

## **IKC SUMMER DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

**Saturday, July 8, 2000**

**Bloomington, Indiana**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kriste Lindberg (President)

Bruce Bowman (Secretary)

Keith Dunlap (Treasurer)

James Adams

Bruce Devore

Bambi Dunlap

Steve Lockwood

Tom Rea

Bob Sergesketter

Richard Vernier

Bill Tozer

Bob Vandeventer

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ronnie Burns

Nick Noe

Tom Sollman

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM in Room 143 of the Geology Building on the IU campus. President Kriste Lindberg presiding. Lindberg distributed complimentary copies of the Spring Mill and Lost River drainage study report, an open-file publication of the Indiana Geological Survey. Thanks to some anonymous donors for helping fund these documents, and to the IGS for giving us a substantial discount.

Introductions were made. Minutes for the annual business meeting were accepted as posted in the *IKC Update*.

K Dunlap reported total assets of \$99,757.60, including property. Cash assets are \$20,744.44, of which \$16,207.96 is in the general fund and \$4,536.48 in restricted funds (new record).

Bowman noted that the Sinks of Indian Creek easement transfer has been completed. Only one person has expressed interest in being property steward, but notification was only recently made to the membership. A decision on who to serve in this capacity was deferred until the fall meeting.

K Dunlap noted that a significant cave has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The cave is one of three known sites of an endangered beetle, and one Indiana bat has been observed in the cave. It is also adjacent to an existing TNC nature preserve. A portion of the property will be subdivided and sold. The IKC will assist in establishing management policies. Adams moved that the IKC donate \$1000 to TNC to demonstrate our appreciation for their acquisition of another significant karst property. Lockwood seconded. Motion passed 12-0.

K Dunlap gave an update on activities at Sullivan Cave. Four hundred trees were planted on April 1 and are all doing well. Under-Earth Day also occurred and a report is in the *Update*. There were some initial misunderstandings with the dumpster payment, but these have been worked out to everyone's satisfaction. Anmar Mirza also noted that the NCRC held a mock rescue at Sullivan on June 11 and the training was successful. The NCRC central region will make a small donation. There have been many trips to Sullivan and the directorship expressed their appreciation for the tireless work of the cave patron.

Lockwood gave an update on activities at Orangeville Rise. Signs are ready and will be installed prior to the fall meeting. Investigation of a property survey continues to be pursued. We will also follow up on contacting the Orange County highway department.

President Lindberg noted that a new coalition is being formed to address invasive, non-native plants in Indiana. Current activities are restricted to public education.

K Dunlap gave an update on the gating of abandoned coal mines. Volunteerism was overwhelming, with a number of people who have constructed enough similar gates so things proceed very quickly without a great deal of supervision. The DNR Division of Mine Reclamation is very pleased with the work we've done. The IKC netted roughly \$4800 on the recent project, putting us in position to move quickly on future land acquisition efforts. The Bureau of Surface Mines is also impressed and plans to put something in their web pages about our continued partnership with the DNR. There will be

other, similar opportunities in the future.

B Dunlap noted that the Hancock property workday went well. There was a good turn-out of helpers, and very little trash was found compared to previous years. A knotted rope of questionable strength was removed from the Coon Cave entrance. We still need to re-paint the letters in the sign at Waynes Cave.

Afterwards, the group took a hike at Leonard Springs Nature Preserve. Lindberg noted that the city of Bloomington is offering the trail for the IKC to adopt and manage. A decision on this matter was deferred until such time that the city can give us a better idea of what their expectations are. The city also asked if we would be interested in gating Shirley Springs Cave. A spelogger is in the cave and there have been no unauthorized visitations noted yet. No motion. The Ohio Valley Region will hold a workday at LSNP on November 4-5.

Lockwood reported four more potential caves on Hoosier National Forest property, which would bring the total to 116 caves. Feedback on Special Areas amendment is being reviewed. A Notice of Intent for the overall forest plan will be published in September. Some field work was done to view entrances of the Gardner kaolin mines. The IKC has given feedback on how to manage these mine entrances. A T-shirt will be designed for the Hoosier Forest karst project. Dr Julian Lewis has been contracted to do an additional biological study of the caves on HNF property. Finally, there is a proposal to take core samples of the alluvium on the floor of Wesley Chapel Gulf. The board expressed no concerns about this plan.

President Lindberg reported that board member R Burns has resigned his position. Candidates to replace him on the board will be solicited.

The annual report for Suicide Cave is overdue. The leasing agreement with the landowner requires a report.

Adams is looking for someone to lead a grotto trip to Shiloh Cave the second weekend of September.

IKC membership is at an all-time high of 182 individual and organizational members. The Sycamore Land Trust shares some interests with the IKC, but neither organization is a member of the other. K Dunlap agreed to pursue a newsletter exchange. In addition, the IKC's membership in the Hoosier Environmental Council is up for renewal. K Dunlap moved to renew HEC membership at \$100. Several seconds. Motion passed 12-0.

The IKC educational display needs to be upgraded. The brochure could also be improved. Several options were discussed. Adams agreed to investigate both issues. There is some interest in reprinting the sinkhole flyer.

K Dunlap noted there are only four IKC hats available for sale. More can be sold at Cave Capers. Adams suggested buying T-shirts instead. K Dunlap noted that could conflict with sale of CIG Capers T-shirts. K Dunlap moved that we purchase 30 more khaki baseball hats, contingent on the ability to get them prior to Capers. B Dunlap seconded. Passed 11-0-1. Tozer noted that the IKC logo is not trademarked. Bowman will follow up on what work and benefits would result from doing so.

At the NSS Convention, the IKC won honorable mention on the March and September 1999 newsletter covers in the Graphic Arts Salon.

An outfitter has been using Shaft Cave for vertical practice (with permits). In the President's absence, the Secretary notified them that they meet the IKC's definition of cave-for-pay and cannot use our caves for training anymore. They were encouraged to come to the meeting and appeal the decision, but no one representing the organization was in attendance. The decision will stand and the situation will continue to be monitored. The webmaster will also place a list of people/organizations in the restricted area who are not allowed in IKC-managed caves. This will help cave patrons screen permit applications.

Anmar Mirza noted it can be difficult to gain entry to a gated cave when a rescue is necessary. The IKC manages several such caves. The IKC should have rescue plans for each cave they manage. It would also be helpful for rescue personnel to have duplicate keys to be used for rescue purposes only. This may be difficult to do for Shiloh, since the quarry provides the keys to the gate. K Dunlap moved that rescue personnel be provided a key to each cave, with the understanding that they will be used only for rescue purposes. Adams offered the amendment that patron contact information also be offered. Both motions failed for lack of a second. Rea moved that the President appoint a rescue coordinator for the IKC. Devore seconded. Motion passed 11-1. The President offered the position to Mirza, who accepted. Rea moved that the rescue coordinator be provided keys and/or information necessary for access to IKC-managed caves. Devore seconded. Motion passed 11-0-1. Mirza agreed to draft rescue plans for each of the caves. Patrons should contact the new liaison and provide appropriate information.

Bob Armstrong (Lost River Conservation Association) noted that some Lost River properties could come up for sale soon. K Dunlap will work with LRCA to monitor the situation. The IKC was thanked for the work we have done with other Lost

River features.

The forest service distributed a video on "Cave Conservation and Ethics." The IKC obtained a copy at the NSS Convention.

Next meeting: Saturday, September 23, 5 PM at the Lockwood residence in Mitchell (tentatively). Picnic afterwards. The new sign at the Orangeville Rise will be erected the same day at 1 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54.

Submitted by Bruce Bowman, IKC Secretary