

OHIO CAVE SURVEY MINUTES

APRIL 30, 2025

Reported by Curt Harler, vice president\acting secretary

Meeting was called to order by President Frank Vlchek at 7:10 pm via Google Meet. In attendance were Adam Batson, Gary Bush, Curt Harler, Kevin Lorms, Mandy Mooter, and Frank Vlchek.

There was no secretary present so no reading of the past meeting's minutes. Since they were not distributed to the Board, those minutes are not yet posted to the web, either. Otherwise, the website is up to date.

Treasurer's report: Gary said the treasury is at \$4088.84 with \$3686.87 in the checking account and \$326.97 in PayPal. About \$900 of that money is earmarked for the Life Member annuity. At present OCS has two life members. In the absence of any anticipated large expenses, Curt again asked about putting some of the cash into a short-term interest-bearing account. Gary said he's looked around but hasn't done anything about it yet.

At present, OCS has 53 members, including organizations and individuals.

Curt reported that document scanning continues apace. At present, about half of the 24 boxes of HHH data stored at ODNR have been scanned by OCS. Gary asked about backups of that data and Curt assured that the data is backed up and cross-backed up on the two SSD drives which OCS purchased. Gary asked whether the SSD drives are in fireproof safes. The one Curt has is in such a safe; the other, he isn't sure.

The issue of scanning large cave maps was brought up. ODNR is supposed to scan the larger maps in its files. So far, none are done to OCS's knowledge. Dan Peter has a program to photograph maps and turn them to scans. The question of resolution was brought up and needs to be resolved (pun intended). Adam reported that his communications with Erin Hazleton at ODNR about the latest cave data. At present, he is building an updated database for Erin. He also reported that the owner of a newly opened sinkhole is looking for help with digging the sinkhole. One OCS member Aaron Byrd is working with Mike Morgan.

Frank reported his efforts to work with Ohio grottoes who are not yet involved with the Survey. He approached WUSS and Standing Stone to no avail. Gary suggested approaching ESSO which, although technically a West Virginia group, does a lot in Southeastern Ohio. Frank promised to contact them soon.

OLD BUSINESS: Chad Waffen generated a proposed waiver that covers both the landowner involved and OCS. It also includes a copy of the Ohio Cave Law. Everyone liked the draft. Gary will run it past [Megan Gaskin](#), an Ohio-based caver-attorney. There was discussion about getting a specific waiver to protect OCS. Gary said he'd follow up with her on that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Curt Harler, Acting Secretary.