

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2018 AT
9:30 AM CST
KANKAKEE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA HEADQUARTERS
4320 W. TOTO ROAD
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366**

Chairman Chris Knochel called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Vince Urbano called the roll.

Members present

Kevin Breitzke	Craig Cultice	Michael Delp
Bill Emerson	Brad Hunter	Mark Kingma
Chris Knochel	John Law	Don Lode
Mike Novotney	Kim Peterson	Jerry Tippy
Vince Urbano	James Walstra	

Guests Present

Bob Barr		
George Bowman	Allan Cameron, Jr.	Allan Cameron III
Jimmy Carter	Eric Ceci	Angel Crawford
Aaron Damrill	Peg Kohring	Gus Ellicott
Christine Keil	Tom Larson	Chester Magiera
Lee Magiera	John Newsome	Courtney Papa
Harold T. Parker	State Representative Jim Pressel	
Grant Poule	John Shire	David Smith
Mark Wunderink		

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Chairman Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Breitzke made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 KRBC meeting. Vince Urbano seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody Melton reported that the finance report was included in the packet. There have been no expenditures since the September meeting. He is working to pay all bills that have recently been received and will create a finance sheet with Kevin Breitzke for simplification and use by next director. Kevin Breitzke moved to accept the finance report, Jim Walstra seconded and the report was accepted.

Old Business

Bob Barr gave an update on the progress of the work plan being prepared by CBBEL. They have made several trips down the river and are on schedule for completing the report on time. Review of data is being conducted and is also on time. Representative Pressel asked for clarification on completion date. Bob Barr said the preliminary findings and a draft cost will be available by the end of the year. The final report will be completed in the Spring.

Chris Knochel asked Bob Barr to explain more about the Draft Indiana Fluvial Erosion Hazard Mitigation Manual that has been published in draft form.

Jerry Tippy asked if the KRBC needs to endorse officially the work plan being completed by CBBEL. Representative Pressel thought it would be helpful to convince other legislators that there is local support. Jerry Tippy made a motion that the preliminary draft be submitted to Representative Gutwein, Representative Pressel, Senator Niemeyer and any other legislator for immediate review. Kevin Breitzke seconded and motion was approved. Kevin Breitzke made a motion that the draft also should be sent to Kankakee County Commissioner Wheeler, Iroquois County Commissioner John Shire, Illinois State Representative Tom Bennett, IDNR, IDEM, the Pokagon Band, and all Commissioners. Jerry Tippy seconded and the motion was approved.

Chris Knochel appointed the 8 county surveyors or their representative to a technical review committee with any other interested party invited to attend. The date will have to be established after the draft is in hand.

Jim Walstra said that there is some river work that needs to be done immediately and he feels that work will need to be undertaken even before the report is completed. Several counties are considering assessments for work even before this work plan is completed. Jasper County has begun the process of creating a Kankakee watershed assessment for its portion. Michael Novotney said that Porter County has a stormwater district assessment that can cover work in Porter County. John Law said that St. Joseph County has a river assessment too. Chris Knochel said that when the technical committee meets, the Surveyors should be prepared to say how their county is planning to fund any projects in the county.

Jody Melton told the Commission that he had created a book outlining needs of the KRBC for FY 20-21 as instructed. He submitted a request for \$2.5 million from requests from the counties. It was the feeling of the Board that the booklet is useful but we should not ask for specific funding. The funding needs will come from the CBBEL final report.

Kevin Breitzke, chair of the Executive Director search committee, told the KRBC that the committee interviewed 6 candidates and is preparing to make an offer soon. The hope is that someone can be brought on before the end of the year. John Law asked if the committee would be making the hire or if the full Commission would make the decision. Chris Knochel said that the search committee would be making the offer of employment with NIRPC's advice.

New Business

Chairman Knochel appointed Kim Peterson, Tom Larson, and Michael Novotney to serve as a nomination committee to recommend a slate of officers for 2019.

During public comment Peg Kohring from the Conservation Fund asked if the KRBC or any of the counties were interested in FEMA buyout funds. Jody Melton said that while there had been some talk with IDHS, the homes proposed for buyout were never for sale and so the process never happened.

Vince Urbano said he was not very happy with working with FEMA following the floods of this past spring. John Law said he felt the same way.

Jimmy Carter from Illinois asked about the StateLine Bridge. Jerry Tippy said that Federal Highway would not budge on the bridge and is still asking that the bridge be restored. He expressed his frustration with the logs and debris from Indiana floating into Illinois. The bridge catches a lot of the debris now. If the bridge is gone, there will be no stopping the logs floating downstream. He is not as concerned with the bridge or its being restored, he is more worried about the debris that the bridge stops. It is an ongoing problem without an easy solution. Hopefully the long range plan being prepared will address the problem at that location.

Dave Smith from IDNR Division of Water said that IDNR would be happy to host a KRBC meeting in Indianapolis if there was ever a need to meet there. It could provide opportunity to meet with various officials and they have the space. He also thanked Jody Melton for his years of service to the Kankakee and the KRBC. He also said that IDNR was beginning to create assessment teams looking at major flooding events and weather and putting plans for action together. These reports are being created by watershed and are a work in progress.

Since this is his last scheduled KRBC meeting, Jody Melton tried to give a goodbye speech but his emotions took over and he just kind of worked his way through his final remarks. There was a round of applause. He thanked the Commission for their support. Kevin Breitzke invited everyone to attend a going away party for Jody at the NIRPC office on Thursday morning November 8 at 9 am.

The next official meeting of the KRBC will be held after the surveyors meet to review the CBBEL report. Tentative date will be January 10, 2019.