

IKC SUMMER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 14, 2003

Bloomington, Indiana

Officers and Directors Present:

Richard Vernier, President
James Adams, Secretary (proxy by Dave Everton)
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
Bruce Bowman
Don Ingle
Kriste Lindberg
Steve Lockwood
Nick Noe
Bob Sergesketter
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer
Bob Vandeventer
Jamie Winner

Absent:

Bruce Devore
Dave Haun

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM in Room 143 of the Geology Building on the IU campus, President Richard Vernier presiding. Dave Everton was accepted as proxy for James Adams. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published in the June 2003 IKC Update.

Treasurer Dunlap reported a cash balance of \$60,822 of which approximately \$20,500 is in the Land Acquisition Fund, \$10,900 in the Stewardship Fund, \$3,000 in the Deferred Dues Fund and \$26,400 in the General Fund. We have 192 members of which 164 have renewed. The members who haven't renewed will be contacted to urge them to pay their dues. Dunlap also reported that of the \$2,000 that the Hoosier National Forest provided to help with the Blanton property cleanup in March, only about \$1,200 was spent. He suggested that we might want to split the remaining money with the St. Joseph Valley Grotto since they provided approximately half of the personnel on the workday. The actual amount would be \$392 to the SJVG and the same to the IKC. Bowman moved to split the overage from the Blanton cleanup with the SJVG, seconded by Ingle. The motion passed unanimously.

Lindberg reported that in addition to activities reported in the last IKC Update, she conducted a five-day cave camp for twelve kids through Wonder Lab in Bloomington. She also had eight people participate in a Project Underground through Bloomington Parks and Recreation and also took part in Hoosier River Watch through Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Lockwood neglected to tell the people who placed the geocache at the Orangeville Rise to move it. He still intends to contact them.

There was no report about the status of the MOU with Spring Mill State Park. Tom Rea has sent word that he has been unable to contact the person in charge of this at the park. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

James Adams was not present to report on the status of the Shiloh lease. The lease is about to expire. Vernier said he would contact Adams to see what is going on.

Dave Everton is now the Bloomington Grotto (BIG) liaison.

There was a very short discussion of the Indiana Cave Symposium. Everton thanked the IKC for the \$50 donation towards food and refreshments at the symposium and Tozer said that the weather was too cold. The presentations were held outdoors.

Bowman is trying to get official DNR markers for the Orangeville Rise property but the DNR said that they don't have any and they don't know when they will get any more. They suggested just using plain concrete posts. He said this is low priority and he will follow up periodically.

Dunlap reported that the kiosk at the Buddha property was installed on Under-Earth Day, April 12, 2003. He said it looks good though it has a slight lean and he doesn't know if any bats are using it yet. There are pictures of it in the June 2003

IKC Update. A discussion took place on what to display in or on the kiosk. Suggestions included visitation rules, a map of the property, a list of donors and an aerial photo of the property. Dunlap noted that photos of any kind could be expensive to display in an outdoor setting. The Education/Outreach Committee will prepare a proposal for the fall meeting.

Vernier and Dunlap reported that there are problems with the Blanton property. This is the land that contains Lost River Cave. The Nature Conservancy bought the property with the understanding that the Hoosier National Forest would buy it from them; but now, the Washington USDA Forest Service Office says it is not feasible to buy the property as it is outside of the approved purchase boundary and has several items of non-conformity such as an access easement for the barn. It is thought that most of the problem is political. Vernier and Dunlap requested that people write positive letters to Dale Bosworth, Chief of the USDA Forest Service, to demonstrate local support. Tozer said that if the barn is a problem, maybe that part could be sold off. Vernier posted Mr. Bosworth's address on the chalkboard and Dunlap said that he will come up with some talking points that we can use to persuade the powers that be to go ahead with the purchase.

Dunlap reported that on June 2, 2003, the offer on the Wayne Cave property was accepted and that closing should take place on June 30, 2003. The initial closing will probably be Dunlap buying the whole property and then a week later the IKC will buy the 20 acres containing the entrance from Dunlap. The whole deal is subject to the outcome of a survey, which will be done not only to set the boundaries but also to make sure that the cave entrance is actually on the property that we are buying. Jess Gwinn will do the survey, probably the week of June 16-20, and he will need some help. It will probably require one day to cut the line of sight and then another day to actually do the survey.

Dunlap moved to establish the Wayne Cave Fund, seconded by Ingle. The motion passed 13-0-0. Dunlap moved to roll the money in the Land Acquisition Fund into the Wayne Cave Fund, seconded by Tozer. Motion passed 13-0-0.

Dunlap stated that previous land purchase transactions were funded with short-term interest free loans from members and that, if possible, we would like to do that again. The loans were typically for about a year. Bowman asked how much was needed. Dunlap said that the purchase price is \$75,000. With \$20,000 coming from the Land Acquisition Fund, we will have to come up with \$55,000 by the June 30 closing date. Noe asked Dunlap to list the advantages of personal loans versus a mortgage on the property. Dunlap stated that simplicity is the big advantage. No appraisals, no interest, no applications to fill out. Dunlap said that he would ask persons who loaned money before if they would be able to help again. Vernier asked Dunlap if we want to have a committee or if he feels comfortable doing the asking himself. Dunlap indicated that he could handle it. Tozer then moved to issue promissory notes to meet the needs of the Wayne Cave Fund, seconded by Noe. Motion passed 13-0-0.

Dunlap posed the question; do we want to borrow from ourselves? Tozer asked how much we have. Dunlap replied that we have about \$40,000 of which \$26,400 is in the General Fund. Discussion about what was meant by borrowing from ourselves followed. Tozer moved to "borrow" up to \$20,000 from the General Fund and move it to the Wayne Cave Fund, seconded by Ingle. Noe asked if that would leave enough in the General Fund to meet our other expenses. Dunlap assured us that it would. The motion passed 13-0-0. Dunlap said that we have two CDs, a \$10,000 one on a 30-day rotation and a \$30,000 one on a 7 day rotation and he will cash them as needed so as to incur no penalties.

It was decided that the survey and closing costs will come out of the Land Acquisition Fund (as opposed to the General Fund). The costs were included in the \$75,000 price. The actual purchase price of the land will be around \$73,600, depending upon the actual acreage determined by the survey.

On the subject of grants to help with the purchase, Dunlap said that he will apply for an IPALCO Golden Eagle Grant. Tozer said that we can apply to the National Speleological Society but they will require a management plan before considering a grant. If we can have a management plan in place by August, he can get it on the agenda for the Fall meeting in October. Dunlap asked Tozer what he thought we should be able to get. Tozer said that we got \$5,000 for Sullivan; we should be able to get at least that much from the Save the Caves Fund. Tozer will talk to Tom Lera (NSS AVP) to try and get an idea of what we can get and to make sure we get on the October 18 agenda. RASS and the Robertson Association will also likely require a management plan before considering a grant. Grottos will also be contacted. Noe said that he has learned that the Anthony Wayne Oil Company has been giving out conservation grants. He said that he will contact them to see if anything would be available. Tozer said that he has been in contact with Dick Blenz and Dick is supportive of this purchase but he has other commitments. He will decide how he will help after the NSS Convention.

Vernier reminded everyone that Dunlap is buying 12 acres of the 32-acre parcel with the idea that the IKC may purchase the 12 acres in the future.

There was a discussion of whether the IKC or Dunlap will pay for the survey and the closing costs or if these costs will be split. The transaction will probably consist of two closings, the first when Dunlap buys the whole property and the second when the IKC buys the 20 acres from Dunlap. Dunlap said that his first thought was to have the IKC pay for the entire cost of the survey since the survey of the extra 12 acres would involve little additional expense. Tozer reminded everyone that

Dunlap is making it possible for the IKC to purchase this land but he could possibly profit from the eventual sale of his 12 acres. After more discussion, Tozer moved that the IKC pay for the entire cost of the survey and pay for the second closing (Dunlap would pay for the first closing). The motion was seconded by Bowman and passed 11-0 with 2 abstentions.

Dunlap said that he thought a donation solicitation letter should go out right after the first closing. This would be sent to every IKC member and to other known interested people. The letter will also contain a brochure about the cave. Sollman suggested contacting trip leaders of groups using the cave. Noe asked if the brochure will be ready in time for Cave Capers. Lindberg said maybe and she presented a sample, which was passed around for comments. Member Bill Baus thought that all of the photos on the brochure should be in color. Others thought that the black and white photo lent a sense of history. Dunlap said that he would try to have the brochures available at Cave Capers.

Sollman made a report on the proper name of the cave. According to information that Sollman has compiled, the name of the cave is Wayne Cave, not Waynes or Wayne's. The cave was first written about in 1949 by William J. Wayne, a geology professor at IU. All through the fifties, the cave was called Wayne. The first time it was referred to as Wayne's Cave was in a 1959 BIG newsletter. He had more examples but in the end it appeared that Wayne Cave is the proper name of the cave so Dunlap moved to call the property the Wayne Cave Preserve. The motion was seconded by Bowman and passed 12-0 with one abstention. Tozer moved to change the word Cave to Karst. The motion died for lack of a second. Dunlap asked if we want a guideline on how to refer to the cave. Tozer said we should call it Wayne Cave. There was general agreement.

Noe said that someone should notify the Geology Department at IU that a cave named after a Professor Emeritus has been purchased by the IKC. He said that he would speak to someone there.

Vernier asked for volunteers to form a Management Plan Committee. The committee will be Jamie Winner, Bill Tozer, Keith Dunlap and Richard Vernier. Bowman said that the committee should move quickly and establish a plan using the Sullivan plan as a basis. There was general agreement to keep the access the same using grotto liaisons. Vandeventer predicted that cave visitation will increase after the property is acquired. Tozer asked if we will have a property manager as well as a cave manager. Dunlap said we could have one person do both jobs or have separate positions. Everton said that the grotto liaison should be required to provide more information to the property/cave manager(s) about who is visiting the property. Tozer agreed saying that having multiple key holders is advantageous but they should be turning in information to the managers.

Dunlap said he thought we should wait until after the management plan is established before we begin work on improving the driveway at the Preserve.

Bowman asked for some high quality photos taken in Wayne Cave to be used on the IKC website for fund raising efforts. He said the site will again have a "thermometer" to display progress with fund-raising.

Vandeventer said that the deadline for changes to the Wayne Cave fund-raising brochure is Tuesday, June 17.

No date was set for the fence completion project at Buddha. It will probably be in late October or early November. We'll set a date at the next meeting.

Lindberg asked if someone is interested in taking over her job as HNF coordinator. She said she can no longer fit the position into her schedule. No volunteers were forthcoming. Attendance at the HNF workdays/meetings is said to be falling off.

Vernier said that our membership in the Hoosier Environmental Council is about to expire but we haven't received notice yet. Bowman said that we usually send them \$100 and he moved that we give that amount when we receive notice. Ingle seconded and the motion passed 12-0 with one abstention.

Lindberg said that it might be nice if the IKC display were at Cave Capers. There was concern that there would be no secure place to keep it.

The next meeting, which traditionally features a cookout and dessert contest, will be on September 13, 2003. The location will be announced later.

Bowman moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Sergesketter, Acting Secretary