

OHIO CAVE SURVEY MINUTES 3-23-23

President Frank Vlchek called the meeting to order at 7:07. Vice President Curt Harler acted as secretary for Sarah Cayse who attended the meeting but was involved with work responsibilities. Frank read the minutes of the December 2022 meeting. Curt moved acceptance, Mike Hood seconded, approved unanimously.

In his VP's report, Curt spoke about updating and verifying the Ohio Cave Survey list which he has as an XLS. He suspects there are as many as 400-500 "real" caves in Ohio but right now we have firm GPS location data on only about 140 of them. He made a plea for OCS members and to their grottos to spend some time tracking down caves and recording precise GPS and elevation data on each - and then reporting back to him with that data. No in-cave surveying is required. Almost immediately, three members volunteered to check caves in their area. The work is on-going. Curt also suggested a barometer or cave-looking graphic on the webpage listing of the number of known caves in the state to stimulate interest in the Survey and to herald its progress. Secretary Sarah Cayse had no report beyond the December minutes and the need to update membership data.

Treasurer Wm. Gary Bush delivered a complete summary of the OCS's financial status. Our IRS 990-N form is filed. The requisite Ohio Certificate of Good Standing from Secretary of State is in hand. Reimbursement for the \$95.95 two-year fee for Internet renewal is pending (handled in New Business). Curt moved approval of the treasurer's report, Mike Hood seconded, approved unanimously.

Directors Dennis Green and Mike Hood had nothing to report. Hazel Barton and Kevin Lorms were absent (Barton joined the call later but had no report).

Communications Committee Chair Mike Hood reported the Facebook page gets regular if slim traffic. Twitter gets no activity but still is out there. Frank suggested having a button on top of the OCS homepage to facilitate landowners or cave owners in finding relevant information.

Newsletter: Brittany Parrick has gathered several items for the newsletter. She is shooting for a deadline of the end of March for an issue. The newsletter will be sent as a PDF to all members.

OCS-ODNR Liaison Adam Batson reported he has a meeting with ODNR's Erin Hazleton on April 15 to share data. OCS has one brand new cave to tell ODNR about (Lost Cap Cave) and data from

four or five other caves pinned during a visit by the Cleveland Grotto to the Highland-Pike-Ross County area. He further discussed other data-sharing with ODNR. ODNR's Douglas Aden requested a current copy of Curt's Master Cave List (with or without GPS and elevation data) and Curt agreed to provide same as soon as the meeting was over.

OLD BUSINESS:

Result of the 2023 election was certified by unanimous vote of the Board.

Landowner Committee Chair Chad Waffin in December had circulated a proposed final version of the document to give to landowners interested in the Survey or who simply want more information on cave ownership. He suggested it should be both in a paper version and an e-format for the website. It may need to be made to look more official, pretty or professional. He emphasized the need to get it on the website ASAP. Several Board members requested another look so they could check it out. Chad circulated same and requested a quick response. Once Gary gets a PDF, he will post the document on the website.

Gary reported some progress with evaluating the AWS database system. He expects to grab a month-long free trial. NSS uses AWS to good effect; however, cost is a question: NSS pays about \$500 a month...well beyond OCS's budget. Gary also wants to determine what sort of front-end OCS could use to assure easy access to the data.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dana Sutherland reported that Central Ohio Grotto was stimulated by the OCS PowerPoint program which Gary gave last Fall. However, there remains confusion and lack of awareness about how local cavers and grottos can get involved with OCS. Dana suggested greater outreach by OCS. Curt suggested sending copies of our newsletter to all Ohio grotto chairs and newsletter editors with permission to reproduce relevant material in their own newsletters. Gary suggested a county-by-county listing of the number of documented caves to stimulate interest in the Survey and its progress. It also would help to promote the PPT presentation to other state grottos. So far, Cleveland and COG have seen it.

An earlier e-mail vote to reimburse Gary for his expenses related to the web hosting was confirmed; state regulations require email votes be followed up by a public vote. Frank thanked Gary Bush for all of his work on the website.

Work on developing Best Management Practices will continue. Frank obtained information from the Tennessee Cave Survey. Gary is awaiting a reply from the Kentucky Survey. Curt reported MAKC (Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy) has no formal BMPs but is interested in working with others to develop same. Frank proposed putting together a budget for each committee. With Board authorization, that money could be spent without the need for a vote. Each committee chair was charged to submit budget figure to the Treasurer and Board for the remainder of 2023 and all of 2024. That estimate will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Gary requested a resolution to establish an audit schedule and process. That will be handled at the next meeting.

Doug Aden reported that the Horton H. Hobbs Collection has been catalogued by ODNR. Materials need to be indexed. The material is available at the ODNR offices on Morse Road; an appointment is suggested to assure access to the building and materials.

At 8:18 pm Curt moved adjournment. Approved unanimously.