



# Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

## Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm by President Dave Briggs via the Virtual Zoom Meeting environment on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs                      **Vice President** Amos Mincin  
**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	Derek Flaig
Bucks County Grotto	--	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Dave Fricke	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

**Secretary Report:** Dave Fricke moved and J.D. Lewis seconded to accept the minutes from the February 29, 2020 meeting as published in the April 2021 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** John Boswell reviewed the PCC account activity since the last meeting (provided below). Dave Fricke moved and Pat Minnick seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted as provided. The motion passed.

## Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

### Financial Summary

2-29-20 through 2-27-21

#### Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/29/20	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/29/2020	\$6,859.48
Deposit	Central NJ Grotto Donation	3/4/2020	\$50.00
Deposit	Amazon Smile	5/21/2020	\$5.94
Deposit	Amazon Smile	8/13/2020	\$5.63
Deposit	Amazon Smile	11/12/2020	\$14.55
Deposit	Lost River Caverns Donation	2/4/2021	\$100.00
Deposit	Amazon Smile	2/22/2021	\$20.07
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/29/2020	\$0.28
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2020	\$0.20
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	5/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	6/30/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	7/31/2020	\$0.12

Deposit	Interest Credit	8/31/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	9/30/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	10/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	11/30/2020	\$0.11
Deposit	Interest Credit	12/31/2020	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	1/31/2021	\$0.12

**Ending Balance :** **\$7,057.32**

<b><u>SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):</u></b>		<b><u>Maturity</u></b>	
		<b><u>Date</u></b>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,145.73
* \$5.09 July 2020 and \$5.18 January 2021 Interest credit applied to each.			
<b><u>COMBINED TOTAL :</u></b>			<b>\$10,494.51</b>

GoFundMe fundraiser for PennAqua Cave total as of 2/22/2021 = \$2,265.00

**Web Page:** Dave Fricke reported that the existing PCC website is up and running and everything is status quo.

**PCC Breakfast:** Nothing to report. Due to COVID restrictions, there have been no MAR fields meets therefore there have been no PCC Breakfast fund raising events.

**PCC Brochure:** Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

**Mail:** Dean Snyder reported the PCC received a donation from Lost River Caverns. Thank you Lost River Caverns! Dean also stated that the \$76 PO Box fee has been paid for another year.

**Christmas Cards:** Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. Please contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list.

**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 Tony Canike continues to transition the PA Cave Database responsibilities to Paul. Paul is interested in converting the database to a more robust forum that would include an online form to request information. Dave Briggs offered his assistance in these online efforts.

Paul stated that he was contacted by a state organization requesting locations of caves in Pennsylvania to supplement emergency/911 efforts. Due to concern that the cave location information may not be secured properly it was suggested that, as an alternative, Paul provide

information and/or points of contact for the NCRC regional coordinators to assist with cave related incidents. Paul indicated that he would respond to the request stating that he is unable to provide cave locations but can provide cave rescue contact information to assist with applicable situations.

John Karge expressed interest in serving as the Northumberland County cave steward. Paul Winter moved and Dave Fricke seconded to nominate John Karge to serve as cave steward for Northumberland County. The motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Project and Caves of Interest List:**

**Cold Air Cave** (Northampton County) – no report.

**Decker Sink Cleanup** – no report.

**Future of the PCC:** Discussions regarding the efficacy/viability of the PCC and whether or not the PCC was simply duplicating efforts of other conversancy groups in the area were initiated during the February 2020 PCC meeting. During those discussions, grotto representatives were encouraged to return and continue this discussion with their grotto members. After a year, the following additional points were offered:

- Paul Winter stated that the PCC offered valuable services and sited examples such as the McAlisterville and Kiehls cave cleanup events.
- Dave Briggs pointed out that the PCC has established some positive landowner relations, particularly for activities like cave cleanups. The landowners were very impressed and appreciative of the turnout of so many cavers and the work that was accomplished.
- Dave Fricke commented that the PCC offers a vehicle to communicate with landowners utilizing a state-wide established organization.
- Randy Hurst indicated the PCC would be a helpful entity when contacting organizations such as home owners associations, citing a current effort being pursued by York Grotto.
- Dave Briggs stated that the PCC board will strive to improve communications with the membership grottos and will also focus on being more active with cave conservation activities going forward.
- Cherie Schock suggested that a project committee may be helpful to assist in coordinating future activities and events within the PCC.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Northumberland County Grotto:** Northumberland County Grotto expressed interest in becoming a member grotto of the PCC. John Boswell referred to the PCC By Laws and indicated that all membership grottos must first be recognized by the National Speleological Society (NSS) before being eligible for PCC membership. At this time Northumberland County Grotto is not a NSS recognized organization. The PCC encouraged Northumberland County Grotto to re-submit their request for membership once they have been established within the NSS.

**Penn Aqua Fund Raiser:** To date, \$2,265 has been raised for the PCC established GoFundMe campaign, to which PCC will match up to \$3,000. The intention of this fund raiser is to assist MAKC in raising funds to cover the purchase of Penn Aqua Cave. Thanks to MAKC for all your hard work/efforts for this cave!

Craig Hindman voiced his concerns surrounding the manner in which the fund raiser has been handled. It was noted that the PCC By Laws were not followed, which require a motion, second, and related discussion prior to voting on a proposal to spend PCC funds. The grotto representatives were only presented with an email request to vote on the GoFundMe campaign. Craig also pointed out that the results of that vote were never shared with the grotto representatives as promised. Dave Briggs indicated that he thought the PCC officers were given the authority to allocate PCC funds. In an effort to correct the concern, Pat Minnick moved and Randy Hurst seconded that the PCC set up a GoFundMe campaign to match donations up to \$3,000 toward MAKC's Penn Aqua Cave fund raising efforts. The motion passed but with strenuous objection by Baltimore Grotto.

**Spring MAR/VAR 2021:** Due to ongoing COVID concerns, Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto have decided to postpone the Spring 2021 MAR/VAR Field Meet at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA until Spring of 2022. The dates of the event will be provided at a later time. More details will be posted on the MAR and VAR web sites as they become available.

**Elections:** Dave Fricke moved and Pat Minnick seconded to re-elect the current PCC officers to serve another year. The motion passed.

**Next meeting:** Next PCC meeting - To be determined.

Dave Fricke moved and Paul Winter seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary