

IKC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 9, 2001

Bloomington, Indiana

Officers and Directors Present:

Bruce Bowman
Kriste Lindberg
Keith Dunlap
James Adams (by proxy Bambi Dunlap)
Bruce DeVore
Dave Haun
Steve Lockwood
Nick Noe
Tom Rea
Bob Sergesketter
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer
Bob Vandeventer
Richard Vernier
Kathy Welling

Directors Absent:

None

The Summer Board Meeting of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was called to order at 6:15 pm at the Geology Building on the Indiana University campus, Bloomington, Indiana, President Bruce Bowman presiding. Bambi Dunlap was accepted as a proxy for Jim Adams.

The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting were approved as published on the IKC website and in the June 2001 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer K. Dunlap reported the following:

	Pre-Buddha Karst Preserve Acq.	Including Proposed Buddha Karst Preserve Acq.
Cash	\$24,238.67 (\$3,692.28 in restricted Land Acq. Fund)	\$21,558.67 (\$0 in restricted Land Acq. Fund)
Land	\$79,013.16	\$152,693.16
Debt	\$0	\$64,000 (unsecured loans)
Total	\$103,251.83	\$110,251.83

The IKC currently has 192 members.

Rescue Coordinator, Anmar Mirza, has put together a rough rescue plan for each cave the IKC manages and distributed several copies. Bowman will receive an electronic version in Microsoft Word to distribute to the rest of the board. The format is set up for dispatches. He will need a complete set of maps for each cave. Sollman will provide these maps. Mirza stressed the importance of having the backing of the IKC when negotiating with rescue organizations. Mirza also requested permission to use Sullivan Cave for the NCRC weeklong training in August 2001 if needed. Activities would be restricted to the entrance passages and Backbreaker. T. Rea moved that the NCRC be allowed to use Sullivan Cave during the weeklong training if needed. K. Welling seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

Two time-critical board actions had been pursued and approved since the Annual Business Meeting. In April, K. Dunlap moved that up to \$75,000 (\$1,800/acre) be allocated for the acquisition of the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve, which included 42 acres plus the main cave entrance. Bruce Bowman seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

During the negotiations, a five-acre section bordering the property's south side had been sold. The seller countered the offer at \$2,000 per acre with seller to pay title search, title insurance, survey, and closing. Selling price for the 36.84 acres was set at \$73,680. The actual appraised value (appraisal cost covered by buyer) came in at \$82,890 (\$2,250/acre).

In May, K. Dunlap moved contingent upon our decision to purchase the property, 1) Accept up to \$70,000 loan money in

exchange for issuing Promissory Notes (interest-free, unsecured, with a maximum one year term); 2) Expend all assets in the acquisition fund; and 3) Expend money out of the general fund necessary to complete the transaction. J. Adams seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

This evening, K. Dunlap gave a rundown of the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve acquisition to date, including previous motions made (see above), and stated that the June 2001 *IKC Update* will not be mailed until after closing.

B. Dunlap gave a synopsis of the IDNR visit to the Buddha Karst Preserve. The trip consisted of K. Dunlap, B. Dunlap, K. Lindberg, T. Rea, B. Tozer, and IDNR Nature Preserve employees Cliff Chapman and Hank Huffman. All present were encouraged that Heritage Trust funds would be available if the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve was dedicated as a state-recognized nature preserve. The preserve would essentially be a conservation easement on the existing proposed Buddha Karst Preserve. Under this proposed contract, the IKC would still own and manage the proposed preserve. Bowman provided a very rough draft of the IDNR Nature Preserve master plan to directors for comment.

Bowman established an *ad hoc* committee to work on the management plan of the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve, including the IDNR Nature Preserve master plan. The newly appointed Buddha Karst Preserve Management Committee consists of K. Dunlap, T. Rea, B. Tozer, K. Welling and B. Bowman as ex-officio. They will discuss such issues as access, an interim management plan, funding options, and access during Cave Capers. A proposal will be returned to the Board.

Naming of other caves present on the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve was postponed until which time a complete survey of the property is completed.

K. Welling moved that the proposed Buddha Karst Preserve be officially named the Buddha Karst Preserve. T. Rea seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

B. Tozer moved to establish a Buddha Karst Preserve Acquisition Fund. N. Noe seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

K. Dunlap moved to transfer funds from the Land Acquisition Fund to the newly established Buddha Karst Preserve Land Acquisition Fund. B. Tozer seconded. Discussion ensued. K. Welling moved to amend so up to the full amount of the Land Acquisition Fund be transferred to the newly established Buddha Karst Preserve Land Acquisition Fund as needed. Motion failed for lack of second. Discussion continued, including K. Dunlap stating that the funds would most likely be needed for closing and if they weren't, they would be returned to the Land Acquisition Fund. Original motion passed, 12-0-3.

K. Welling moved that the board proceed with pursuing all options available for funding the purchase of the Buddha Karst Preserve, including Indiana Heritage Trust, IPALCO, etc. T. Rea seconded. Discussion ensued, including the fact that the proposed IDNR Nature Preserve dedication could devalue the property at about 80%, reducing our property tax obligations. Motion passed, 13-0-2.

A draft copy of a proposed Buddha Karst Preserve fund-raising flyer created by K. Dunlap, K. Lindberg, and B. Vandeventer was passed out to directors. A few suggestions to enhance it were made, including using larger pictures. K. Lindberg will work on the revision.

Mirza suggested that he would like to donate Lost Creek Enterprises material for the IKC to use in fund-raising for the Buddha Karst Preserve. The effort was referred to the Buddha Karst Preserve Management Plan Committee for later discussion and decision on how to proceed with this generous offer. Other fund-raising efforts were discussed, including the potential for a personal raffle; the proceeds of which would be donated to the fund.

Permission was granted by Bowman for a survey to be done on the other cave(s) on Buddha Karst Preserve once closing takes place.

Other land acquisition opportunities were discussed, including those in the Lost River area.

The *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee has prepared seven sweeping change proposals for consideration. Bowman provided a color-coded, edited version of the document. These will be forwarded to the membership and voting will occur at the Fall meeting.

Per the minutes from the Annual Business Meeting, several board members visited Shaft Cave in preparation to discuss how to manage the entrance area. B. Tozer moved to remove the existing fence and concrete. K. Dunlap seconded. Motion failed, 0-13-2. B. Tozer moved that the existing barbed-wire fence be removed from the entrance area of Shaft Cave. B. Devore seconded. Motion passed, 13-1-1. D. Haun moved that a lockable lid be placed on Shaft Cave. Motion failed for lack of a second. B. Sergesketter moved that a non-lockable gate be placed on Shaft Cave. D. Haun seconded. Motion passed, 6-3-6. Much discussion followed, including that a primary basis for a gate (lockable or non-lockable) be for safety.

More information on the ramifications of these proposals is needed before any action will take place.

K. Dunlap moved that the IKC collaborate with the Hoosier National Forest to gate several entrances of the Gardner kaolinite mines in Lawrence County. Steve Lockwood seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

K. Dunlap discussed the upcoming IDNR Mine Gating opportunity in Montezuma, Indiana. Two gates out of the originally proposed three gates will be all that are needed as one entrance has collapsed. Camping will be available in nearby Rockville, Indiana.

K. Dunlap moved that the IKC renew their Hoosier Environmental Council membership for \$100. K. Welling seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

T. Sollman gave a rundown of local sculpin and crawfish findings at Shiloh Cave. Populations of both seem to be down, perhaps because of recent heavy rains.

The IKC Fall Director's Meeting/Annual Picnic will be held September 15 at the Bowman property - the meeting will start at 4:00 pm and the picnic will start at 6:00 pm.

B. Devore moved that the meeting adjourn. B. Dunlap seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Submitted by Kriste Lindberg,
IKC Secretary