

IKC FALL DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Saturday, September 23, 2000
Mitchell, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kriste Lindberg (President)
Bruce Bowman (Secretary)
Keith Dunlap (Treasurer)
James Adams
Bruce Devore
Bambi Dunlap
Don Ingle (new appointee)
Steve Lockwood
Nick Noe
Tom Rea
Bob Sergesketter (by proxy)
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer
Bob Vandeventer
Richard Vernier

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM at the home of Steve Lockwood in Mitchell. President Lindberg presiding. Introductions were made. John Benton was accepted as a proxy for Bob Sergesketter. The summer meeting minutes were approved as published in the *IKC Update*.

An opening on the directorship has occurred due to resignation. Nominations included Don Ingle and Kathy Welling. The candidates briefly introduced themselves, after which Don won an election among the board members. Don will serve until the general election at the next Annual Business Meeting.

K Dunlap gave the Treasurer's report. As of 9/20, the IKC has \$20,141.54 (total of the general and restricted funds), and 169 paid members (approximately 15 did not renew). Liability insurance is due in October. Tozer moved to renew, Bowman second. Passed 15-0. Fifteen hats were sold at Cave Capers, about 2 dozen left. There was some discussion whether money to pay for these hats should come from the general fund or the restricted hat/cave acquisition fund. The board clarified that money for hat purchase comes from the acquisition fund. Dunlap also reported receipt of a \$500 conservation grant from the NSS. This will be used to purchase a model to demonstrate circulation of groundwater in karst.

Next order of business was to name a steward for the Sinks of Indian Creek. Bowman gave a brief run-down of the responsibilities associated with this position. Bill Schultze expressed interest, as did Dick Newton. Each candidate offered their qualifications to the board. The board selected Dick Newton by anonymous ballot.

K Dunlap and Vandeventer offered an update on the Sullivan property. Vandeventer noted that things are going well with cave trips. Rose-Hulman Alpha Tau Omega fraternity wants to do another cleanup trip. Some concerns were expressed about damage to historic signatures. A good way to delineate these areas is needed; cleanups should be restricted to areas in and beyond the Mountain Room until such time that we can work out an appropriate management approach. Tozer and Vandeventer will begin documentation and make a proposal to the board. K Dunlap noted that the trees at the property are doing well. Funding the planting of the remaining 3.5 acres has been investigated, primarily the USDA stewardship incentive program. We are approved for assistance by the SIP program (50% cost share), but need higher planting density (8x10 or 9x9). Dunlap also applied for an IPALCO Golden Eagle grant of \$1000, but received \$2500. The extra \$1500 is unrestricted and several options were discussed. Dunlap moved to proceed with planting of 2000 trees in 2001. Tozer seconded. Motion passed 15-0.

The board noted that we still have not received an annual report for Suicide cave. Our agreement with the landowner requires a report. Newton and Benton were asked to follow up.

Adams noted that Shiloh Cave has some new graffiti. Four weeks later, the lock was found to be missing at the spring entrance during a CIG trip. Bowman noted the graffiti should not be too difficult to remove. Sollman will supply photo documentation to Adams. The sinkhole gate has also been modified by the landowner, the hasp having been cut off with a torch and replaced with a log chain and padlock. This entrance remains secure, but a new lock needs to be placed on the

spring entrance as soon as possible.

Lindberg noted that Shirley Spring Cave and Leonard Springs Nature Park activities are doing well with trail building and other activities. She suggested that IU Spelunking Club could have periodic trips to the cave to accommodate those who make inquiries to Bloomington Parks and Recreation. There was also a suggestion to gate the cave or adopt the trail in the park. No motion. People with ideas and free time are encouraged to offer suggestions.

Boone Cave has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy. Acreage with the house are offered for sale. There is currently no trail from the Greens Bluff parking lot to the cave.

There is a white substance that appears to be lime dust washing through Pless Cave. Jim Richards noted that water quality coming from the spring is poor (septic), but the situation has improved because the dammed marshland purifies the water before it enters White River. There is an opportunity to work with the landowner to address the lime dust and improve the aesthetics of the wetland. Non-point septic waste enforcement continues to be an increasing problem in the state.

Lockwood reported 116 caves on the HNF. Julian Lewis is doing a bioinventory of most of these caves. Recent field workday efforts have related to this activity. HNF Project T-shirts need to be redone. The Wesley Chapel Gulf management plan completion should occur this fall. A streamlined process for approval of significant cave nominations should also occur soon. The management plan for the entire forest is being revisited. A coalition of environmental organizations is putting together a proposal for property management. Making this proposal will obligate the HNF to consider this alternative and put together a rationale for selecting or not selecting various aspects. The IKC has been asked to sign onto this proposal (e.g.: no commercial timbering, no ATVs, etc.). Caving policies are not under active discussion or likely to be changed. K Dunlap moved that the IKC join the coalition in support of the conservation alternative. Vernier seconded. Approved 7-2-6.

Lindberg and Rea have been working on a team to rewrite a management plan for natural resources at Spring Mill State Park. A draft is available for review and Rea is requesting feedback from interested parties. Recommendations are due in November.

The next agenda item discussed outreach and educational opportunities. Adams has tracked down a new display model that packs into a bag, consisting of three panels 22" wide and 42" high. Carita Noe and Bill Baus volunteered to seek a less expensive alternative. B Dunlap moved that we authorize Lindberg to use up to \$700 of the general fund to acquire a display. Adams seconded. K Dunlap expressed concerns that others need to examine the display for suitability before purchase. Adams, Vandeventer, Lindberg and Noe agreed to serve in this capacity. Motion passed 12-1-2.

Vandeventer and Lindberg are working to design a new IKC brochure. No word on reprinting the sinkhole flyer. Some people are going to attend the Bat Conservation and Mining Conference. The Children's Museum "IMAX" theater is presenting a movie on caving. IKC members are encouraged to participate for interpretive purposes.

Vandeventer has archived all the IKC Updates. There was nothing to report on drafting of the rescue plans for IKC-managed caves.

Next meeting: Saturday, December 2 at 10 AM at the home of Nick and Carita Noe in Greenwood.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Bowman, IKC Secretary

Post-meeting note: Winners of the Y2K dessert contest were as follows:

1st: "Big Ol' Raisin Oatmeal Cookie" contributed by Bob Vandeventer
2nd: "World's Best Carrot Cake" prepared by Bambi Dunlap
3rd: "Key Lime Pie" contributed by Tom Sollman