

MINUTES OF SPRING TSA BUSINESS MEETING, 6 April, 2008

(Convened at the TSA Spring Convention, April 5th thru the 7th, in **Kerrville**, TX at the **Kerrville-Schreiner Park**. Submitted by Mark Alman)

Officers Present: John Brooks, Chairman; Robert Bisset, Vice-chairman; Mark Alman, Secretary; Darla Bishop, Treasurer

TSA Members and cavers in Attendance: David Ochel, Lee Jay Graves, Jim Kennedy, Wesley Schumacher, Jen Naberhaus, Gary Franklin, Sandi Calhoun, Linda Palit, Don Arburn, Ann Scott, Joe Ranzau, Diana Tomchick, Bill Steele, Don Broussard, Bill Stephens, Susan Schindel, Bob West, Carl Kunath, Jerry Atkinson, Bill Mixon, Charles Goldsmith, William Russell, Aimee Beveridge, Geoff Hoese, Marvin Miller, Mark Gee, Jon Cradit, Butch Fralia

Chairman's Report: (Brooks) Convened meeting at 5:10 PM. Thanked all for coming and introduced TSA officers. Other cavers in attendance introduced themselves. John stated that he didn't have much to report, but it was a great convention, location, weather, and turnout. Kudos to Rob for orchestrating it!

Vice-Chairman's Report: (Bisset) Stated that the early start on planning the convention helped insure a well-run and organized event and a choice location. Made it much easier to plan. Willing to do it again next year, if he is renominated and re-elected. He did ask for help after the meeting setting up for dinner, serving, and cleaning up afterward in anticipation of the TCMA auction. Thanked Diana Tomchick and Bill Steele for lining up speakers and presentations. Also thanked Marvin Miller for setting up map, photo, and artwork salons.

Secretary's Report: (Alman) Minutes from the Winter Meeting were available for all to read. After reviewing, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried. Big thanks for Diana playing attendees with her fresh made margaritas as an inducement to attend the meeting!

Treasurer's Report: (Bishop) Darla gave financial report and furnished copies of the Treasurers report to all. \$4963.49 in Checking; \$3669.45 in Savings; \$8144.19 in the Land Fund, for a total of \$16,777.13

Motion made by Joe Ranzau to transfer \$1K to Land Fund. Motion made to table, for now. See below.

Standing Committee Reports

TSA Projects—(Kennedy) Jim gave a report of the ongoing projects that he did receive from project leaders. He forgot to bring the report, but will email to Secretary. Gave updates on CBSP, Honey Creek, Government Canyon, and a new project at Kickapoo Caverns to document historical items. Bustamante Project Coordinator is still needed, currently listed as inactive. Amistad Project to be back up and running. Jerry Atkinson and others to meet with TPWD.

TSA Website— Butch Fralia stated that David Ochel has done a nice job updating the travel to Mexico section of website. Site still receives about 2500 hits a month, drops off early in the year, but picking back up. Mexico page and calendar remain very popular.

Safety and Techniques—Don Broussard reported that the two-part NSS Safety Report by Kurt Weldron that was rerun in *The TEXAS CAVER* was well-received and very valuable. Kurt is now working on a survey and report about the effects of alcohol, drugs, and lack of sleep on caving activities. Don will inquire about running this article in the TC, after it is published in *The NSS News*.

Membership and Conservation Committees — Chairs still vacant. Takers?

TSA Land Fund – Jay Jordan stated that the trustees have met and released the attached report:

Motion for TSA/BOG Spring 2008

Recommended and moved by the TSA Endowment Funds trustees: That the TSA Board of Governors terminate the land fund and transfer all its current proceeds for a cave conservation-related purpose under Section 8 of the trust agreement, as follows: To help pay off the note on the Punkin-Deep property purchased by the Texas Cave Management Association.

Trustees recommend that the TSA BOG publish this motion in the TEXAS CAVER and take it up at the Texas Cavers Reunion, either choosing to vote the motion up or down at its Fall meeting or submitting it to the general membership for a binding referendum.

Land fund trustees voted unanimously to recommend this action – Moved by Ted Lee and seconded by John Brooks, with trustee Jay Jordan abstaining due to his TCMA board membership.

The TSA Constitution was reviewed concerning dispersing these funds and was agreed that all can be dispersed, minus the original \$500 seed money given by the NSS at the 1994 Convention. Original intention was to use the funds in order to find a permanent location for TCR, but with soaring land prices, this has never materialized.

Point made by Jerry Atkinson and Mark Alman to possibly split the proceeds between the TCMA and the TCC.

Request that this motion be printed on CaveTex and in the next *TEXAS CAVER* to solicit inputs.

Elections – Linda Palit is ready and able to solicit nominations for TSA officers before TCR and send out ballots around TCR. Joe Ranzau checked the TSA Constitution as to whether this is proper and reported it was OK to collect nominations in September. Will put nomination form in next TC. Ron Ralph and Ann Scott to count ballots. Officers to take to take over at TCR.

Publications — (Alman) Bulk mail permit still an issue and needs to be resolved. Postage constitutes approximately 25% of our printing budget of *The TEXAS CAVER*. Mark to research.

TSA Store – (Graves) Kudos to the job Lee Jay has been doing! Lee Jay stated that we now have plenty of the Texas bat stickers and will soon have reflective Oztotl stickers in stock.

Old Business

2009 ICS Support –George Veni conducted a tour of the facilities for this event on Sunday and an appeal was made for help on this important event.

Honey Creek Project - Reminder made by Bill Steele of this upcoming event the weekend after Convention, April 12th. Bill and Kurt Menking to supervise. Need lots of help to also cut cedar here in order to stay on good terms with daughter of landowner, now that Mr. Gass has passed away.

TSA Summer Meeting? – Idea was floated again by John Brooks on convening a summer TSA meeting, possibly at Punkin and Deep Cave Preserve, but no consensus reached.

Announcements

New TSS Map CD Available –Jim Kennedy announced a new CD is available with 50 additional caves added. Jerry Atkinson to modify ad and submit to TC for publication.