

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, March 16, 2002
Greenwood, Indiana

Officers and Directors Present:

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

Absent: Dave Haun, Tom Rea

Also in attendance were members Bill Bunting, Jeff Cody, Don Ingle, Everett Pulliam and Sue Vernier; and guests Miranda Adams, Phyllis Sergesketter, and Robert Sollman.

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 10:09 am at the White River Library in Greenwood, President Bruce Bowman presiding. The minutes of the Spring Director's Meeting were approved as published in the March 2002 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dunlap reported \$31,458.96 in cash with \$47,139.83 in liquid assets including accounts receivable. Dunlap moved to transfer funds from the Buddha Cave restricted fund to the general Land Acquisition fund on March 31, 2002 (i.e.: after the Heritage Trust grant money is received). Welling seconded. Motion passed, 12-0-0. Dunlap further noted that the IKC currently has 192 members, 120 which have already renewed for 2002.

Annual Elections

- Based on a sufficient number of mail-in ballots, Bruce Bowman was accepted by acclamation as President.
- Jim Adams was accepted by acclamation as Secretary.
- Keith Dunlap was accepted by acclamation as Treasurer.
- Directors receiving sufficient votes for three-year terms were Kriste Lindberg, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, and Bob Vandeventer; Directors receiving two-year terms were Steve Lockwood and Don Ingle.

The new Board will be seated on April 1, 2002. Bowman recognized all Directors for their involvement in 2002, special thanks were given to Tom Rea for encouraging new board members.

Cave Patron/Property Manager Annual Reports

- *Buddha Karst Preserve*. Interim Patron Tozer summarized. Jeff Cody was appointed Patron. Bowman gave special thanks to Tozer for serving as Interim Patron.
- *Sullivan Cave Preserve*. Patron Vandeventer summarized. Noe moved to spend up to \$1,000 on parking lot and driveway improvement expenses. Vandeventer seconded. Motion passed 12-0-0.
- *Orangeville Rise*. Patron Lockwood summarized. Lockwood and Bowman will work on a letter concerning future plans, including interpretive signage, for the IDNR.
- *Suicide Cave*. Patron Ron Burns provided information by letter, which was read aloud by Dunlap.
- *Shiloh Cave*. Patron Adams summarized. The EMG will remove recent graffiti in their September grotto trip.
- *Shaft Cave*. Patron Jeff Cody summarized. The new woven wire fence needs installation during the annual Hancock property workday. Cody will re-send his report to Dunlap for inclusion in the *Update*.
- *Waynes Cave*. Patron Tom Willett provided a brief e-mail report of visitation, which was read by Bowman.
- *Coon/Grotto Caves*. Patron Dunlap summarized.

See the June 2002 *IKC Update* for more details on all of the annual reports.

A discussion concerning liability waivers ensued, including standardizing them and when the statute of limitations expires. Welling believes that the statute of limitations expires two years from the date of noting injury. Patrons were instructed to retain all waivers until benchmarking with other land trusts can be completed.

Buckner Cave Update

Bowman led a discussion on Buckner Cave. It has been determined that a management plan and other concerns for the property will be addressed by a coalition of cavers including Vandeventer as IKC representative, Eric Higbie as CIG representative, Patti Cummings as BIG representative, and Chris Gilbert as IUSC representative. The Sullivan Cave management plan will serve as a template. Vandeventer will meet with landowner Dick Blenz to ascertain his views on the succession of the property and follow up with Bill Baus to determine the status of property containing other entrances. Cleanups of the cave will begin soon.

Buddha Karst Preserve

Bowman stated that the Buddha Karst Preserve is well on its way to becoming an state-dedicated nature preserve – papers are in the process of making their rounds and once it is signed by the Governor, it will be official. This will most likely occur in late spring. The IKC is no longer soliciting funds for the purchase of the property. The Master Plan is now online on the IKC's website. Dunlap reported that Under-Earth Day is scheduled for April 13, 2002. Activities will focus on tree planting, sinkhole cleanup, and bolt removal. Stabilizing the driveway, trail building, fencing, kiosk installation, and other activities will be pursued later. Lindberg will check with her sources to procure four tree-planting bars for the event. Lockwood will seek opportunities with fencing contractors.

Mine Gating 2002

Dunlap reported that the next mine gating will take place on the Hoosier National Forest at the kaolinite mine site on May 19, 2002. Dunlap and Mark Stacy are in the process of determining more "opportunities" for mine gating via the IDNR. Possibilities include one site in Parke County and another in Pike County. Both will require a minimum turnout of labor. Dunlap moved to pursue the mine gating "opportunities" for the IDNR, Devore seconded, motion passed 13-0-0.

Washington County Landfill

Bowman stated that the Washington County Landfill is on proto karst. Two adjacent landowners are having problems with run-off. After much discussion, it was determined that IKC should not become involved with legal proceedings concerning the landfill. However, referrals will be made to others who are involved with similar issues.

Carry-ins

The Indiana Cave Symposium will take place on April 20, 2002 in Milltown. Dunlap moved to spend up to \$50 on food for the event, Adams seconded, motion passed 13-0-0.

Keith Dunlap summarized the bat gate conference that he attended in Austin, Texas with Mark Stacy and Bambi Dunlap. It was well-attended and interactive. He chaired a session and will write a full report on the conference for the upcoming June 2002 IKC Update. The Proceedings will also be published.

The NSS is seeking funds to put up a fence around Shelta Cave in Huntsville. Dunlap moved to support the NSS for three feet of fence at \$80 per foot for a total of \$240, Welling seconded. During discussion, Noe asked that the motion be amended to eight feet of fencing for a total of \$640. Amendment failed for lack of a second. Original motion passed 13-0-0.

The SCCi is seeking funds for the acquisition of Valhalla Cave. Vernier moved to donate \$100 to the SCCi for Valhalla Cave. Sergesketter seconded, motion passed 10-2-1.

The HNF is continuing with plans to acquire portions of the Blanton property. IKC's involvement may increase.

Openings on the HNF/IKC Karst Inventory Project committee will be addressed at the Summer Meeting.

Several persons donated aluminum cans for Cans for Karst.

The Lost River Conservation Association is seeking funds for the education and outreach efforts. Dunlap moved to donate \$25 to the LRCA for their education and outreach efforts, Devore seconded. During discussion, Welling asked that the

motion be amended to \$50, Lockwood seconded. Amendment passed, 8-5-0. Amended motion passed 13-0-0.

Agencies in the Monroe County area are gathering to offer a septic system workshop focusing on karst areas. It will be offered to those involved with septic systems in karst areas, including other agencies, developers, realtors, landowners, etc. Lindberg will keep the IKC posted.

Noe led a discussion of concerns about the extension of I-69. A final decision on the route is expected this summer. Ten percent of the expenses will be funded by the state. It was determined that the IKC would not get involved with legal proceedings. However, Bowman will write a letter to legislators on the IKC's behalf.

S Vernier reported that dredging is occurring to put in a casino boat near West Baden Springs. No motion.

Dunlap noted that the IKC needs to consider an endowment fund so IKC properties are self-sustaining. Bowman will place this topic on the agenda for the summer board meeting.

The Summer Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1 at 7:00 pm. Lindberg will look into securing the same room in IU's Geology Building as it has been held in the past, Room 143. She will keep the IKC posted.

Sergesketter moved to adjourn. Welling seconded, passed 13-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm to a local Mexican eatery.