

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 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*

Kevin Breitzke	Tim Drenth	Dennis Estok
Larry Fisher	Myrna Harder	Tony Hendricks
Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert	John Law
Kim Peterson	Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze
Mike Schoonveld	Gerry Scheub	Bruce Shepherd
Vince Urbano	James Walstra	

*Guests Present*

Neil Anderson	Jim Carter	John Coulter
Kerry Daily	Jason Durr	Gus Ellicott
Julie Duttlinger	Joe Exl	Jim Fahey
Rachel A. Hannigan	Christine Keil	Don Lode
Harvey Nix	Marylou Renshaw	John R. Sabo
Joe Skelton	Jim Sweeney	Joe Toth
Mark Wunderink	David Zack	

*Staff Present*

Jody Melton

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the April 4, 2013 meeting minutes. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the minutes were approved.

Chris Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

## **Finance Report**

Jody Melton presented the financial report for 2013 and explained its new format. Ken Purze made a motion to accept the report, Kevin Breitzke seconded and the report was accepted.

## **Watershed Planning**

Marylou Renshaw was introduced by Jody Melton. She is the Chief of the Watershed Assessment and Planning branch of IDEM. At the last meeting of the KRBC, watershed planning was discussed and the opportunities for planning in the Basin led to an invitation for further discussion. Ms. Renshaw thanked the KRBC for asking her to come and defined watershed planning and a watershed plan.

A watershed plan is a strategy and a work plan for achieving water resource goals that provides assessment and management information for a geographically defined watershed. It includes the analyses, actions, participants, and resources related to development and implementation of the plan. The watershed planning process uses a series of cooperative, iterative steps to characterize existing conditions, identify and prioritize problems, define management objectives, and develop and implement protection or remediation strategies as necessary.

The primary purpose of a watershed management plan is to guide watershed coordinators, resource managers, policy makers, and community organizations to restore and protect the quality of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands in a given watershed. The plan is intended to be a practical tool with specific recommendations on practices to improve and sustain water quality. These are also “living documents”, meaning that as conditions change over time in a watershed, the plan must be reexamined and revised to reflect goals that have been achieved or not met.

There was a great deal of dialogue among commissioners and Ms. Renshaw about activities taking place within the Kankakee Basin and activities that could and should be taking place. Each county has ordinances adapted to the local situation and each sub watershed is slightly different.

IDEM can be a major partner in funding for Kankakee projects designed for water quality and water quantity projects. The board is interested in seeing watershed planning take place through the efforts of local groups encouraged by the KRBC.

### **Old Business**

The Three County Board continues working with USGS and the monitoring gages. Christopher Burke is completing preliminary plans for a project to stabilize a portion of the Yellow River bank in eastern Starke County.

LaPorte County Drainage Board is sponsoring a 319 application to IDEM for the Mill Creek watershed in LaPorte County.

Porter County Drainage Board is completing several levee repair projects and has several awaiting permits. The logjams at the county bridges were recently cleaned out.

Lake County is waiting for the river to go down to complete the project to install the culvert through the road into Shady Shores. The material is on hand but the river has not gone down enough to let construction begin.

Newton County Drainage Board is working with Abonmarche Engineers to define the lower end of the DeHaan Ditch where it enters the Kankakee and delineate public and private ditches and wetlands. 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. Newton has to make some adjustments for the better drainage.

The St. Joseph County Drainage Board approved a drainage permit for St. Joseph County Energy, a project to build a natural gas fired electric generating plant which will discharge into the Niespodziany Ditch and then into the Kankakee. At the time the Drainage Board was told there were no pollutants to cause concern. This that time IDEM has published a anti-degradation notice which lists several toxics to be contained in the discharge

but at acceptable levels. There has been a call for a public meeting to discuss the permit and the discharge with IDEM.

## **New Business**

The budget bill passed with \$1 million allocated the KRBC for projects.

The Commissioners reviewed the Mission and Vision Statements of the KRBC. On a motion by Ken Purze, seconded by Jim Lambert the KRBC voted unanimously to continue with the current Mission and Vision Statements.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Kankakee River Basin Commission coordinates the water resources and water-related land resources of the Kankakee River basin in Indiana by promoting and protecting the varied aspects of the drain infrastructure with projects for flood control, drainage maintenance and environmental enhancements for natural resource conservation and recreational development.**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

**The Kankakee River Basin Commission will provide an organizational environment to promote and sustain the development of surface and ground water for agriculture, residential, recreational and commercial purposes; to address water quality and instream issues; to restore and protect fisheries; wetlands and aquatic habitat; and to ensure future availability of water supplies in the basin.**

The next meeting of the KRBC will be August 22, 2013 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CDT unless there is a better time to get someone from IDEM for the watershed planning discussion. The meeting was adjourned.