



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 24, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by President David Briggs at the Mt. Laurel Church of God, Harrisburg, PA on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs **Vice President** Andy Filer
Secretary Gretchen Schock **Treasurer** John Boswell

Representation was as follows:

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

Secretary Report: Paul Winter moved and Mike Mostardi seconded to accept the minutes from the October 1, 2017 meeting as published in the January 2018 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell provided the PCC account activity since the last meeting. John also reported that he had just received a \$50 donation to PCC from Baltimore Grotto via the PCC mail.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary

10-01-17 through 2-24-18

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 10/1/17	F&M Trust Bank checking	10/1/2017	\$7,689.36
Deposit	Interest Credit	9/30/2017	\$0.32
Deposit	Interest Credit	10/31/2017	\$0.32
Deposit	Interest Credit	11/30/2017	\$0.32
Deposit	Interest Credit	12/31/2017	\$0.33
Deposit	Interest Credit	1/31/2018	\$0.32
Ending Balance :			\$7,690.97

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):

		<u>Maturity Date</u>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,121.92
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,121.92
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,121.92

* \$2.82 Interest credit applied to each 1/26/2018

COMBINED TOTAL : **\$11,056.73**

Web Page: Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up to date and operational. Dave Briggs announced that he hopes to have the new PCC web site up and available soon.

PCC Breakfast: Dave Briggs reported that it was unknown if the PCC would be organizing a pancake breakfast for the Spring 2018 MAR field meet. The PCC will be providing a pancake breakfast during the Fall 2018 MAR field meet at Rupert Cave preserve.

PCC Brochure: George Bange and Dave Briggs have a supply of brochures available. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George or Dave.

Mail: Dean Snyder reported that the Greater Allentown Grotto (GAG) has paid the \$75 annual fee for the PCC post office box. Dean stated that the only mail received since the last meeting was a donation check from Baltimore Grotto as well as a returned Christmas Card that was sent to a cave landowner.

Christmas Cards: Karen announced that, after 15 years of managing the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners, she will no longer be able to perform this task. Kim Kehs kindly volunteered to assume the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards. Please contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list. Thank you to Karen for all your years of dedication and service. Thank you to Kim for your willingness to continue this PCC tradition!

T-shirts: The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

PA Cave Database: Paul Winter reported that the cave database continues to be maintained. Any updates for the database should be sent to Tony Canike or Paul Winter. Paul requests that all designated county stewards review their respective information on the website and provide any necessary updates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Cold Air Cave (Monroe County) - Dean Snyder drafted a letter on behalf of the PCC to contact the park authorities regarding a cleanup effort for Cold Air cave and provided it to the PCC President. The letter will be sent from the PCC officers in an attempt to gain permission for a future cleanup event. Dean circulated a photo of the extensive graffiti on the outside of the cave entrance.

Kiehls/Schwalms Caves (Northumberland County) – Andy Filer announced that the PCC has coordinated a cleanup date of Saturday, April 14, 2018 with the landowner of Kiehls Cave. Kiehls Cave is located in close proximity to Schwalms Cave, which is owned by the brother-in-law of the Kiehls Cave landowner. The area around and in the cave is littered with old tires, rusted appliances, and other glass containers/trash. Andy reported that the PCC offered to assist with the cleanup with the understanding that no additional dumping would occur in the future. The landowner has agreed to haul the tires/trash to the waste removal site, since the facility is only open weekdays. Additional information regarding this event will be posted on the PCC website as it becomes available. Come on out and lend a hand to improve another cave!

McAlisterville Cave (Juniata County) – Dave Briggs announced that the cleanup event last year was very successful. He encouraged any caving group visiting the cave to continue to pick up litter as an ongoing effort to maintain the area. This cave will be removed from the project list.

McClure Cave (Snyder Country) – Paul Winter stated that landowner relations were good and access to the cave is open. Cavers can contact Paul regarding access for caving trips. Paul reported that they will wait until warmer spring weather before proceeding to paint the cave gate.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dean Snyder circulated photos of the progress of work being accomplished at the cave. Work has begun on a roof to protect the cave entrance area from falling debris. The work that has already been completed has prevented material from blocking the entrance. Dean donated the costs to have a cave conservation sign made for the cave. PCC has

approved to pay \$500 to offset the cost of materials for the project. A huge thank you goes out to Dean Snyder and Ed Kehs for all their hard work, donations, and dedication on this cave improvement project!

PCC Meeting Improvements: Dave Briggs continues to encourage members to share ideas and suggestions on ways to improve our PCC meetings. Dave also expressed his interest in hearing suggestions for fund raising ideas for the PCC. As we become more active with projects and cleanup events, our need for generating funds to pay for these efforts increases. Pat Minnick suggested that a cave gear raffle could be organized, similar to the gun raffles that area hunting clubs/organizations tend to offer. A permit may be required to host such a raffle but Dave Briggs didn't believe the permit would be very expensive.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC): Andy Filer has reached out to Mike Scafani, who is associated with the PGC. Andy learned that the PGC tends to use the construction of cave gates as an avenue to spend their allocated annual funds, with little to no regard for access for caving trips or cavers' interests. Andy intends to research how cave conservancies and game commission relations work in other states in an effort to establish better examples of how things could work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Overcash Caves: Don Arrowood reported that he had been contacted by the landowner of Overcash Caves, which includes five different caves. Don states that access to the caves is open. Contact Don for additional information regarding cave access by the landowner.

Cave Location Verification: Don Arrowood indicated that he has been involved in exploring local areas for known caves as well as potential leads for new caves. Through his efforts, he has already determined that one cave that was listed as a Pennsylvania cave was actually confirmed to be in Maryland.

Spring MAR 2018: Loyalhanna Grotto is planning to host the Spring 2018 Field Meet on June 22-24, 2018 at Hillside and Bear Cave Natural Area (a MAKC Preserve), Blairsville, PA. More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available.

Fall MAR 2018: Nittany Grotto is planning to host the Fall 2018 Field Meet in honor of Nittany Grotto's 70th Anniversary. The event will be held on September 28-30, 2018 at Rupert Cave Preserve in McVeytown, PA (Mifflin County). More details will be posted on the MAR web site as they become available.

PCC Picnic: Dave Briggs announced that the PCC plans to host an informal picnic this summer. More details will be provided as they become available.

Elections: Craig Hindman moved and Dave Fricke seconded that the existing PCC officers remain for another year. The motion passed and all current officers were re-elected.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC is to be determined. Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Paul Winter moved and J.D. Lewis seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary