

**Minutes of the Spring 2014 MVOR
Private property near Exeter, Missouri in Barry County
May 17th, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President, Alicia Wallace at 8:02 pm

Roll Call: All officers present and introduced themselves.

Many thanks to OHG for putting on a great event. Strong round of applause from meeting attendees. Bill Copeland reported the attendance at 164.

Previous MVOR Minutes: Alicia Wallace asked for accepting or making any changes to the Fall 2013 MVOR minutes as posted in the flyer. No changes. Motion to accept the minutes made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Jim Donley, reported a beginning balance on 9-14-13 of \$8,225.48 – Credit Union \$4,215.72, Savings \$4,009.76. Ending balance on 5-17-14 of \$8,440.76 – Credit Union \$4,426.50, Savings \$4,014.26. Jim reported the annual report and provided several copies for anyone wishing to review. Motion to accept the treasurer's report seconded and passed.

Old Business:

Mark Andrich reported that the Constitution and Bylaws committee, formed at the last MVOR, had met and are making some recommendations & modifications to the constitution. These will be put up on the MVOR website, as well as a copy will accompany the Fall flyer.

Upcoming MVORs:

2014 Fall – Troy spoke on behalf of BATL. Will be held Oct. 3rd-5th at NRO Campground on the Niangua River in Dallas County. Will try something a little different with a special howdy party on Friday night with The Ben Miller Band. Bonfire on Saturday will be special and cave trips will be offered.

2015 Spring and 2015 Fall – no bids yet. Alicia asked that people think about hosting 2015 MVORs and beyond.

New Business:

Gary Gibula stated that the cost of the MVOR flyer mailings was expensive to the region and also antiquated. Nearly or all other regionals and caving gatherings have gone to electronic registration. He proposed electronic registration for future MVOR mailings. Gary made a motion to have electronic registration. Much discussion and talking over each other. Chuck Breite said it would simpler to have a checkbox option for mail or email options. Kirsten Alvey suggested that with the checkbox idea would allow for a gradual shift to emailing. Troy said at the previous MVOR the region voted to add the option of being added to 2 more mailings for the extra \$2 and it's working fine. Chuck added that the checkbox should be permanent on the flyers. Several people stated that they liked getting the flyer in the mail. Several others said they would prefer that it be emailed. Gary stated we should get out of the stone age and make registration like the NSS convention and so many other festivals. He said we had an informal questionnaire online about electronic vs. paper flyers and that the vast majority chose online. Alicia clarified Gary's motion that it is: the MVOR flyer be posted on the MVOR website and available for download. Several questioned it being on a public site. Others said that one could get the current event's flyer online with a little searching right now. Alicia stated that it had been emailed to all of the MVOR region's grotto president contacts and that may have been why. Motion, as stated, vote for taken -- vote interrupted by several questions. Much discussion and talking over each other. Alicia asked Gary to clarify the motion again. Gary restated that the motion is to put the MVOR flyer onto the MVOR website as a downloadable PDF. On the form would be a checkbox so that that someone could express that they would prefer to receive by mail. Kali? wanted to know if the checkbox would show up on the next flyer. Alicia thought so. Someone stated that the reason

the MVOR had stopped putting the flyer online in the first place was that there were a lot of problems happening and that it had become a drunken college party and that it should be taken into consideration. Kirsten suggested that maybe MVOR should become like T.A.G. where you have to be sponsored in order to get in. A new person cannot get in by dropping a name but that the sponsor has to physically accompany them into the event and has to vouch for them. Motion restated again by Alicia to put the flyer as a downloadable form on the MVOR website and at the next MVOR you check a box to receive flyers by physical mail. Vote failed. DJ made a new motion to register and pay electronically on the website. Questions arose as to payment and security. Someone said not everyone has a credit card. Alicia said the real issue is that with each different grotto or group hosting the MVOR makes it difficult because twice a year we would need to set up an account for each event. Some asked if the website could take payments and then disperse funds using PayPal. Several people pointed out that the host grottoes would need to have one in order to receive monies. Alicia suggested those in favor might want to form a committee to figure this out. Much applause. Alicia then asked how many grottos would want online registration for their event. 2 indicated that they would. Alicia then restated the motion so everyone present could hear it. Motion by is to offer electronic, online registration as an option. Have a checkbox on the next mailed flyer so that recipient can say they wish the next flyer to be emailed to them and not mailed. Motion passed. Bryan McAllister reminded everyone that if they are providing their email that they write it very legibly. Mike Morgan asked what would the payment options be. Alicia answered cash, check or money order.

Tony Schmitt made a motion on behalf of Dan Lamping who was unable to attend. He said that Dan, who is a teacher, regularly takes students from his AG Geography class to Cliff Cave, a St. Louis County Park, for ongoing clean-up/restoration trips. He generally takes about 15-20 students on these trips. Dan has to beg/borrow for helmets/lights for these trips. He is asking the MVOR for \$500 to purchase helmets/lights for these trips. Motion seconded and passed.

Mark Andrigh brought up the issue of sponsorship of new members of MVOR. He read aloud what the MVOR Constitution actually says about it.

Bill Heim thanked the MVOR for the grant of \$2,000 from the conservation fund made to MCKC a year ago for their efforts at the ongoing Goodwin Sink cleanup project in Laclede County. This massive cleanup/restoration project continues. Thus far, an estimated 1.1 million pounds of clean fill has been removed, 206,000 lbs of trash-laden material as well as over 60,000 lbs of trash. In addition, 1.25 tons of metal and 7.37 tons of tires have been removed from the sink so far. Also, in the last year, MCKC has added management agreements for Lewis Cave, Cleveland Cave, Mill Cave and Allon Spring Cave. He added that several of you also got to see Crystal Caverns - another MCKC property - at this MVOR today. Applause.

Announcements:

Alicia, Bill Gee and other members of the region were congratulated for their recent "Wings Across America" awards from the United States Forest Service for their conservation work with gating Bat Cave in Oregon County.

Alicia presented the Lester B. Dill Award to Bryan McAllister for his past and continued service to the region.

Alicia announced that if you hadn't heard, our beloved Joe Walsh, a caving legend in this region and the NSS passed away suddenly on April 28th. She asked that we keep Lois in our thoughts and prayers and that at the lighting of the bonfire this evening there will be a special Chinese lantern lit in his honor.

Meeting moved to adjourn and seconded at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan McAllister, Secretary