

**Indiana Karst Conservancy Quarterly Meeting  
Saturday, December 4, 2004  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Vernier, President  
Bob Sergesketter, Secretary  
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer  
Bruce Devore  
Don Ingle  
Kriste Lindberg  
Steve Lockwood  
Nick Noe  
Tom Sollman  
Bill Tozer  
Bob Vandeventer  
Sue Vernier  
Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bruce Bowman  
Dave Haun

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 AM at the home of Nick and Carita Noe in Indianapolis, President Richard Vernier presiding. No proxies for the two absent Board members were accepted. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the December 2004 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Dunlap reported that total assets of the IKC stand at \$230,636.12. Land holdings amount to \$183,000 and there is a cash balance of \$47,636.12. The various funds have balances as follows; Stewardship Fund, \$13,509.19, Land Acquisition Fund, \$8,516.55, Deferred Dues, \$2,475, and the General Fund, \$23,139.38, for a total of \$47,636.12.

IKC membership now stands at 183 after dropping about fifteen members for non payment of dues.

**GROTTO LIAISON AGREEMENT STATUS**

The new Grotto Liaison Agreement has been mailed to the five Indiana grottos that have a current Grotto Liaison Agreement with the IKC. Those grottos are the Northern Indiana Grotto, Central Indiana Grotto, Bloomington Grotto, St. Joseph Valley Grotto, and the Evansville Metropolitan Grotto. The Saint Joseph Valley Grotto and the Evansville Metropolitan Grotto have returned signed agreements so far.

**DOCUMENTARY VIDEO**

Vernier reported that he had mentioned to Noe that the IKC would have no objections to the Hoosier Environmental Council contacting Mr McGowan and working with him and that the IKC would support whatever was done as long as the karst portion was done in a fair and unbiased manner. Noe said that the HEC had approached him and would probably talk to him in January of 2005 and see what they can put together for the Spring. Noe said that the HEC is very interested in proceeding with an I-69 video that would involve caves and when it comes time for caver input, they would depend on the expertise and advice of the IKC to a great extent.

Ingle, who is now the entire Documentary Video Committee, said that he has been contacting people who could help on this project. He has received either verbal or e-mail commitments from Horton Hobbs, Julian Lewis, Andrew King from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and John Whitaker from Indiana State University. Now that several well known cave experts have been lined up, the focus is

changing from getting people to getting financial backing. Getting money is proving to be much more difficult and complicated.

He said that he checked with the Environmental Protection Agency and that they had a deadline that went down at the beginning of November and that they would have required a detailed financial report documenting where any money was spent and since we haven't spent any yet and don't really know what the expenses will be, it's impossible to put a proposal together. Another possibility is the Supplemental Environmental Project which was explained by Lindberg at the Fall IKC meeting. This is a program through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and it has similar requirements for detailed financial reports. Ingle said that he doesn't think we would qualify for the SEP program but Lindberg thinks we might. He thinks we have a good chance with the EPA but it will be Spring before we can get anything going with either one.

Ingle said that the NSS budgeted about \$6000 in 2004 for educational grants and they would probably budget that much for 2005. This project would probably qualify for a portion of that money. The next NSS Board of Governors meeting is in March of 2005 and he will put a grant proposal together to be presented at the meeting.

Dunlap asked Ingle if he was going after a conservation grant or an education grant. Ingle said education. Tozer said that the committees that oversee these various NSS funds are often looking for places to spend the budgeted money.

Carita Noe, speaking as someone with a background in education, said that we should be aware that professional quality video programs like this can easily cost \$5000 per minute to produce. Vernier explained the arrangement that we are working out with Mr McGowan and that we believe that it will be a good deal for the IKC. Carita Noe said that the IKC should be sure to retain the copyright to any program that is produced. Ingle agreed and he said that McGowan was agreeable to that.

Ingle said that he also had another thought. If McGowan was unavailable for this, we could probably produce a video on our own cheaper and faster. He said that the interest is there to produce a video and he has more than enough experts lined up to help out. As it is, it will be at least Spring before we can do anything about lining up financing but if we had a really good camcorder, we could probably start shooting tomorrow. Carita Noe said that people at Mammoth Cave did an eighteen minute video on their own and it is fairly decent. The CIG library has a copy. She said that we might also contact Bob Armstrong because someone, she thinks IUPUI, is in the process of recording Bob's Lost River Tour. Vernier pointed out that having someone like Dave McGowan do this project goes far beyond the quality of the camcorder or other equipment. There is an art to it. Dunlap agreed, saying that editing is everything and that if this is going to go out with the IKC's name on it, it must be professional in every way.

Dunlap asked if the focus of the video is going to be Indiana cave biota. Ingle said yes., and that McGowan is OK with that. In fact, he is much more comfortable with doing the biota angle than something on I-69.

Vernier said that we probably can't take any action on any of this now since we don't know what the HEC is going to do. We also need to be realistic with Dave McGowan and not string him along since we don't know for sure if this is going to happen or not. Ingle said that McGowan knows that we are seeking funds and that we are being up front with him.

Several more minutes were spent discussing the points that were discussed at the September meeting such as how this video will be distributed and used, who will use it, fundraising to pay for it, what are the expected results, firm commitments from people to help, length, and the need for a firm and realistic price to carry the project to completion.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Lindberg said that she is serving on the I-69 Community Advisory Committee as the IKC representative.

The Indiana Geological Survey hosted a groundwater conference in November and Lindberg led a day long field trip for the participants including stops at Leonard Springs Nature Park, different road cuts in the area, Wesley Chapel Gulf, and the Orangeville Rise.

The next weekend Lindberg did a Project Underground workshop at Spring Mill for the Environmental Education Association of Indiana annual conference.

Lindberg said that she is working with a teacher doing a program for Science Olympiad on aquifers using the karst groundwater model. She also said that she has been asked to be chair of the Environmental Commission of Bloomington. In this position she will be working a lot more with developers. Dunlap asked if developers are participating with the various environmental commissions just because they have to. Lindberg said yes, at least for now, but they are getting better. She said that conservation issues are starting to get more attention both with developers and with home buyers. Sergesketter asked how the inflatable cave is coming along. Lindberg said that it is not put together yet but she got Bender Lumber Company to supply all the materials.

#### INDIAN CAVE, NATURE CONSERVANCY

Dunlap said that after the last IKC meeting he e-mailed Allen Pursell of The Nature Conservancy and told him that the IKC would be interested in being involved with the Indian Cave property, whatever that might be. There are still landowner/caretaker problems that need to be worked out. Those issues were discussed at the September IKC meeting. Vernier said that this could be a TNC land acquisition with the IKC possibly managing the cave. If the property is acquired, Winner, who lives nearby, agreed to be the property or cave manager if the need arises. Dunlap said that Pursell hasn't heard from the person in Indianapolis who is handling the matter for the property owner. Tozer asked if anyone else lives in the area if Winner would be unable to keep an eye on the place. Dunlap said that Dr. Jerry Lewis would probably be the next closest and he is interested in the cave from a biological standpoint. Dunlap thinks that Dr. Lewis would be a good backup.

#### HANCOCK PROPERTY STATUS

Dunlap said that the frustration continues. He has not heard a peep out of anybody.

#### WAYNE CAVE, FUND RAISING

Dunlap reported that the Land Acquisition Fund is still about \$10,000 short of what we had going into the purchase of the Wayne property but we're still in the black.

#### WAYNE CAVE, SCOUT WORKDAY

Robert Sollman reported that on the weekend of November 27-28, his Boy Scout troop from Fort Branch held a work session at the Wayne property. He passed around before and after photos of several areas of the property. The Scouts delineated a couple of camping areas, cleared and marked a trail from the parking area to the cave, and put in some fire rings. Devore asked if we have received any comments from the neighbors, since we've taken over the property. Dunlap said that we don't hear much. The tenant who lives across the road has been vocal about people parking along the road. The driveway and parking area should alleviate that problem. Trash along the road is a continuing problem and we'll get blamed for some of that.

Robert Sollman proposed some changes to the Wayne property management plan in order to eliminate listing projects that have been completed and list work that needs to be done. After some discussion, it was determined that the things that needed to be done could be done at the discretion of the property manager. Jobs that remain to be done include getting rid of the huge brush pile, removal of the scrap metal that was found, clean up the stumps and dirt piles on the south side of the clearing, put down finer gravel on the driveway, and put in permanent property boundary markers.

Vernier asked if we needed a motion to update the management plan to reflect the progress made on the various projects at the property. Sue Vernier so moved but it was not seconded. After more discussion it was decided that the property manager will go through the plan and review it in light of the proposed changes and the current status of the projects and reword the plan and make a proposal at the next meeting.

The smaller gravel will be put on the driveway in the Spring or early Summer, possibly on a date to coincide with the June IKC meeting. Dunlap said that when we do that, he will have the tractor with

the blade and we can probably work on the dirt and stump piles at the south edge of. the clearing the same day.

#### WAYNE CAVE, OTHER

Lindberg asked about access to the property. Dunlap said that there is a combination lock on the gate. The cave key is available from any grotto liaison. Sollman said that the property doesn't get much visitation but he likes the idea of having IKC properties easily available to IKC members. If someone is passing through and wants to camp there for the night, they should have access and if the combination lock method works out at the Wayne property, maybe it could be used at other IKC properties, specifically at the Sullivan property. Tozer said that we do have a similar arrangement at Sullivan but Sollman pointed out that a key is needed to get through the driveway gate at Sullivan. Sollman said that he would like to see a combination lock on the driveway gate at Sullivan if, after a reasonable amount of time, we don't have any problems at the Wayne property. Dunlap said that the Sullivan property has a lot more visitation than the Wayne property will ever have so there would need to be more coordination among users. It might not be as easy to just pop in and set up camp without prior arrangement.

#### SULLIVAN CAVE, STATUS OF MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Dunlap will take on the task of reviewing the current plan and propose updates as needed and will make a report at the next IKC meeting.

#### SULLIVAN CAVE, FENCE

Dunlap doesn't think that there is enough of a problem to justify putting up a fence separating our field up on the ridge from the neighbors next door. He said that we should keep an eye on the situation and see if the kids on ATVs stay off of our property.

#### SULLIVAN CAVE, OUTHOUSE

Dunlap said that he has received requests to put an outhouse on the property. He said that he is not in favor of doing it but he has heard from many people who think it's a good idea so it needs to be discussed. He said that there used to be an outhouse but by the time the IKC bought the property it was unusable and it was removed. We have a large user base at the Sullivan property and people are "going" all over the place. As more and more people use the property, the problem is going to get worse. Building an outhouse creates maintenance issues. Depending on how it's built, there may be environmental issues, and it would be a setback from keeping the property natural. If we put one in, the choices are to simply dig a hole and build over it which would probably be unacceptable in a karst area, or have some sort of sealed pit which would have to be pumped or dug out from time to time. If we put one in that needs to be pumped out, it must be accessible by a service truck. Vernier asked if there are any regulations concerning outhouses. Dunlap said that there may be regulations concerning construction but there probably are no laws preventing us from putting one in. A sealed system would likely meet all codes. Vernier asked if there were any insurance considerations because we would be adding a structure. Dunlap didn't think it would impact our taxes or insurance. Sergesketter asked about the economics of a Porta-john. Dunlap said that he thought about it too, maybe buying one and having it serviced as needed. Tozer asked about the frequency of servicing a sealed pit type. Sollman described the type of outhouses used at the Old Ben Scout Camp in Pike County. Described as the "Taj Mahal" of outhouses, he said that they are of the sealed pit type and are very heavily used but are only pumped out once a year. The down side is that construction cost would be very high. Devore said that the Northern Indiana Grotto has property near English with an outhouse and they have only had to move it once in ten years. He said that they throw a coffee can full of lime in it every now and then and it breaks it down. He said that the simpler we make this the better but he agreed that a sealed pit would be best at Sullivan. Sollman said that he has heard that often groups that use the Sullivan property offer monetary donations to the IKC for the use of the place. Vandeventer said that is true. Sollman said that, while he really doesn't want to create another fund, outhouse maintenance would be a good use

for donations received from groups using our property. The discussion went on but it was finally decided that Dunlap will do a little more research and present a plan at the next IKC meeting.

#### SULLIVAN CAVE, OTHER

Dunlap said that a new roof is needed on the small shed at Sullivan. It doesn't need to be done right now but we should work it in soon. Vernier asked if we want to add more rock to the parking area and maybe make it a little larger. Dunlap said we probably need to. He said that the plastic chain has helped to keep people from driving off the gravel but everyone agreed that parking can be tight at times and that people don't intend to drive in the grass but they end up there anyway. Sollman asked about the condition of the old trail from the highway to the cave. Vandeventer said it's in great shape.

#### GAS DRILLING IN KARST AREAS

There was a discussion of the problems of gas drilling in karst areas led by Kevin Strunk who is a Professional Geologist.

#### ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

There was a discussion of an "Adventure Race." The sponsors initially wanted to use Wesley Chapel Gulf Cave for a portion of the race but they were denied a permit. Then they wanted to use Tucker Lake Spring Cave and there was strong pressure to approve a permit but when it got to the Karst Specialist, the idea was killed. Vernier said that as far as he knows, in the end they didn't use any cave for the race.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next IKC meeting will be February 12, 2005, at Kriste Lindberg's home in Bloomington, IN. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM. The Annual Business Meeting will be March 19, 2005, at the Greenwood Library. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.

Sue Vernier moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Sergesketter, Secretary