cave (Berks County), Indian Cave (Northampton County), Lost River Caverns (Northampton County), Carpenter's Cave (Northampton County), Sharer Cave (Centre County), Deerbone Cave (Centre County), Bear Cave (Westmoreland County), Milroy 2 Cave (Mifflin County), Penn Aqua Cave (Mifflin County), Seawra Cave (Mifflin County), Allensville Cave (Mifflin County), Mt Rock Cave (Mifflin County), Alexander Cavern (Mifflin County), Ruth Cave (Huntingdon County), Nelson's Pit (Huntingdon County), Frustration Pit/Corker Hill (Cumberland County), Hipple Cave (Blair County).

Please contact Karen if you have a landowner you would like added to the Christmas card list. Additionally, Karen reported that she tries to include some cave-related information with the Christmas cards that are sent each year. This year, she sent a letter containing the latest update on White Nose Syndrome and Caving.

T-shirts: No report.

PA Cave Database: Paul Winter, reporting for Tony Canike, indicated that Tony received a data request for the number of caves in specified locations. Tony complied with the request since the data call did not require cave locations, merely a cave count.

Amos Mincin requested that the current designated county stewards please contact him if they are no longer interested in acting as a county steward. Additionally, if someone is interested in acting as a county steward, they should contact Amos Mincin or Tony Canike. It was revealed that the county steward lists contained on the MAR and PCC Web Sites are different. In order to avoid mismatches and duplication of information, Christopher Catherman agreed to remove the list from the MAR Web Site. The county steward list contained on the PCC Web Site should be considered the official and current list. In an effort to maintain the list of county stewards, Mike Spencer moved and John Boswell seconded that the PCC board has the authority to appoint and remove country stewards of the PA cave database. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Dragon Cave (Berks County) – Mike Mostardi reported that he has been in contact with the cave owner. The cave is open and the owner is agreeable with cavers contacting him about access for trips. Mike emphasized that anyone planning a trip should ensure that the owner is notified. Mike can discuss possible gating of the cave if there is a need/interest, otherwise Mike indicated that the cave can be removed from the project list.

Hershey-Coy Cave (Cumberland County) - Randy Hurst indicated that there is additional work to be done on the cave gate. At this point, the costs are unknown but expected to be minimal. The PCC will be provided with additional information if/when financial assistance is requested.

J4 Cave (Centre County) – Paul Winter stated that notification was sent to Graymont indicating that their proposed requirements for access to the cave were not financially feasible. To date, no additional correspondence has been received from Graymont.

Kepler Cave (Centre County) – Paul reported that the house on the property is currently being rented. The house occupants have been made aware that cavers may access the area for caving trips. The renters are not authorized to grant or deny access to the cave. Paul will follow up with the land owners about any plans for sale of the property.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) - Dean Snyder reported that the cave access is open. Dean described the ongoing effort involved with keeping the cave entrance clear as the surrounding ground collapses into the entrance. Dean also emphasized the deteriorating condition of the oil drums used as part of the entrance. These drums should be replaced in the near future. Christopher Catherman suggested providing photos of the entrance to show the current condition.

PCC Tax Exempt Status: John Boswell plans to file for the annual PCC tax exempt status. Filing deadline is May 15 annually.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring MAR 2016: Franklin County Grotto (FCG) will be hosting the Spring MAR field meet on May 13-15, 2016 at Harper's Park, in Shade Gap, PA. An online registration form is operational and available for electronic payment from the FCG Web Site (http://www.karst.org/fcg/fcg_mar.htm). Additional information and details can be found on the MAR Web Site as they become available.

Fall MAR 2016: Bald Eagle Grotto (BEG) will be hosting the Fall MAR field meet on September 23-25, 2016 at Woodward Campground, PA. The theme of the field meet will be "Glow in the Dark Party". Additional information and details can be found on the MAR Web Site as they become available.

Spring MAR 2017: Philadelphia Grotto is tentatively planning to host the 2017 Spring MAR in celebration of the grotto's 70th Anniversary.

McAlisterville Cave (Juniata County) – Gretchen (Red) Schock suggested the PCC consider a cleanup project for the grounds surrounding McAlisterville cave. The cave entrance is located on a steep embankment and locals are known for dumping trash in the area. Keith Wheeland has agreed to contact the cave owner to ensure he does not have a problem with the proposed project and to determine his feelings on possible publicity with the local newspaper, etc. Amos Mincin volunteered Philadelphia Grotto to assist with the cleanup efforts. Anyone interested in assisting with the arrangements should contact Red, particularly anyone familiar with the McAlisterville area. Additional information about the cleanup effort will be provided as it becomes available.

Elections: The existing Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary were re-elected to serve another year. Dave Briggs was elected to serve as the new PCC President. The PCC would like to thank Pat

Minnick for all his hard work and dedication over the past years as President. Thank you for a job very well done Pat!

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at Harper's Park, in Shade Gap, PA. Meeting time 9:30 am.

Paul Winter moved and Randy Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary