

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2013 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 Jim Lambert called the roll.

Members present

Eric Blad	Kevin Breitzke	Kent Danford
Dennis Estok	Larry Fisher	Tony Hendricks
Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert	Tom Larson
John Law	Kim Peterson	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Bruce Shepherd	Vince Urbano

Guests Present

Allan Cameron III	Allan Cameron Jr.	Kerry Daily
Julie Duttlinger	Jim Fahey	Christine Keil
Harvey Nix	Joe Skelton	David Zack

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Breitzke made a motion to approve the September 6, 2012 meeting minutes and the November 13, 2012 meeting minutes Ken Purze seconded and the minutes were approved.

Chris Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Finance Report

Jody Melton presented the end of year financial report for 2012 and a proposed budget for 2013. He also included the copy of the contract KRBC signs with NIRPC to provide staff and office services. He also presented a new page and format for tracking each counties' emergency and allocated river work funds. The new format makes reading the report less confusing for each county. Kevin Breitzke made a motion that the KRBC adopt the proposed budget as presented and approve the agreement with NIRPC. Ken Purze seconded. The motion was approved.

Old Business

The Three County Drainage Board will be transferring its administrative office from Starke County to LaPorte County. Tony Hendricks will assume the lead surveyor role.

Christopher Burke Engineering continues to study methods of slowing sediment and bank erosion along and in the Yellow River. Tony Hendricks is designing a project to stop erosion at one particular site near the Marshall-Starke Co. Line. CBBEL does not agree that Tony's design will work, but the Board told Tony to work on the design.

New Business

Dennis Estok said that at the same site there is a home which is going to be taken by river erosion. Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security has found some funds which could be used to purchase the property under their hazardous mitigation program. Dennis said Starke County would like the KRBC to take the lead on this project. The KRBC has authority to purchase land and to work with other government units. Ken Purze made a motion, seconded

by Vince Urbano that the KRBC be the lead agency to sponsor and receive this piece of property working with Starke County and IN Homeland Security.

Vince Urbano outlined a project in Jasper County west of US 231 on the Kankakee levee. A series of homes sit atop the levee and bank erosion is threatening to breach the levees and even threatens some of the homes. Access to work on the riverbank is extremely limited because of the position of the houses, septic systems, and the Cameron Ditch which runs between the County Road and the homes. Vince has been working with a local contractor to estimate how much money it would take to repair the levee around the homes. His best estimate is about \$284,000.

There is a lot and home for sale on the riverbank. Access to that portion of the bank would allow work to be done along all the homes with minimal effects. A discussion was held about the powers of the KRBC and the same authority that allows the KRBC to act in Starke County would also work in Jasper County. Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Jim Lambert that the KRBC attempt to purchase the lot in question to give the Jasper County Drainage Board easier access to the levee. After some discussion, the motion was approved.

Ken Purze reported that the LaPorte County Drainage Board and the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District have begun a watershed study of the Kankakee Union Mills Mill Creek Watershed.

The Lomax Station area is still being discussed by several entities, including the 3 County Drainage Board and the NW IN Paddlers Association. There is still interest in acquiring river frontage at that site for parking and canoe launching. Jon Stolz of CBBEL has offered to search for grant money that could be used for creating this project. Jody Melton, Ken Purze, and Jon Stolz met with Dr. Pula and Dr. Connolly, history professors from Purdue North Central and discussed the Lomax site in terms of historical value and student research. Jody Melton submitted a copy of a letter he received from Chancellor Dworkin of PNC indicating Purdue's interest in participating with the KRBC at the Lomax Station site to assess its value. It could provide research opportunities for the students and perhaps help with the grant process. Jon Stolz sent an email addressed to the KRBC saying he thought it was time the KRBC officially endorsed this project to allow one unit of government to be in charge of the initial planning steps. Ken Purze made a motion, seconded by Bruce Shepherd that the KRBC is interested in

pursuing a project within the Lomax Station area and that the Director of the KRBC be considered the point of contact. The motion was approved.

The legislative session is underway in Indianapolis. Each member was asked to contact their district legislator and remind them of the KRBC request for \$2.5 million for the next biennium.

The KRBC was given an award by the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association for their help in the fall float and overall helping to keep the channel free of debris and safe. Tony Hendricks and Joody Melton represented the KRBC in accepting the award at the Paddlers annual luncheon.

Tony Hendricks asked about the issue of creating a new Kankakee River Basin Commission logo. He presented a series of logos including the present one and the Commission members voted on which logo they preferred to adopt. The winner is the letterhead on these minutes and a motion by Ken Purze seconded by Jim Lambert was approved to adopt this logo. Due to time and further consideration any discussion on amending the mission and vision statement was postponed.

Alan Cameron asked if he could receive some help in defining and correcting problems to the river levee on his property between I 65 and the 3 I Railroad. That is in Newton County and Chris Knochel will follow up.

John Law brought to the attention of the KRBC SB 547, a bill to establish a water resource authority and change the nature of the Natural Resources Commission. Vince Urbano made a motion seconded by Ken Purze that the KRBC oppose SB 547. Jody Melton said he would watch the legislation to see what needed to be done, if anything, by the KRBC about this bill.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be April 4, 2013 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST unless there is a conflict. The meeting was adjourned.