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# WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Winter Meeting

### *Cave of the Winds*

*January 31, 2004 — 10:00 a.m.*

## A G E N D A

### **WELCOME**

- ? Any general announcements or news.
- ? Welcome to new Project Directors

### **WCP SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**Discussion:** Rene Neely

Minutes of the last meeting from our Project Secretary.

### **WCP TREASURY REPORT**

**Discussion:** Bob Stucklen

Update on project finances from Treasurer Bob Stucklen.

### **RULES UPDATE: PROJECT PARTICIPANT DISCIPLINE**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

Guidelines for discipline for a Williams Canyon Project participant are proposed. Project participants are expected to follow Project rules and regulations; when they do not, there should be an escalating means for discipline. Such discipline may range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the project. The Project Charter currently includes a section on Trustee and Partner discipline, so should participant discipline be better suited to the Project Charter?

- ? *Discussion:* Review of the proposed amendments to the Project Rules and Regulations.

### **RULES UPDATE: MANITOU CAVE GUIDELINES AMENDMENTS**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

Per discussion with the management of the Cave of the Winds, additional rules and guidelines are proposed for Project trips into Manitou Cave. These rules detail interaction with paid commercial tour groups in the cave to minimize conflict between the groups. Project participants are expected to project a professional attitude when meeting tour groups.

- ? *Discussion:* Review of the proposed changes to the Manitou Cave trip guidelines.

### **RULES UPDATE: WCP CHAIR POSITION CHANGES**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

The current Williams Canyon Project charter states that the Chair position is elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and that the position is filled from within the Board. There has been a suggestion that changes be made to the charter to allow the position be elected by the Project Electorate (Board, Trustees and Partners) and that the position need not necessarily be a board member.

? *Discussion:* Should the charter be changed to allow for direct election? Should the Chair be a board member? If not, should the position be a non-voting position?

## **WCP CHAIR ELECTION: 2004-05**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

Election of the Chair of the Williams Canyon Project. The Chair will serve beginning with the Spring 2004 meeting and continue through the Winter 2005 meeting.

? *Discussion:* Any interested candidates?

## **COLORADO CAVES.ORG WCP WEBMASTER APPROVAL**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

It is proposed that the Williams Canyon Project website, [www.ColoradoCaves.org](http://www.ColoradoCaves.org), be updated to include more current information. Should a new webmaster be appointed to manage the website?

? *Discussion:* Consideration of a new, updated website and a new webmaster.

## **PROJECT COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**

**Discussion:** Jim Neely

How freely should cave projects and Williams Canyon caves be discussed in public forums? Given the increasing accessibility of the Internet, information can be more readily shared among cavers, from e-mail to websites dedicated to project activities and caves.

Should the Project develop guidelines for communication within project participants? What considerations should be taken regarding identifying caves and cave locations within the canyon (ie, photographs of entrances)? Should directors, Trustees, Partners and participants be held accountable for information distributed to the public? Or, should the Project take no position in regard to communication?

? *Discussion:* Development of possible rules and regulations regarding communication.

## **NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart, Mark Maslyn

As a new project, the Williams Canyon Project might undertake preparing necessary paperwork and associated documentation for National Natural Landmark designation for the caves of Williams Canyon. Cave of the Winds and Breezeway could qualify, as they hold world-class beaded helictites. The designation is granted by the National Park Service, which maintains the program but provides no funding or benefits other than granting designation. Several caves nationwide are already designated as National Natural Landmarks, including Fort Stanton Cave in New Mexico and Neff's Canyon Cave in Utah. Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs is a National Natural Landmark.

? *Discussion:* Project participation in the documentation.

## **COLORADO CAVE PROTECTION ACT UPDATE**

**Discussion:** Rick Rhinehart

Representative Greg Rippey of Glenwood Springs introduced into the Colorado Legislature on January 12 a bill for the protection of caves in the state of Colorado. This bill, HB 04-1148, was passed unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee on January 22 and now goes to the full House for consideration. If the bill is passed by the House, and later the Senate, it will replace the state's original cave protection act, passed by the Legislature in April 1885 but dropped in 1972. A main beneficiary of the bill will be the Cave of the Winds and the caves of Williams Canyon.

? *Discussion:* Actions cavers can take to support the bill.

## **WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION**

**Update:** Paul Burger

Recent surveying and cave inventory activities in the canyon.

? *Discussion:* Upcoming activities and projects.

## **CONSERVATION**

**Cave Restoration:** Al Collier + LP Lawrence

Update on recent and planned restoration in the caves of the canyon, including hardware removal in Cave of the Winds, mud cleanup in Breezeway Cave, and graffiti removal in Huccacove Cave. As always, cavers are invited to participate in these activities.

**Narrows Cave Electronic Alarm:** Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan installed an electronic alarm on the Narrows Cave entrance which will help protect the cave from future unauthorized entries.

? *Discussion:* Other conservation projects.

## **CAVE PROJECTS**

**Cave of the Swirling Mists Dig:** Steve Kumpf

Continued digging in the Cave of the Swirling Mists in upper Williams Canyon. Efforts will continue in hope of finding a major extension.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

**Longview Cave Dig:** Dan Sullivan

Update on the dig project in Longview Cave, located in upper Williams Canyon. The current dig has extended the known cave to the southwest.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

**Manitou Whirlpool Dome Dig:** Rick Rhinehart

Several dig trips were taken to the base of the Whirlpool Dome in the Pedro's section of Manitou Cave in November and December 2003. A large amount of trash was removed from the large mound of debris at the base of the dome, nearly all of which was removed from the cave and disposed. At lower levels, historic artifacts dating back to the 1920s were found. Unfortunately, an open continuation to the southwest was not found, so the dig was abandoned for now. Digging tools and buckets were removed from the site.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

**Manitou Lower Stream Passage Dig:** Donald Davis

Donald Davis proposes resuming an abandoned dig in the Lower Stream Passage in the Centipede section of Manitou Cave. This passage was extensively dug at in the early 1990s, but abandoned before any major breakthroughs into continuing passage. Leading southeast from the known cave, the passage has an excellent opportunity to make a significant extension to the cave.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

**Breezeway Wintergreen Dome Dig:** Fred Luiszer

An overlooked and forgotten dig site in Breezeway Cave, the Wintergreen Dome was originally noted by the cave's discoverers on the first day of exploration. Leading north from Cowboy Heaven, the passage may lead to a significant

extension both north and northeast. Preliminary digs indicate there is a continuing low but wide passage; the question remains, however, if the continuing passage might breakout from the general dimensions of the known cave system.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

### **Additional Digs**

Other dig projects can be discussed.

### **CAVE OF THE WINDS TOPICS**

**Discussion:** Jeremy Stiles

Jeremy Stiles of the Cave of the Winds management may have some topics for review and consideration by the Board and Project Trustees and Partners.

### **OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

? Topics from the Floor

? Date for next meeting: April 24?

? Adjournment

? Short Williams Canyon Project Fundraising Auction