

IKC WINTER DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Saturday, December 2, 2000
Southport, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Adams

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM at the home of Nick and Carita Noe in Southport. President Lindberg presiding. Introductions were made. Kathy Welling was accepted as proxy for Bruce Devore. The fall meeting minutes were approved as published in the *IKC Update*.

K Dunlap gave the Treasurer's report. As of December 1, the IKC has \$21,202.63 (total of the general and restricted funds), \$79,013.16 in real property assets, and 176 paid members.

Land acquisition and management updates were provided. At Sullivan, the grant money was received from IPALCO for tree planting and other management activities. A total of 1900 trees have been ordered, and we will receive all the tree species we requested, at the cost of about \$450. This will be the primary activity at Under-Earth Day, tentatively scheduled for April 7-8. In addition, the invasive (and non-native) vinca at the property will be chemically treated on December 10. Tom Rea volunteered to donate materials. Vandeventer noted that requests for trips to the cave have increased, with no problems to report. All locks have recently been changed because they had become difficult to open. Documentation of historical writings in the cave remains to be done.

At Orangeville Rise, a sign has recently been erected that is less obtrusive and reflects the change in ownership. A workday needs to be scheduled to address the erosion issue. Quotes for a re-survey also need to be obtained so new boundary markers can be set. These activities needs to be coordinated with the DNR Division of Nature Preserves.

The lock at Shiloh Cave still hasn't been replaced. The landowner needs to provide a new one, but doesn't feel it is an urgent situation. Sollman is planning a biota count in the next couple of weeks and will address the gate issue at that time.

The house at Boone Cave has been sold. Cavers should not park near the house or cross private property. Several people have already been run off. Since the situation has settled we should re-contact The Nature Conservancy and renew our offer to assist in cave management.

A property has become available along Lost River. The landowner has offered to donate six acres that contain ~600 ft of dry-bed and a ford. The landowner would retain a life estate so he can continue to live there. While this is a generous offer, there remain some management and liability issues. K Dunlap will discuss additional options with the landowner. The IKC is pursuing similar opportunities for two other Lost River properties, and a bat hibernaculum in Harrison County.

Several recent activities were discussed; including the Ohio Valley Region conservation project, Hoosier Forest Projects Committee activities, the Environmental Education Association of Indiana conference, the Bat Conservation and Mining conference, and the 2000 Hoosier Environmental Council Congress. Reports on these topics have been published in the *IKC Update*.

There was interest in having the IKC partner with the Monroe County Parks Department in management activities at Leonard Springs Nature Park, now that development and cleanup are largely complete. An MOU would be necessary to define roles and responsibilities. Lindberg to discuss a framework with Mr. Cotter on 12/6.

The Hoosier National Forest has created or revamped the boundaries of 24 special areas and published a decision notice. There is a 45-day appeals period. The IKC is generally pleased with the new boundaries and will not be making an appeal. The HNF has budgeted some money for hydrology work on the forest and was interested in having the IKC do some dye-tracing. The general feeling was that the IKC doesn't have the expertise necessary to serve as a primary contractor. Two more public input sessions for the overall management plan of the HNF are planned within the next six days. The karst section of the management plan is not proposed for revision, but changes to logging, off-road vehicles and similar policies could impact karst.

There are several opportunities for education and outreach. The new karst groundwater model has arrived and has already been put to good use. We've also purchased a new display board for presentations. Finally, IKC members are again encouraged to help at the Children's Museum when they begin their presentation of "Journey into Amazing Caves." This IMAX film was produced with the help of the NSS, and showings will begin on March 16 in Indianapolis. Lindberg established an ad hoc committee to mobilize help at the museum. Vandeventer, Lindberg, B Dunlap and Tozer will serve on this committee.

The IKC will have some other opportunities to gate abandoned mines in 2001. K Dunlap will coordinate with Mark Stacy at the DNR Division of Reclamation. He will be evaluating sites on Wednesday 12/13. One site is a known bat hibernaculum, but getting materials to this site will be a challenge. The work will probably be scheduled for late spring.

Earth Day Indiana will be the 29th of April at the American Legion Mall (north of the War Memorial). We did not participate in this event last year. Bowman was railroaded into manning the booth this year. The Indiana Cave Symposium is also coming up. The date will be set at the ICS meeting on 12/11. The fund from the 1992 NSS Convention honorarium has run out. Bowman moved to fund half the cost of the food at the symposium. Welling seconded. K Dunlap offered the amendment to limit the cost to \$50. Bowman accepted the amendment. Motion passed 14-0.

There is a plan to erect a large "bat condo" in Pike County. The IKC was asked if they would be willing to help with this. No additional details were available. No motion.

Lindberg suggested establishing an Outreach and Education Committee and is soliciting volunteers to serve in this capacity. Activities along these lines are increasing and a team to provide more timely guidance is needed. Welling moved to establish a standing committee to serve this purpose. Ingle seconded. Motion passed 14-0. Committee members will be Welling, Tozer, Ingle, B Dunlap, and Vandeventer, with Lindberg as chair. Vandeventer will investigate insurance options for our educational materials (fire/theft).

K Dunlap noted that there are ways to set up sustaining donations through credit card deductions. There are ways to do this over the web that are free. The donor would click on a link that takes him to a form where the transaction takes place. There are some legal concerns about interstate soliciting via a third-party internet service provider, state-by-state fund-raising regulations, and how to comply. The "free sites" also do not allow periodic donations - the donation is one-time only. No motion. K Dunlap will continue to investigate this.

Vandeventer reported that the IKC office has become more organized and all photos have been scanned as JPEGs to CDs. Bowman also has a box of old office records that need to go in the library.

Members are reminded that elections are coming up. The February meeting is mainly used to select a preliminary list of candidates for officer and director elections. The Annual Business meeting was set for March 24th at 10 AM. Location to be determined, but will be somewhere in Greenwood. The next board meeting will occur on February 17 at 7:30 at the Lindberg condo.

Thanks to the Noes for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Bowman, IKC Secretary