2018 CCH Meeting Report:

The 2018 Cave Conservancy of Hawaii annual meeting was held on Saturday, February 3 at the home of Kenneth Ingham and Diana Northup in Kula Kai Estates. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM.

Board members present included Peter Bosted, Emily Davis (as proxy for Kenneth Ingham), Steve Lewis, Stephen Smith, Fred Stone, president Don Coons, Treasure Barb Coons, and Vice President Mike Warner. Absent were secretary Ric Elhard, and directors Iolani Kauhane and Tomislav Gracinin. Megan Porter was present as recording secretary.

Guests included James Head, Rachel Myron, Alan Cobb, John Wilson, Mary Wilson, Jack Vose, and Wynelle Lau.

The board approved the 2017 meeting minutes.

Treasure Barb Coons reported $28,920 in dues and donation income for 2017. Anticipated expenses for 2018 including fees related to CCH properties, approximately $3,500 earmarked for an endowment fund currently being considered and a mandated cash reserve of $4000 leaves about $11,000 available for potential use.

Secretary Ric Elhard submitted a list of board acts compiled from past meeting minutes, along with a report on properties currently held, a list of established committees and prior minutes. This is part of an effort to review existing CCH records and to make these available as needed.

Directors elected to three year terms included: Don Coons, Kenneth Ingham, Megan Porter and Steve Lewis. These new directors were seated on the board. Candidates running for board positions and not elected were Tomislav Gracinin and Annette Summers Engel.

Officers appointed for 2018 in a closed meeting of elected board members were: President Tomislav Gracinin, Vice President Mike Warner, Secretary Ric Elhard and Treasurer Megan Porter.

The board thanked retiring President Don Coons and Treasurer Barb Coons for their many years of tireless effort on behalf of the CCH.

Membership Committee chair Emily Davis reported that she is stepping down from the committee pending a replacement. Interested candidates may contact one of the officers. One of the essential aspects of this position is the ability to attend most NSS Convention where many members choose to renew and donate each year.

Fundraising and Grant Application Committee chair Kenneth Ingham submitted a report noting that there were no grants applied for in 2017. Acceptance of credit cards for donation and membership was discussed. Peter Bosted pursued one grant from a local foundation which was not awarded at this time.
Don Coons was recognized as the chair of the standing Acquisition Committee. Potential properties were reviewed with no formal action by the board at this meeting.

An ad hoc Endowment Fund Committee was established with Tomislav Gracinin chairing. Committee members will review the options, including working with the National Speleological Foundation, and bring a detailed recommendation to the board for formation of a permanent endowment fund.

Diana Northup submitted an extensive research report to the board detailing ongoing microbiological research on CCH properties. This report is available upon request.

Megan Porter gave a brief report on bio inventory of CCH caves conducted in November 2017. Three caves on CCH properties were surveyed and invertebrate specimens were collected and submitted for identification. These included possible new species.

Peter Bosted was appointed as head of the Website Committee.

Peter Bosted reported on status of the Kahuku Kai Committee. Items include invasive plants, cave data collection and methodic reporting of any archaeological findings.

Peter Bosted reported on the Properties Committee the status of CCH properties. Some cleanup required on two properties, with CCH properties otherwise reported in good shape.

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was convened, in which audience members participate in discussion of any times brought before the committee. Motions for action by the board may be brought out of this committee meeting if desired by participants. The committee discussed weed control along the roadside on Kona Kai Blvd near CCH properties. The proposed endowment fund was discussed and input was given on methods and experiences using PayPal to receive funds. A discussion was held on the possibility, desirability and practicality of trails on selected CCH property. Member Bruce Dunlavy offered to assist in trail work. The discussion included a desire for a plan, consideration of archeological survey before any work or route selection, and means to facilitate careful consideration before any proposal proceed.

The board reviewed established standing committees and ad hoc Committees which currently include standing committees Membership, Fundraising and Grants, Acquisitions, Website and propert. The Ad hoc committees are: Endowment and Kahuku Kai.

The board ratified the CCH Directors list vote to extend permission for the Northup Project (ongoing research).

The board formally commends Peter Bosted for producing a well written and interesting NSS News article in fulfillment of the CCH's requirement to submit an article to the News after receiving an NSS grant.
The Date for the 2019 CCH Annual Meeting was set as February 19, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.