

CCS Meeting Minutes
01/31/2024, 7:30pm, Virtual

Attendees

+1 303-***-**03, Barbara Smith, Chad Pedigo, Chris Carter, Rob McFarland, Dan Sullivan, Dave Lester, Derek Bristol, Donald Davis, Isaac, Jeff Gobin, Jennifer Zedalis, Jesse Rochette, Kay Cochran, Karla Mayne, Ken Headrick, Kevin Manley, Kristen Levy, Paul Fowler, Paul Slayback, Jim Lawton, Christine Kirkland, Rebecca Schifanelli, Steve Reames, Tristan Stahl, Will Grandbois

Minutes - meeting started at 7:39pm, (Rob M. requested to record the meeting to help with developing minutes.)

- Rob M. thanked everyone and began with old business topics from the last meeting.

Old Business

- Rob M. explained that we had a prior request for comment on a BLM proposal which had to do with the sharing of cave information. The BLM was initially seeking public comment on renewing a document control number that would essentially continue their current system of information management. That was stage one of the proposal and the only thing to comment on was on whether or not cavers thought that they should renew that document control number. Stage two, available later, will be when the BLM will collect comments on what information to gather regarding cave locations and resources on BLM lands nationwide. So the CCS chose not to comment on stage one, as they should continue this system, and when they open the comment period up in stage two, we can make more focused comments.
- Rob M. continued to explain that the second prior request was for commenting on the changes in policy for bolting in wilderness areas. He elaborated that the proposal in front of public land managers would change the policy on allowing bolts installed in Wilderness areas and national parks. Rob M. requested information and feedback on these issues from the CCS prior to this meeting and received no comment. Without any feedback, the CCS chose not to comment.
- Kristen L. and Kevin M. noted that the public comment period for this had closed on January 30, 2024.
- Rob M. listed the third topic from the last meeting was on following up on efforts to reach out to Climbers for Bat Conservation to discuss their and our work and potential collaboration.
- Jennifer Z. related that she reached out to Rob Shorr of Climbers for Bat Conservation who had started work on some guidance for developing ethical climbing practices focused on bat conservation. She explained that the CCS offered support and collaboration as these guidances are developed so that more educated climbers would be less likely to damage cave resources in other areas on the forest. She explained to them that the previous closures of 2010 didn't provide bat habitat protections and the climbing impacts on these areas grew worse. Stressing that cavers have been very helpful with conservation of bats and their habitats, it is of importance that climbers be held accountable to the same decontamination protocols and other protective measures that cavers have long been practicing. The CCS emphasized cavers' role as stewards in conservation and continued to promote continued conservation minded access. She continued that this is an ongoing conversation and is open to volunteers interested in contributing to and sharing information with other cavers and climbers on bat habitat conservation.
- Kristen L. said that she reached out to the Access Fund and Mountain Project on how the Mountain Project website has posted seasonal Raptor closures and notices for specific climbing

areas. She is talking to them about the possibility of getting a posted conservation message or some other information that describes protecting bat habitat and cave conservation measures and explains that this could be a good way to communicate to the broader audience of climbers.

- Jesse R. asked who she reached out to from the Access Fund and Kristen replied Eric Murdock
- Rob M. added that we tried to present to them that, as their group is focused on affecting climbers' behaviors and trying to make climbers aware of bats, what we don't want to see happen is any negative effect on cavers and caving access. So while they're saying, keep climbers out of caves, we don't want a land manager to say, keep everyone out of caves. So we are continuing this conversation with Climbers for Bat Conservation while advocating against any closures. We see this as very important going forward and we'd like to stay on their radar.

Accomplishments

Rob M. listed the accomplishments and developments over the last couple of years and the successes the CCS has had with White River National Forest. Rob expressed his thanks for the help and support in getting all this done and stated how important that the FS continues to see us as a working partner.

- WRNF provided and CCS reviewed the significant designation for 121 caves previously known to the forest. The CCS worked to clarify the ongoing significant cave procedure and is trying to figure out how significant designation changes any management.
- The updated Groaning Cave management agreement was submitted nearly 17 months ago and we are now working on final edits and it should be completed before this year's caving season.
- The CCS and WRNF have established a biannual coordination call to improve communication between cavers and the forest, happening once in the spring at the beginning of the caving season and once in the fall at the end of the forest caving season. Alex Lyles, WRNF cave and karst specialist, is interested in doing those meetings quarterly moving forwards.
- The CCS has established a form letter request for the submission and receipt deadlines of the annual Groaning and Spring Cave exceptions. Prior there was no hard communication of when we had to submit it to the forest (by April 30th yearly) and when they were committed to reply (by July 31st yearly) and now those dates are in place.
- The CCS helped develop the MOU between White River National Forest, the CCS and the Access Fund to protect cave resources along the Fixin block with the help of Kristen Levy. Thank you very much Kristen!
- During the Lime Park (WRNF) prescribed burn cavers helped to develop buffer zones around the cave features.
- The CCS assisted with the Hanging Lake Dye tracing project.
- The CCS helped organize caving outreach trips for WRNF personnel and geo corps interns to familiarize them with Fulford and Spring caves.

WRNF

Updated Groaning CMA

- Rob explained that most edits were language changes and bringing the document into alignment with USFS and WRNF standards following the template given to us by Alex Lyles' predecessor. The main change that the CCS suggested besides modernizing the language was to lower the trip leader age from 21 to 18 at the request of CSMG. Currently this point is in discussion and WRNF has commented that Lima Soto of the Washington office has had some negative experience with trip leaders who were under 21 which led to a rescue. To counter that, we've offered that the

student Grotto and their membership, while they may not meet that age requirement, are responsible, experienced cavers and that the CCS Combo Access coordinators vet all of the potential trip leaders for added safety. Hopefully this will get approved.

- Jen Z. added that we are trying to clarify details for gate maintenance and potential gate repairs in the agreement.
- Rob M. stressed the importance of having gate repair responsibilities clarified in the agreement.
- Jen Z. brought up a concern about the submission of the annual visitation reports, which the WRNF requests by December 31st, annually. She stated that it would be good to have some flexibility and clarification of the submission deadline for instances where the last trip of the season might be unable to document the register, say due to a snowstorm or canceled trip, and that we should have a backup date, perhaps by the first trip of the next year.
- Rob M asked if either Chris C. or Jeff G. could reach out to Mary for this year's trip report submission and ask her to coordinate getting that info from the first trip of 2024 for a late submission.
- Chris C. agreed to contact Mary K. for this matter.

BLM

- Rob M. described some of the many successes achieved with the BLM caves:
 - The CCS promoted significant designation for Great Horned Owl and Pipeline Caves.
 - CCS renegotiated and finalized an updated plan for access to LaSunder Cave, which allows trips to the back section of the cave, and the rope was replaced on a work/maintenance trip May 2023.
 - The CCS initiated cleanup and conservation measures at Great Horned Owl cave.
 - The CCS began a process to restore access at Anvil Points cave and initiate biota studies.
- Rob M. also explained that the CCS has worked to rebuild relationships with the BLM after past transgressions, and by meeting with the BLM constantly and, by showing them that we are conservation focused cavers who are willing to work to protect caves, we've rebuilt trust. This is evident by the fact that LaSunder is still open and the CCS and BLM are still talking. Rob thanked everyone who's worked on this matter with the BLM.
- Rob M. noted that Justin Jones has moved to a new role and now we have Alan Czepinski as our main cave contact as the BLM CRVFO recreation planner. In February 2024, we may work with Colleen Peterson, who will also be a recreation planner.
- Rob M. shared that the BLM is interested in creating a **new agreement or MOU** to build a broad framework for cooperative cave management and volunteer agreements between BLM and the CCS. CCS shared with them other MOUs that were developed between the NSS and the BLM to reference. Rob explained that the current BLM MOU is also the LaSunder agreement, so it's both a cave management agreement and a MOU. The BLM would like to separate those two. Justin Jones at a recent meeting referenced past caver violations of Section 1 of the 2006 LaSunder CMA. Since caver's behavior of the last few years was in violation of that we did not argue the point.
- The BLM would also like to:
 - create more specific cave management plans for individual caves as needed.
 - develop guidelines for research and monitoring of cave resources.
 - develop procedures for when discovering new caves and for significant cave nominations.

- establish a new BLM CRVFO process for reimbursement of expenses and volunteer contributions that would be handled in-house with direct contact to their field office.
 - ensuring the inclusion of tribal consultation regarding cave resources.
- Rob M asked for comments , contributions and ideas for the development of this new MOU and there were none offered.
- Kevin M. stated that that previous reimbursement money was originally set aside by the forest service rather than the BLM. Discussion was made over where the money came from as Rob understood it to be from the BLM. Kevin recalled the money to be in the CG account and he was the administrator, did the paperwork and thought the reimbursements came jointly from forest service and BLM. Later discussion mentioned that it originated from the BLM and Kim Leitzinger.
- Kevin M. asked about Witch's Pantry and Rob answered that WP has always been open for recreation discreetly and what is not allowed is excavation of any sort.
- Jen Z. asked about the BLM proposed MOU guidelines for research and monitoring of cave resources and asked if we have anything that we can offer as forms for research and monitoring to help them out.
- Rob M. clarified that there's scientific research and then there's monitoring which are two different things. So in submitting the scientific proposal for Witch's Pantry he developed a form based on the information that they requested. He commented that this form could become a CCS form.
- Jen Z. asked if we could use a trip report form and asked if Chad P. had a universal trip report that could include a section on monitoring of any changes.
- Chad P. shared that on the Timberline Grotto website they have created a trip report form based on one from Patty Kambesis and hoped all cavers make use of it. He explained that at the Timberline Grotto website, one can download the trip report form to your phone and that submitting the form would be optional. He added that if you see damage to the cave or if there's anything that is relevant to the cave, you can add pictures into it and that this sharing would improve relations with the BLM and FS.
- Chris C. liked the idea of the universal trip report but cautioned that it shouldn't become a mandatory requirement in a future MOU. Rob M. also liked the idea as being proactive with helping the BLM. Kristen L. liked the idea of one trip report template for consistency and also reminded all that LaSunder already requires cavers to submit trip report forms after each visit.
- Rob M. agreed with the idea of voluntary trip reports and suggested that this may not be something that we write into a MOU but is perhaps something we can suggest to cavers as a way to keep good communication open while presenting that strong conservation ethic. Rob cautioned that some parts of the new MOU will likely mandate a process for new discoveries, yet the trip reports could be helpful.
- Dan S. asked if we could get that trip report form or link put on the CCS website? Chad P. said absolutely and is working on the formatting.
- Paul F. mentioned that trips under WRNF exception permits have different rules and require a trip report whereas trips outside of the exception permits do not.
- Chad P. shared examples of his trip reports from Timberline grotto and explained the benefits. Kevin M. asked how long one might take in filling out a typical form. Chad replied that it could take anywhere from 5 minutes to an hour depending on details and user experience.
- Rob M. reminded all that this conversation began with developing procedures for monitoring caves and that the BLM is interested in monitoring caves that are known and significant. He explained that when asking for help getting into a particular cave, the BLM may want a caver to fill out a monitoring form or these forms might be helpful while negotiating access for Anvil points cave. Rob suggested that for now, we shouldn't focus too much on trip reports but rather on

developing some kind of monitoring form with the Timberland Grotto's trip report. The judicious sharing of information with the BLM is our goal in developing trust.

- Rob M moved on to **20 Pound Tick Cave** with the update that the gate contract was signed in August with a start date of September 2023 and a completion date of July 2024. As of October no work has been started and CCS asked the BLM what happens when the contract expires and Hilary Boyd replied that the contract can be extended for any length of time.
- Kevin M. said that he was contacted by Kyle Voyles, the new National Cave and Karst Program Lead for BLM and related that Kyle is aware that this particular instance has damaged caver relations in Colorado. He wants to know what we should do. Discussion was had as to what the misunderstandings/mishandling were and who all was in communication. Rob related that the local BLM CRVFO was very upset with the initial transgression and is working now with CCS on much better if yet delicate terms and that the CCS is unaware of any issues at a national level.
- Kevin M. expressed that he was unaware of any process to approve cave digs with anybody before they happened and wants to talk to Kyle about that precedent, finding out clear codes of conduct and guidelines for digging. He also wants to ensure that a cave not be closed outright, the cave be gated and that there be some sort of access plan or management plan. He asked if anybody else has anything else that they want to relate to Kyle V.
- Rob M. notes that the BLM has stated the gate on the "illegal bypass" (their words) will only be accessible to authorized personnel. Access to the back of the cave will still be permissible through the sump, which is better than the original plan to blast the whole cave closed permanently. If cavers can mend and maintain a good relationship with the BLM then perhaps we can develop future management so that we could assist and access the gated entrance in a few years.
- Rob M shared that **Witch's Pantry** remains open to recreational visitation, no digging. In 2023, he submitted a permit request for scientific research and excavation of the front plug and also excavation of the lower chamber. Several months later, the CCS heard back that the Ute tribes don't want us digging in there whatsoever since they learned of the discovery of bones, even though these bones were verified to be recent sheep bones. Unfortunately this has led to tribal sensitivities and the BLM has indicated that future digging here is non- negotiable. The cave is considered by them to be sacred.
- Rob M. moved on to **Great Horned Owl Cave** and shared that housing and industrial development continues in that area. The cave itself was found to have industrial trash in the entrance sink last fall, the remains of a 50 gallon rusted barrel and some broken long PVC pipes, little bits of trash and a digging trowel. CCS contacted the BLM to remove that industrial trash and continued the conversation on how to protect this cave which is only a thousand feet away from a housing development. Currently the cave is somewhat hidden and adding signage will draw attention to the cave. Rob said he would keep the CCS updated on conservation efforts here. The BLM did discuss the possibility of installing data loggers to increase their monitoring for biota and hydrology. The cave has a lot of animal use and usually has bats in it. There is also a groundwater pool measured to 55 feet depth before running out of line. The BLM is aware of the damage and trash and wants to help protect the cave.
- Rob M.'s update on **Anvil Points Cave** noted that the dump has consumed the road that used to be the access to it and now in order to get access you have to get past the scales and circumnavigate a lot of private land. CCS has negotiated a handshake process where we can call the BLM and they can call the dump, but this needs to be formalized. The new BLM Rec planner, Alan Czepinski, would like to visit the cave and ascertain another BLM only access route.

Private caves

- Rob M. shared the success of **Fly And Marble caves** in that there's new ownership and, thanks to Christine Kirkland, cavers are able to continue access. New forms were made to represent new ownership and reflect all changes requested by the new ownership.
- Christine Kirkland related that they've had a few people request to be trip leaders. She asks that if you want to lead trips, then that person has to have been in the cave at least one time and they have to have a trip leader vouch for them. They have a few people that have tried to get in lately to lead trips that have either never been to the caves or it's been 20 years. In order to make sure everybody's safe, they will be checking with other trip leaders to make sure that you're ready to lead. The caves had maybe 15-20 trips a year. So if anybody's interested they can contact Christine K. or Talmage. She reports good relationships with the new landowners.
- Chad P. asked if a trip report form would be helpful for future trips for documentation. Kristen L. asked if there was a cave register and Christine replied that there's a register in both. In Marble cave, you go down the ladder and then down the long narrow fissure, down a little pit and it's located down in a little indent. In Fly cave there's one that's down off to the right and most people fill them out. Paul F. posted a link to the rules and the new waiver on the CCS website.

Committees

- Deep Creek stakeholders group - no new updates.
- Mid-Continent Quarry proposal - The GS Post Independent reposts on the BLM's finding that the 1872 Mining Law is not applicable in this instance, so that is favorable against the quarry expansion.
- Clear Creek Canyon project - no updates.

Bat Working Groups

- **Colorado Bat Working Group (CBWG), Annual:** Paul Fowler
 - CBWG Fall 2023 meeting was held on November 8th and minutes are available upon request. Contact CCS for more info.
 - Paul F. reported that Tina Jackson CPW has retired now and Dan Neubaum has moved to her position as the Statewide Wildlife coordinator. Most of the WNS positives have come from the Eastern Plains and there have been no positives from the Rockies or the Colorado western slope so far. Paul noted that we don't have as many big hibernacula they have back East with all the bats crammed together. Additionally winter hibernacula of significance are mostly unknown for their testing and most testing is being done at maternity sites. As of this year they will do some vaccine trials at maternity sites here. There's evidence both from the field and from genetic studies that Western bats in the mountains also seem to travel shorter distances seasonally than many bats in the East and all see that may be part of why WNS so far is not spreading very fast here. Missy Dresden, Reg 2 Forest Service Wildlife coordinator, phoned in and she wanted any bat folks to do training for the region 2 folks. The positive message is that she is reaching out for more bat conservation expertise in FS region 2. Kirk Navo gave a report about his prior project over 20 years or so of studying and gating many of Colorado's abandoned mines. They studied over 6,000 mines over the last 20 years and they've actually put in more than 1600 gates on mines in the state. So we've got a handful of gated caves, but they're gating mines for the bats all over the state. Jen Z. added that for the abandoned mines

that were gated, there has been zero monitoring of those sites due to lack of funds. Also a CDOT representative gave a report on the tri-colored bat, which they find using overpasses, bridges and culverts to roost. The bat's endangered status requires agencies and CDOT to perform habitat and usage studies prior to any road working or bridge projects.

- **Mountain Prairie WNS Coordination Meetings/Region 6, Quarterly:** Shiloh McCollum/Jim Lawton (NCG):
 - Jim L. reported that with WNS there are ongoing efforts to teach, develop strategic planning, communication, surveillance, grants and research projects. This meeting was for states in the USFWS region 6 which consists of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming and had 14 people attending. They discussed guidelines for winter of 2023-24 WNS and PD sample submission. These guidelines are for use when evaluating unusual bat morbidity or mortality during this winter and to identify through either passive surveillance efforts or through public reporting of dead bat submissions. CSU lab will conduct autopsies. Active surveillance efforts are ongoing in hibernacula. In the spring there will be mist nettings to look for more. The primary objective of these guidelines is to identify range expansion and how that's progressing out west because it seems to have slowed down quite a bit, and to continue to opportunistically identify new species of bats that are affected as it moves West. See additional links to this on the National Wildlife Health Center website. With decontamination protocol there are some revisions; Temporary removal of ethanol from the list of agents while its efficacy is being investigated. This does not affect isopropanol status on the list for treating gear. An update is expected for the WNS Management areas map as new hits are being found out west. They discussed how the word endemic would be applied, as this affects the ability to treat Pd as an invasive agent. They are looking into research regarding the effect of moving possible different strains of PD to different locations. Mike McGrath is the new regional coordinator position in region 6 of the USFWS and he'll be reaching out to the bat working groups for further coordination. Dan Neubaum, CPW, gave updates on Colorado, as did Rob Shorr from the CSU Colorado natural heritage program. There will be a concerted effort by the Colorado bat working group to mist net and sample caves and mines on the west side of the Continental Divide and outside of Rocky Mountain Park starting in February. Meeting notes are available. Contact CCS for more info.
 - Chad P. asked if cavers can be of help with future bat studies and Jen Z. explained that Rocky Mountain Wild and the Denver Zoo has put forth a program called Batwatch which is an app that anybody can download to their phone. If cavers observe bats roosting, hibernating, deceased with fuzzy white on wings and muzzles, they can report that in the App to help identify spread. Chad offered to put the link in the trip report form.
- **Western Bat Working Group, Annual** - Paul Fowler: No update since the last CCS meeting.
- **National WNS Call for Govt and Non-Govt partners, Monthly** - Next meeting Feb 1, 2024

Other Topics

- **CCS Website**- Work is ongoing to improve organization and navigation. Thank you Paul!
- **Cave Survey Database** - Stuart Marlatt (CG): No update

Elections

- First nomination ticket was Jennifer Zedalis for Chair and Chad Pedigo for Vice Chair.
- Second nomination ticket was Karla Mayne for Chair and Tristan Stahl for Vice Chair.
- Paul F. asked Karla M. if she'd been to a CCS meeting before? Karla responded "Yes many, but it's been a few years." Paul F. stated that there's no record of Karla attending in the last 15 years.

Karla replied that early 2007 was probably the last time she attended a meeting. Paul asked Karla if she was really familiar with all the projects and with all the management agency people? Karla responded that just because she hadn't sat in on the actual meeting didn't mean she didn't keep up with what's going on. Paul asked Karla about her intent for rebuilding relationships, improving communication and building Greater trust cooperation communication as well as what specific problems she was referring to? Karla responded that those issues had been discussed in the meeting already tonight, like the breaks with the LaSunder, 20 Pound Tick and others. She stated that we are really on a precipice right now with some of these government management agencies and she thinks a lot of those have already been discussed tonight, but she thinks that continuing to do a lot of the things the way we've always done them might not be beneficial in the long run. Paul asked what specific changes would you make? Karla stated that she's been in the caving Community long enough that she has significant connections in various places, that doing things the way we've always done them isn't quite the answer and that she brings a different perspective. She also stated that she hasn't been involved in the meetings, hasn't been directly involved in any of the politics, but is well aware of what's going on with them. Again, Paul asked for something specific. Karla replied that a good example would be the cave management plan that was killed during the November meeting. She thought there was a heavy overtone in that management plan of trying to tell government agencies how to do their jobs and that is a very erroneous approach when government agents of any stripe, no matter if it's BLM forest service or whoever, don't appreciate being told how to do their jobs and that more cooperative listening is what they want. Paul asked Karla if she took any part in the long comment period and a working group for a year or two on the Recommendations draft. Karla responded "Yes, every time that the Grotto's asked for feedback. I put in my two cents worth."

- Chad P. commented that the work that went into the recommendations was very beneficial and thoughtful and that the most important thing about the CCS is that we're able to hear all the voices that are concerned about cave access and about our goals and about everybody having a voice. He stated the ultimate goal is about access and being able to work with each other, adding that the mentorship that goes into Chair and Vice Chair is a thoughtful process and by no means is there any animosity if we don't all agree on something, but we need to be able to talk about it.
- Jen Z expressed her appreciation for comments and added that the document was not a cave management plan but rather a draft of recommendations, simply trying to provide the FS with information that they were asking for, such as buffer zones for cave and karst areas, compiled in one document using Forest Service language and format for easy reference.
- Karla expounded that there is a real feeling among government people, and Alex Lyles of WRNF being one of them, that they are not being listened to, that this is not her personal opinion, but rather what she's heard from actual government representatives. She continued that they want to work with cavers and that the cooperative agreements that we need to have and your proposal brought up a lot of really good points in that but the primary crux of it is that when government agencies don't feel like they're being listened to, that's when they step on cavers and we all want to keep our caves open. We all want to manage them properly, conservation, education and all of those nice talking points that we all agree on. And it's the approach to that that I think is what's crucial. And we need to be more Cooperative with those government people and right now from

our perspective from the caver side of it. We say yes, we're doing that, but it's the government people who are saying no, you're not listening to us.

- Paul F. expressed that the only government person mentioned there was Alex and that he had a very different conversation with him.
- Karla M. replied there are others. He's not the only one but there are others.
- Paul F. questioned the anonymous sources.
- Karla M. stated that, "they wish to remain so for now, yes, which I realize lowers my credibility, but that's the way it has to be. I've been a government contractor for 14 years so I hear a lot of the government perspective on a lot of things such as conservation and management plans, not just with caves but in a variety of species every single day. I do work on trying to manage conservation of these species that are either threatened or endangered or that are headed that way if things aren't changed. So I have a deep understanding of that government perspective. I'm not a government employee but I understand them."
- Paul F. noted that Karla works for a private company which has for many years been working on a BLM project and asked if there would be a potential conflict Karla would ever face if the CCS had an open disagreement with BLM and you're working contract for them? Karla replied, "absolutely not because I'm a BLM contractor not a federal employee. So my loyalty is first and foremost to the caving community." Paul asked if there was any circumstance you would need to recuse yourself and Karla answered no and explained that, "sitting and listening to Federal people every single day is what makes me understand their perspective. Do I always agree with it? Absolutely not. Like I said, my loyalties are first and foremost to the caving Community, but it's that understanding of where people come from that would allow me to listen to what they have to say and understand where they're coming from and work to I'll just say I will try to bend that to work for cavers."
- Rob M. elaborated that there have been several points raised by the BLM, their concerns and things that they would like to see addressed with a new agreement. At the initial time of discussion, Rob commented that it would have been very appropriate for the folks from the floor who disagree with the direction to have brought something forward. Previously, Rob had the impression that there was a general consensus that moving forward with the BLM and addressing their concerns is a good and right thing, but then he was not hearing any comments from anyone on this call about how this is a bad idea and how this cooperative effort that we're currently rebuilding is somehow bad for cavers or how the current leadership doesn't have a handle on it. So I'm going to ask a very direct question: What have we done wrong with this current situation? And how can it be fixed moving forward? There was no further comment.
- Jen Z. acknowledged that continued access is a very important topic to cavers in Colorado and the CCS, but it should be paired with conservation as we come to the table as conservation partners with the Federal Land Management agencies, adding that if we come just as recreationalists asking for access then we will just be in the end of a long line of user groups or resource consumers. By collaborating as conservation partners, we can more readily build trust, communicate and move toward a better working partnership.
- Requests were made to take a vote and the vote was as follows:
 - Jen. Z and Chad P. -9 votes in favor (NCG 2, CWSG 2, SoCoMoGro 2, CSMG 2, TG 1)
 - Karla M. and Tristan S.- 5 votes in favor (FRG 2, CG 2, TG 1)
 - Jennifer Zedalis is voted Chair and Chad Pedigo voted Vice-Chair for 2024.
- Meeting adjourned at 10pm.