

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013 AT  
9:30 AM CDT  
KANKAKEE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA HEADQUARTERS  
4320 W. TOTO ROAD  
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366**

Vice Chairman Ken Purze called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Jim Lambert called the roll.

*Members present*

Kevin Breitzke	Larry Fisher	Myrna Harder
Tony Hendricks	Tom Larson	John Law
Kim Peterson	Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze
Gerry Scheub	Mike Schoonveld	
Ken Sebasty, Sr.	Vince Urbano	James Walstra

*Guests Present*

Chris Brown	Allen Cameron	
Jim Carter	Edgar Corns	Kerry Dailey
Jason Durr	Gus Ellicott	Joe Exl
Dan Gossman	Marge Hefner	Harvey Nix
Joe Skelton	Joe Toth	David Zack

*Staff Present*

Jody Melton

Jody Melton reported that each of the 8 SWCD offices has been contacted about membership. Marshall County has appointed Rance Glinge, St. Joseph County is looking for an interested supervisor and Starke County has

not replied. Eric Blad sent a letter thanking the KRBC and commending the work of the Commission.

Ken Purze added an item to new business - E. Natural Resources Commission

### **Approval of Minutes**

Jim Lambert made a motion to approve the August 22, 2013 meeting minutes. Kevin Breitzke seconded. The minutes were approved.

Ken Purze asked for self-introductions from all guests.

### **Finance Report**

Jody Melton presented the financial report for 2013. All county funds have been contributed to the KRBC. Russ Pumroy made a motion to accept the report, Ken Purze seconded and the report was accepted.

### **Old Business**

Jasper County Surveyor Vince Urbano has met with regulatory agencies and put together a bid packet for work on the river levee from US 231 east. He is also working with the homeowners of houses west of US 231.

Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub said the Range Line Bridge will be replaced starting June 2014. There are legal matters concerning right of ways to clear up. Lake County will also begin the restoration of the State Line historical bridge as was agreed in the two bridge agreement. Jody Melton explained that the bayou within Shady Shores is not flowing freely and that the bayou will need to be dredged to make it work. That type of activity will need state and federal permits and needs to be handled by the Lake County Drainage Board. The Drainage Board and the KRBC can seek funding for that project as the permits are being obtained.

Tony Hendricks, LaPorte County Surveyor, said that a log jam had been removed within the Kankakee River in LaPorte. He also reported that the Three County Drainage Board had authorized obstruction removal within the Yellow River for approximately \$55,000. He also announced that on

October 20<sup>th</sup> the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association will have its fourth annual fall float from English Lake to Dunns Bridge.

The Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District has filed an application with IDEM for a 319 grant to study the upper watershed of the Yellow River. There is a Four County Drainage Board with assessment funds that will be conducting maintenance on the Yellow River in Plymouth. The KRBC may become involved with land acquisition to cut costs.

Abonmarche Engineers is working with Newton County to identify public and private ditches within the wetlands of the DeHaan Ditch where it joins the Kankakee. The Jasper-Newton County Joint Drainage Board will be beginning a project on the DeHaan in Jasper County that will continue into Newton to the outlet at the Kankakee.

Porter County Drainage Board is awaiting permits for work near the Pleasant Township Ditch and the Heimberg Ditch. There were some logs removed from the county bridges earlier.

The St. Joseph County Drainage Board has cleaned about two miles of Pine Creek upstream of the Kankakee. They are awaiting permits on cleaning the upper Dixon-Place Ditch (Kankakee River) on the south side of South Bend. St. Joseph County Energy, a project to build a natural gas fired electric generating plant will discharge into the Niespodziany Ditch and then into the Kankakee. The Drainage Board asked for a public meeting but has not gotten a response from IDEM. John Law said that he was told the permit has been granted without holding a public meeting. There was a great amount of discussion about whether the permit has been issued and what is really happening. The Board asked Jody Melton to send a letter to IDEM to find out what is going on. Mike Aylesworth from the South Bend IDEM office will work with Jody Melton to find out what is happening.

Kerry Dailey from Christopher Burke Engineering talked about the Yellow River study CBBEL performed for the Three County Drainage Board and the projects they recommended. There is a copy of a plan concerning the meander zones of the Yellow which has been given to the Starke County Plan Commission.

Lomax Station is on hold with an unwilling seller at this time. The seller is going to obtain a different appraisal.

The State Budget Committee met in September and \$530,000 from the 2011 appropriation was released. Chris Knochel, Ken Purze, and Jody Melton represented the KRBC at that meeting

### **New Business**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) installation and operation of a water-quality monitoring sentry gage at the USGS gage 05515500 on the Kankakee River at Davis, Indiana has been delayed by federal sequestration.

Through the Bicentennial Trust Commission of IDNR, there is money available for land acquisition in Indiana. It is to be used to purchase land for conservation and recreation purposes. There may be some properties within the Kankakee Basin. The KRBC is still working with Homeland Security on the Starke County house on the Yellow River and may work with Marshall County in the city of Plymouth.

The Rivers Edge Lease committee will review the existing lease for the next meeting.

Ken Purze appointed the nominating committee of Russ Pumroy, Jim Lambert, and Tom Larson to prepare a slate of KRBC officers for 2014.

Ken Purze talked about his meeting with Natural Resources Commission law judge Stephen Lucas and discussion of the KRBC and IDNR. Kevin Breitzke mentioned that the NIRPC Environmental Management Policy Committee has expressed concern that no residents of the Northwest Indiana are on that board.

### **Public comment**

Alan Cameron discussed the Newton County levee west of I 65. He thinks there is a great need for work and emphasis downstream. The 3 I railroad bridge is a hazard and causes threats to the levee in that area.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be December 10, 2013 at the auditorium of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission in Portage at 9:30 am.