

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012 AT
9:30 AM CDT
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.

Vice Chairman Ken Purze called the roll.

Members present

Eric Blad	Kevin Breitzke	Dennis Estok
Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel	Tom Larson
John Law	John Nelson	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub	Bruce Shepherd
Vince Urbano	Jim Walstra	

Guests Present

Incomplete list

Alan Cameron	Kerry Daily	Gus Ellicott
Jim Fahey	Marge Hefner	Harvey Nix
Brian Meunier	Lennie Noens	Joe Skelton
Jon Stolz	Joe Toth	David Zack

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Chris Knochel asked for self introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the December 15, 2011 meeting minutes. Tom Larson seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody Melton presented the finance report as ended in 2011. He explained each page and what each item means. Dennis Estok asked for a review of funds left in the 3 County Drainage Board account. Jody Melton agreed to work with Dennis to determine exact amount.

Included in the packet is the 2012 contract with NIRPC for services. Ken Purze made a motion to approve the contract with NIRPC and the 2012 budget. Kevin Breitzke seconded. The motion was approved unanimously after correcting a typo in the contract specifying that \$6,868 will be paid to NIRPC monthly for salary and fringe benefits.

Old Business

Vince Urbano reported that the Jasper County Drainage Board had received bids on the river levee project between County Line and US 231 and the Board is ready to let the contract but it will probably not begin until Fall 2012. The permitting agencies are reviewing the applications but it is pretty clear the permits will be issued.

Alan Cameron who is a landowner just downstream from this project said he is worried about access to the levee if it fails before the project is completed. Vince Urbano said his office will monitor the river before the project starts and try to keep any emergency from happening. He is limited by budget and geography in working this area but is confident that the repairs can be made and emergencies avoided.

Kevin Breitzke is working with the State and Feds to gain permits for several projects along the Porter County portion of the river. Initial meetings have been held and the projects will probably be divided into several different projects. He also hopes to begin this fall. His work is tricky because he is working near wetlands.

The sign committee of Kevin Breitzke, Tony Hendricks, and Vince Urbano passed out information concerning river mileage per the State of Indiana DNR. Discussion ensued concerning bridges, mileage markers, etc. The upper limit of boating for the Kankakee River should be Crumstown Highway in St. Joseph County. Further discussion is needed but it appears that each county will want to discuss signage and where those signs should appear although on bridges seem to be most logical.

Ken Purze said that the 3 County Drainage Board is working on the OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) grant. That is a grant of \$190,000 for logjam and tree removal in the Yellow River. They are also discussing watershed assessments and financing of proposed work in the Kankakee and Yellow River watersheds. There has been a great deal of discussion in the upper watershed of the Kankakee on how to institute a drainage assessment and they have been studying the assessment of the upper Yellow River Basin in Marshall, St. Joseph, Kosciusko, and Elkhart Counties.

New Business

Ken Purze introduced Jon Stolz, Kerry Dailey, Lenny Noens, and Brian Meunier with Christopher Burke Engineering Ltd. of Indianapolis, IN. CBBEL was hired by the 3 County Drainage Board to look at erosion in and along the Yellow River in Starke County. They are prepared to report on their findings.

This report contains the results of a preliminary engineering evaluation of streambank stability and erosion issues along three reaches of the Yellow River in Starke County: 1) along State Road 8 at CR 700 E; 2) near State Road 23 at CR150 S; and 3) near County Line Road north of CR 250 S. Future considerations are also discussed, including conclusions and recommendations for analysis and rehabilitation projects.

Existing Conditions

The banks along the Yellow River are experiencing active erosion. Homes adjacent to the river are subject to varying degrees of risk due to the bank instabilities, and the continued migration of the alluvial channel. Bluffs exist in several areas with bank heights of up to 20+ feet. Other, and much more numerous, unstable areas have eroded bank heights of 3 to 5 feet. The erosion of the channel bed and banks is resulting in excessive sediment

transport in the channel, leading to severe aggradation in downstream reaches.

Engineering Evaluation of Project Sites

CBBEL evaluated the condition of the main stem of the river to identify the potential project sites. Design discharges were approximated for bank stability mitigation strategies at each site. Results of a specific gage analysis are given, and key factors of grade control implementation are discussed. Finally, bank stability measures are discussed, and specific site rehabilitation measures to address the bank stability issues are described for each potential project site. Expected project costs ranging from \$895,800 to \$1.1 million were detailed.

“Road Map” for Long-Term Mitigation

The “Road Map” tasks include the estimation of the meander belt width through Starke County, suggestions for limiting the sediment transport capacity of the river, data requirements for design of sediment capacity-limiting infrastructure, and the proposal of a stream and tree monitoring programs. Development of larger data sets for future channel rehabilitation design was encouraged. Project permitting requirements are addressed, as well as future data needs for developing complete permit applications. Partnership opportunities are mentioned, including collaboration with government and higher education entities to help solve the unique issues found in the Yellow River basin. Potential funding sources were also described.

Recommendations

The following actions are recommended:

1. Implement a sediment monitoring program, as soon as feasible.
2. Select stream rehabilitation project for construction as a demonstration project.
3. Authorize CBBEL to proceed with design, permitting, and creation of construction documents.
4. Authorize CBBEL to assist in further developing the “Road Map” for long term control and stabilization of the Yellow River streambed and banks.

The entire report and the power point presentation is available at www.kankakeeriverbasin.org

Ken Purze explained that this venture comes as the Board continues to seek ways to control erosion and sedimentation in the Yellow River and downstream. Sand traps in the Yellow River have not been effective and

other measures need to be studied. DNR and IDEM should have interest in pursuing these avenues as well. The Corps of Engineers might be willing to come back into the discussion of efforts on controlling erosion in the Yellow River Basin. The Board has entered discussions with the US Geological Survey as well.

Other Business

The members again discussed drainage assessments and how they might work for the Kankakee projects. Tony Hendricks and Chris Knochel have been discussing a basin wide assessment, local assessments, and the purpose of assessments. There are several issues that need to be addressed.

Jody Melton passed out copies of the Little Calumet Basin bill that passed the House and is being debated in the Senate that creates an assessment system for the Little Calumet. Ken Purze asked that all members have this discussion with their local officials.

Alan Cameron asked that the KRBC look at the Newton County levee downstream from where the Jasper County levee is to be repaired. I 65, the 3 I Railroad, and County Line Road runs through the property. The levee west of I 65 is very narrow and needs work. He is interested in getting access to the levee from I 65 for repair. He is looking for support to get the INDOT to allow that access for levee repair.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be May 17, 2012 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CDT unless there is a conflict. The meeting was adjourned.