

Dear WCP Board:

Below, please find the minutes for the January 25 meeting of the Williams Canyon Project as prepared by Project Secretary Renee Neely.

If you have any corrections or clarifications for the minutes, please notify Renee prior to the upcoming April 26 meeting. Once the board has accepted the minutes, Gerry Estes can post the minutes to the WCP website (www.ColoradoCaves.org). Hopefully, in the future, we can reduce the time needed to produce and review the minutes prior to posting for the membership.

Also, if anyone has any topics for the upcoming meeting, please let me know so I can add them to the agenda. I am hopeful I can finish the agenda early next week to allow Gerry to post it to the website. Thank you!

Richard Rhinehart
Project Chair

Minutes for Williams Canyon Cave Project Meeting January 25, 2003

The first item of discussion was Breezeway Cave. Data loggers were installed into the cave by Jeremy Stiles, Cave of the Winds Manager, as he had concerns about the recent break-ins and people going to areas of the cave that were restricted until restoration of the cave was complete. The data loggers have since been removed from the cave.

Since the Breezeway electronic alarm needs to be reset at the Cave of the Winds, Jeremy requested the aid of local cavers in the event of an emergency, as some would be closer to the cave than he is. Those interested in helping should contact Jeremy.

Tom Dotter asked Jeremy about using radios to monitor activity in the canyon and Jeremy agreed to the use of one radio by cavers if needed.

Next was the discussion of the re-opening of Breezeway Cave to caver traffic. It was first recommended to videotape the trade route as a way to document the progress and efforts that were achieved by the restoration project. A motion was made and passed and it was requested that the video be finished and given to Jeremy.

During the Breezeway Cave break-in, unauthorized people visited the closed Vanity Fair. A motion was made and passed for Carolyn Cronk

to go to Vanity Fair and take photos of the possible damage to this area of the cave.

Next topic of discussion was Stone River access. A motion was made to open this closed area of the cave with the conditions that some flagging of a trail would be done, there would be a plastic changing area and aqua socks were to be used by all visitors. This motion did not pass by a vote of 11 to 9.

Next was a discussion of the possible opening of Breezeway Cave for clean-up and scientific reasons. Individuals will need to contact the Williams Canyon Project Board in writing or by E-mail with the reason for the trip and then the WCP Board will make a decision as to if access will be allowed to the area that is requested. This process needs to be followed for closed cave digs as well.

There was a discussion on who should go on clean-up trips in Breezeway. One suggestion was to consider project trustees before friends. It was then brought up that anyone who volunteered to clean the cave should be able to go and this was so noted by the WCP Board.

Next was the conservation report. It was stated that 80 percent of the clean up efforts done in Breezeway has been lost through the unauthorized visits. It was also stated that not enough project covers have participated in the cleaning and restoration. Discussion ending by it being stated that Breezeway Cave is a special place that needs special care.

Dan Sullivan spoke regarding the ladder that was installed in Breezeway Cave at Hallowed Ground. The ladder needs work at the bottom so that the mud will filter into the bucket and not onto the floor. Despite this, the ladder is up and functional and easy to remove if need be. The only part of the ladder that can decay are the bolts at the bottom.

Restoration was done at the Cave of the Winds. The restoration crew accomplished a great deal but needed additional colors of grout. There is one formation in the mud that still needs to be salvaged. Restoration at Huccacove Cave consisted of removing painted graffiti only.

There was a cave entrance-monitoring project for Big Alcove. There have been no additional break-ins since last summer.

WCP Treasury and project book update:

- All loans were paid off in December
- The project received a gift of \$580 from coins that were in COW wishing well

- The Treasury now has a balance of \$55.97
- There are 402 books remaining in stock with a total wholesale price of \$4800
- It was requested that before doing other projects that there be a minimum balance of \$500

Mark Maslyn proposed to get George Snider, the 1881 discover of the Grand Caverns, a headstone. The estimated cost of this project was \$1000. It was suggested that the grottos make contributions to this project. This topic will be further discussed at the next project meeting.

Next was the discussion of the number of trip leaders beyond 28. There are now two levels to trip leader status, which are broken into trustees and partners. There can only be 28 trustees but there is no limit as to the number of partners. This makes room for new members in the project and gives recognition to the long time cavers. The requirements for partner status is that you must have been in the canyon for 8 consecutive years or 10 years if you left and came back. Jeremy is open to any suggestions as this is just something that is being experimented with this year. Any concerns regarding this can be discussed at the next WCP meeting. 8-10 cavers have already been given partner status. Jeremy has also suggested that the names of cavers who have contributed several years of hard work be recognized by having them engraved on a plaque to be installed into the Josephine Snider Museum Hall of Fame at the room at the cave.

Narrows Cave needs an airflow restrictor system further in the cave that still allows bats to enter the cave freely but still serve the purpose of increasing moisture in the cave.

Next topic of discussion was having new rules and regulations. There was a copy of Amendment to WCP rules handed out. It was decided that Dan Sullivan and L.P. Lawrence head the committee. They are to write up the new rules, get a consensus and bring the new rules to the next meeting for approval. It was then discussed that the rules should be left up to the board and the board decided that the rules needed everybody's input. A motion was then made to have LP be in charge of and form the committee and report next week to the WCP Board.

Project elections then followed for 2003.

- Treasurer is Bob Strickland
- Conservation Director is Al Collier with L.P. Lawrence as assistant
- Cartography Director is Paul Burger
- Secretary is Renee Neely with Pat Malone as assistant

After elections, it was brought to the table that non-trip leaders voted on Stone River access. The Board decided that there would be a re-vote at the project's next meeting in April.

The last topic of discussion was the elections for Chair and Vice Chair. The position of Chair was established with the reorganization of the project in 1990 and has never been voted on by the directors. The current Chair is Richard Rhinehart and the opposing candidate is Gerry Estes. It was decided that each candidate give a speech detailing their plans for the project. A secret ballot of the directors was taken. For 2003, Richard Rhinehart remains the Chair and he can train Gerry Estes to become the new Chair over the next year. There was a discussion as to if a Vice Chair position should be considered and this is to be discussed over the next year.

Respectfully submitted, Renee Neely