

**Indiana Karst Conservancy Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, December 7, 2002
Indianapolis, Indiana**

All Directors Present:

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

The December quarterly meeting of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was called to order at 10:02 AM at the home of Nick Noe in Indianapolis, President Bruce Bowman presiding. All Directors were represented with two proxies accepted. The meeting minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the December *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported on our financial condition:

Assets - \$160,700
Cash - \$52,700
Unrestricted Funds - \$21,200

Regarding the Stewardship Endowment Fund, Bill Tozer reported that Dave Luckins of the National Speleological Foundation is receptive to managing IKC funds into investments that will fit our goals. The NSS investments generally yield about 5% per year. The Directors were polled on their feelings of risk vs. return and the general opinion seemed to be that there would be little risk to the principal and we should look for a better return. The IKC is probably not qualified to make those investment decisions; however, the NSF record appears to be stable and somewhat conservative. \$10,800 (plus accruing interest) has been earmarked for the Stewardship Endowment Fund. A straw vote was taken and the Board agreed that the NSF investment option should be pursued. Tozer will continue to investigate and hopefully have a formal motion at the March meeting.

Spring Mill State Park: Tom Rea reported that he has been in contact with Mark Young of Spring Mill State Park and indicated to him that the IKC is willing to accept conservation easements. Jeff Cummings has also been made aware that we are willing to renew and update our Memorandum of Understanding with the Park. Spring Mill State Park had previously expressed an interest in photo monitoring karst features in the park. Anmar Mirza and James Adams volunteered to assist, but no other information has been received. These issues are in their court and we will have to wait until they initiate further activity.

A Greenwood resident has inquired if the IKC would consider entering into an agreement whereby they would be able to inter their pets on our property and be assured that the area would be undisturbed. In exchange, they will make a significant donation. There appears to be no interest on their part in monuments or caskets. There was discussion in both directions. The Sullivan property might be a candidate for this activity. Dunlap moved to pursue this opportunity and the drafting of a contact for consideration at a future board meeting. Kathy Welling seconded. Adams volunteered to be the liaison with the resident. Motion approved, 8-7-0.

There have been two complaints about our management of our nature preserves. Vehicles have been sighted beyond the parking area at the Buddha property. Dunlap reported that one instance was his own vehicle assisting an injured caver. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) have also been reported on the property. Another person complained that there were weeds and trash at the Orangeville Rise. It was revealed that this person might be expecting us to mow the property and make improvements that are prohibited by the DNR's Master Plan.

Dunlap also reported that we have received inquiries for more information on the Lost River due to our sign at the Orangeville Rise.

Treasurer Dunlap did not pay the fall installment of the Buddha property tax because he has been told that it's already been paid.

There has been no progress on the classified wildlife habitat designation.

The Department of Natural Resources has a new process for requesting Indiana Heritage Trust Stewardship funds. Right now, the IKC is caught in the middle of their policy change. We'll have to work through their process but no one has any worries.

A new hole has opened up in a sinkhole at the Buddha property. This is being investigated.

Dunlap plans to work on the kiosks during his Christmas break.

Kriste Lindberg reported that the city of Bloomington might want to gate Shirley Spring Cave at the Leonard Spring Nature Preserve. The IKC might be able to assist. Dr. Jerry Lewis is going to be doing a bio-inventory at that cave. Bowman noted that the IKC would like to see a formal management plan before we became involved further in any projects on this cave.

Bowman noted that there has been some logging at Leonard Springs Cave, located on private property. This is an Indiana bat hibernacula. Lindberg will notify Scott Johnson of the Department of Natural Resources.

US Fish & Wildlife reviews Indiana highway upgrade projects in karst areas and has recommended that the IKC also review the documents. Dunlap reviewed plans to upgrade SR 37 from Mitchell to Paoli. The same thing is also planned on US 50 from Paoli to West Baden. This second project seems to have more karst impact, however the documentation was less complete than Dunlap expected.

The closure date for comments on the I-69 extension was November 7. Many comments were reported to have been received. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior have come out as opposed to new-terrain routes. There was a report that Senator Lugar is also opposed to the new-terrain routes.

Lindberg reported that water lines are being installed in Orange County and workers have broken into what appears to be cave passage near the True Rise of Lost River. Lindberg and various agency contacts will meet on Monday.

Lindberg also noted some USFWS grant opportunities. She is soliciting ideas for putting together a proposal.

Dunlap noted that Dick Vernier has been building speloggers. Dunlap has ordered ten to fill orders for five and maintain some inventory. The IKC clears \$30 per unit.

A tentative date for fence construction at the Orangeville Rise was set for May 17, 2003.

The Spring Director's meeting will be on February 15 at 7:00 PM at Kriste Lindberg's in Bloomington. The annual business meeting and elections will be held on March 22 at the White River Library at 10:00 AM. Adams will make the reservation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary