

**Minutes of the Spring 2009 MVOR
Black River, Missouri
April 25th, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by VP Alicia Lewis at 6:30 PM Saturday night. All officers were present except President Corey Hart. He and his wife are to be congratulated for having a baby.

Motion: Kerry Rowland made motion to accept the minutes as printed in the flyer. Al Quamen pointed out the state of Illinois had been omitted from the minutes as part of the MVOR Region. After amending the minutes (to include the state of IL as part of the MVOR Region) the motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: by Jim Donley:

Attendance: Joe Nicolussi stated the attendance for the MVOR was 308 adults. Mark Andrich thanked Joe Nicolussi for sponsoring the MVOR. The members responded with a loud round of applause. Joe Nicolussi said the Dill Award was postponed until the fall MVOR.

Fall 09 MVOR: Jim Sherrell said the MVOR will be Oct 2,3, & 4, 2009. He also stated he needed help sponsoring the event at Keener Cave and Springs Resort on the Black River near Williamsville, MO. Williamsville is 7 miles west of US 67 on St. Rt. 49. Jim is negotiating for Keener Springs & Rebel Cave is also a possibility.

MVOR bids:
Spring 2010 is open.

Mike Morgan & Pony Express Grotto took the bid for the Fall 2010 MVOR in the Hannibal, MO area. Ten caves are to be featured.

Conservation Award: We need nominations. Tony Schmidt nominated Springfield Plateau Grotto. Bill Heim accepted the award on behalf of the Springfield Plateau Grotto and expressed appreciation for the award. Money is available for conservation projects. Randy Long of the Mark Twain National Forest Service addressed the membership on the white nose syndrome (WNS) that is killing bats. He admitted he did not know much about the subject and was unable to answer most of our questions. He did state the fungus that attacks the bats started in New York State and quickly expanded to all species of bats. The forest service has closed all caves in the Mark Twain National Forest for one year and asks all cavers to stay out of these caves. The forest service wants to determine if people could be spreading the disease.

Motion: Tony Schmidt moved to donate \$200 from the Cave Conservation Fund to the NSS Fast Response Fund (FRF) to do research on the WNS. The motion was seconded. During the discussion of the motion Al Quamen stated his opposition to the motion because of the serious lack of information on the WNS and many key questions asked of Mr. Long were not answered. Motion Passed.

Motion: Tony Schmidt moved to have an additional \$1200 donated to the NSS FRF from the MVOR Cave Conservation Fund. Motion was seconded. During the discussion

of this motion Rick Small tried to point out to the membership that the (WNS) was serious and needed to be funded. But, any sum of money that the MVOR was capable of donating to the NSS FRF was a useless drop in the bucket because WNS would need millions to effectively do the research. Writing letters to your congressmen to pass a bill to fund research on the WNS is what we should be doing. Motion Passed.

Motion: Tony Schmidt moved to have MVOR Regional Secretary notify each member of the NSS board of governors that this region (MVOR) strongly opposes any reduction in the rights of basic members of the society. Motion was seconded and passed.

The NSS wants to move the head quarters too possibly within AL, KY, TN, or IN.

Motion: to adjourn was seconded & passed at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul W. Mills, Jr., – MVOR Regional Secretary