

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 AT
9:30 AM CST
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

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| Kevin Breitzke | Dennis Estok | Tony Hendricks |
| Mark Kingma | Jim Lambert | |
| Tom Larson | John Law | Kim Peterson |
| Ken Porter | Russ Pumroy | Ken Purze |
| Gerry Scheub | Vince Urbano | James Walstra |

Guests Present

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mike Aylesworth | Robert Barr | Siavash Beik |
| Kathe Brunnick | Allen Cameron | Jim Carter |
| Eric Courtright | Jason Durr | Bill Emerson |
| Jim Fahey | John Goss | Christine Keil |
| Don Lode | Brian Meunier | Harvey Nix |
| Lyle Patchett | Joe Skelton | Larry Smith |
| Joe Toth | David Zack | |

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Vice Chairman Ken Purze welcomed new members Ken Porter from Starke County and Mark Kingma from Jasper County.

Vice Chairman Ken Purze asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody Melton pointed out Pages 5 and 6 of the meeting packet. The state appropriations are being used. There is \$33,210.00 left in the 2009 appropriation for Lake County which will be spent near Shady Shores. The 3 County Board is wrapping up projects with the last of their 2011 appropriation and Porter is still waiting on Corps permits to finish out its 2100 funds. \$605,000 for 2013 has been released and almost \$550,000 spent. There will be a need to return to the State Budget Committee to seek release of the last \$395,000 from 2013.

The operating expenses are self-explanatory. Several counties have not paid their dues to the KRBC for 2015, mostly because claims were not filed. It will be taken care of. Jim Walstra moved to accept the finance report, Jim Lambert seconded and the report was accepted.

Old Business

Jasper County Surveyor Vince Urbano reported that Jasper County has suffered several areas of erosion due to the slope of the bank. Vince is looking at preparing plans to armor some of those areas. He would like to create better slopes for greater strength. This will be a difficult undertaking with engineering and permit difficulties.

Gerry Scheub said that Jody Melton had included a letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Service opposing the Singleton Quarry permit. Gerry also mentioned the Range Line Bridge being reopened and that the State Line rehabilitation will begin planning.

Bill Emerson, Lake County Surveyor, explained his office's role in the review of the Singleton Quarry permit. He also talked about the flooding in Shady Shores during June.

The Surveyors Office reviewed the Singleton project as submitted by the applicant and used the technical standards within county ordinances. The review showed that the applicant addressed design and met the requirements. The office shared their review with IDEM to ensure accuracy. Mr. Emerson said that the discharge is to be 15 million gallons a day of water into the Singleton Ditch and that the 52 million gallons per day is a rumored number. The quarry will not be allowed to pump when the Singleton Ditch is in flood stage. While the favorable technical review was not popular with local residents, it has to stand on its merits. The Singleton Ditch carries great loads of sand. That sedimentation is a red flag downstream and into Illinois.

LaPorte County has removed several trees from the Kankakee River and will study areas for additional silt traps.

Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor, said the possible land acquisition will not take place because the landowner wanted more than appraised value. There is another parcel of interest.

John Law of the St. Joseph County Surveyor's Office said there were some breaks along the Miller Ditch during the recent flooding and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi had flooding on their property, more than their design could handle. They are working with NRCS for a redesign to add capacity.

New Business

Siavash Beik for CBBEL spoke of the work they have been performing on the Yellow River and the erosion issue they are addressing. CBBEL has been contracted by Starke County to seek solutions for the sediment problem. Sand is a major problem in the Kankakee River channel and studies have shown much of it is Yellow River based.

Robert Barr from IUPUI working with CBBEL explained the complexity of the Yellow. Field studies throughout the Yellow River Basin began to narrow down the areas of erosion. USGS stream gages have quantified the erosion amounts. They have divided the Yellow into 4 sections. The upper part of the Yellow in Marshall County show that sand is being transported through the system; the banks are stable, the channel is stable. At the Starke/Marshall County line the Yellow begins to erode and move sand from one side to the other. The channel is trying to narrow itself to carry sediment through. The Yellow River has high banks with trees being undercut by the water. The trees fall in. The geology of the Yellow River

changes in Starke County. It becomes very sandy. The section between the county line and Knox is Section 3 and seems to be the main source of sand. Brian Meunier from CBBEL explained how the gages at the county line, at Knox, and at Brems Road show what happens to the sand. Section 3 deposits large piles of sand just upstream of the Knox gage which is just upstream of the channelized portion of the Yellow. Large flood events with heavy flow cause the piles of sand above Knox to flush into the Kankakee River downstream. The channel cannot transport sediment naturally; it takes a heavy flow to push large amounts downstream. While there has been speculation for years, the USGS gages have provided data for proof. Bob Barr said their recommendation is that conservation practices, such as cover crops should be encouraged in the headwater, flattening side slope/2 stage ditching be implemented in tributaries, design and estimate cost of an initial pilot channel for the problem areas by creating a low flow inset channel by narrowing the width at bank full depth through addition of stable shelves by using tree trunks and root systems at the toe of the banks, continue with sediment gages, and look to the Kankakee for similar assessments.

Discussion among the members talked about permitting problems of working in the floodway and the departure from usual procedures. Would a project like this be practical? It has been used in Colorado. This type of management practice would need to receive support from a group such as the Indiana Silver Jackets. Funding of a large scale project could be a challenge but a pilot project needs to be constructed to test the approach. Russ Pumroy made a motion that CBBEL prepare a proposal for Starke County to create such a pilot project, Tom Larson seconded. The motion was clarified to state that the proposal to be created would be a cost estimate and an engineering proposal for a pilot project within the Yellow River. The proposal would be to the Starke County Drainage Board who in turn would seek funding from the KRBC. Motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Purze announced that the Sandhill Crane Fun Float on the Kankakee would take place on Sunday October 17 sponsored by the NW IN Paddlers Association.

Jody Melton announced that the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi's have a grant available for wetland development to be used as mitigation for one of their projects.

Jody Melton also told the members that WOTUS has been stayed by a North Dakota judge for 13 states in the West. Indiana is not affected by that stay and EPA is beginning to enforce this. There is an effort to get all 50 states to be included in the stay.

The State Line Bridge has been cleaned of all debris.

Captain Will Winans of Chicago sent a letter with pictures to the KRBC showing the sand deposits with the Kankakee River in Illinois.

Kankakee River Days will be held September 15-18, 2015 with canoemobiles from Wilderness Inquiry. Over 700 grade schoolers have been signed up for this event. The KRBC contributed \$25,000 toward this event.

David Zack from Illinois said that they are faced with immediate problems. While the Yellow River project is commendable for the future, Dave said that they are swamped by water and sand. He would like the KRBC to try to store more water in Indiana.

Eric Courtright from Thayer said that north Newton County gets water from the river because Thayer has no protective banks. They have houses being threatened.

Mike Polan of LaPorte County showed posters that Tony Hendricks had made for Kankakee River awareness.

The next regular meeting of the KRBC will be held on November 5, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned.