

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 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.

Vice Chairman Ken Purze called the roll.

Members present

Eric Blad	Kevin Breitzke	Larry Fisher
Myrna Harder	Christine Keil for Tony Hendricks	
Chris Knochel	Tom Larson	
John Law	Kim Peterson	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub	Ken Sebasty, Sr.
Bruce Shepherd	Vince Urbano	James Walstra

Guests Present

	Jim Carter	John Coulter
Jason Durr	Gus Ellicott	Joe Exl
Dan Gossman	Marge Hefner	Harvey Nix
Joe Skelton	Joe Toth	David Zack

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the June 6, 2013 meeting minutes. Russ Pumroy seconded, noting that on page 3 the word 'Boar' should be 'Board' and the minutes were approved with the correction.

Chris Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Finance Report

Jody Melton presented the financial report for 2013. Ken Purze made a motion to accept the report, Russ Pumroy seconded and the report was accepted.

Old Business

Ken Purze asked that the LaPorte County report in old business be listed last in old business.

Jasper County has plans ready for levee work from US 231 to SR 49 or as east as the money will go. Permits should be received within the next 3 months. Vince Urbano is also working with the area of houses west of US 231.

Lake County has completed the project to install the culvert through the road into Shady Shores to open up the bayou. While there has been one harsh critic, the community is happy with the culvert and awaiting a plan and action to clean out the bayou. There is no progress to report on the bridge at the State Line or the Range Line bridge yet. The Drainage Board is working on the Niemeyer Ditch west of US 41 to clean it out. The levee itself was upgraded last year.

The Marshall County Drainage Board has a project on the Yellow River which cannot proceed without land acquisition. The acquisition will be done by the KRBC and that will allow maintenance work to be performed by the Board. The acquisition will be funded from the 2013 KRBC appropriation.

Newton County Drainage Board has contracted with Abonmarche Engineers to remove or replace the 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. Newton has to make some adjustments for the better drainage.

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. Permits for the culvert and gate at the Heimberg Ditch should be arriving shortly. There will be some upcoming work in the Baums Bridge area.

The St. Joseph County Drainage Board is watching the area near the old ethanol plant in South Bend. Groundwater that used to be drawn from the area by the plant has started flooding basements so the City of South Bend is pumping into a ditch which flows into the Kankakee. The ditch will be cleaned for about 6 miles. The status of the plant is not clear.

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. There has been a call for a public meeting to discuss the permit and the discharge with IDEM. The Drainage Board asked for a public hearing but has not gotten a response from IDEM.

Ken Sebasty, Sr. said he is not convinced the pumping at the ethanol plant is really working. He also feels that South Bend Energy will treat the water discharging into the Niespodziany and it will not affect the Kankakee.

Starke County has removed several log jams within the Yellow this summer. Dennis Estok will be looking to remove some other log jams. There is a pending application to obtain one house on the Yellow River bank. The application is with Indiana Homeland Security.

Ken Purze asked about attendance of members representing the 8 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It was noted that there was a lack of attendance from some counties. The county SWCD must be represented by a supervisor of the SWCD. Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Kevin Breitzke that the Chairman sends a letter to each of the eight SWCDs asking that they submit in writing the name of the supervisor who represents that county to the KRBC. The motion passed.

Lomax Station is still a project in progress. There has been a meeting with the Bicentennial Trust Commission to discuss what might happen. An appraiser has been hired to give a better handle on the finances.

The State Budget Committee will be meeting in September. Paperwork has been submitted to get the KRBC projects on the agenda for the release of the remaining \$530,000 from the 2011 appropriation. The meeting is scheduled for September 14 at Ivy Tech in Gary. It is not officially an agenda item yet.

LaPorte County Drainage Board has applied for the 319 Grant for Mill Creek watershed project with IDEM.

New Business

Ken Purze, Tony Hendricks, and Christine Kiel met with Scott Morlock of USGS and discussed new hydrologic gauges available and the possibility of replacing the present gauge at Davis with a new Sentry gauge. This would directly measure downstream of the Mill Creek project area. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) proposes to install and operate a water-quality monitoring sentry gage at the USGS gage 05515500 on the Kankakee River at Davis, Indiana. A sentry gage monitors the concentrations of suspended sediment, nitrate, and phosphorus, and values of five water-quality parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, and turbidity), along with the stream stage, stream discharge, and precipitation data already measured at the gage.

	LaPorte County	USGS	Total
Installation (one time, WY 2013)	\$12,000	\$32,000	\$44,000
Operation & Maintenance (WY 2013)	\$ 2,600	\$2,000	\$4,600
Operation & Maintenance (WY 2014)	\$ 35,000	\$20,000	\$55,000
Totals	\$ 49,600	\$54,000	\$103,600
USGS cost for installation includes nitrate sensor (\$24,000) and cost-share funding (\$8,000)			

The LaPorte County Drainage Board would like to ask the KRBC to pay the cost for the Drainage Board to get this gage installed through WY2014. Ken Purze made a motion that the KRBC fund this endeavor. Gerry Scheub seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Vince Urbano asked about how the old gauge would be used. USGS recycles them and probably will put the old one somewhere else.

There are two other Sentry gauges going into the Basin. One will be at Shelby replacing the present gauge on the Kankakee; the other will be at

Foresman on the Iroquois River. We will be trying to get one at the State Line. There are other sponsors for those gauges. The KRBC won't be sharing in those costs.

Larry Fisher made a motion that the KRBC support the 319 grant request of the Marshall County SWCD for a study of the upper Yellow River basin. Kevin Breitzke seconded. Ken Purze pointed out how consist this application will be with the regional approach the KRBC is taking in watershed activities. Jody Melton as Executive Director of the KRBC will serve on the planning board for this project as an in kind service to the Marshall County SWCD.

The Northwest Indiana Partnership for Clean Water will be hosting a Hoosier Riverwatch workshops on Friday, October 18th. Hoosier Riverwatch is a statewide volunteer stream monitoring program coordinated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The mission of Hoosier Riverwatch is to involve the public in becoming active stewards of our rivers and streams through watershed education and monitoring. For information contact Joe Exl, Senior Water Resource Planner with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Jody Melton will also send out additional information when details are final.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be October 10, 2013 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CDT.