

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 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.

Substitute Secretary Jim Kreiger called the roll.

*Members present*

Kevin Breitzke	Bill Crase	
Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel	Jim Kreiger
Tom Larson	John Law	Kim Peterson
Ken Porter	Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze
Vince Urbano	James Walstra	

*Guests Present*

Robert Barr	Siavash Beik	Kathe Brunnick
Les Burton	Allan Cameron Jr.	Jim Carter
Jim Fahey	John Goss	Steve Heim
Christine Keil	Matthew Linn	Sheila Martin
Harvey Nix	Dan Plath	Michael Risner
Joe Skelton	Larry Smith	Jim Sweeney
Joe Toth	Otto Warner	Mark Wunderink
David Zack		

*Staff Present*

Jody Melton

Chairman Chris Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting. James Walstra seconded and the minutes were approved.

## **Finance Report**

The finance report was presented for the end of calendar year 2015. A proposed budget for 2016 was discussed. The agreement between NIRPC and KRBC for staff services is included in the packet. After an audit by the State Board of Accounts the KRBC was asked to pass resolutions concerning credit card protocols.

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2016 as presented. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the budget was approved.

Ken Purze made a motion, seconded by John Law to adopt Resolution 16-1 concerning KRBC credit card and resolution was approved.

Ken Purze made a motion to adopt Resolution 16-2 concerning KRBC fuel credit card, seconded by Kevin Breitzke and resolution was approved.

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the agreement with NIRPC for services for 2016. Russell Pumroy seconded and the agreement was approved.

## **Old Business**

Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor, is going to receive Corps permission for the Crooked Creek project. He has been promised the permission for the Phillips Ditch project. The Heimberg project is due to be bid soon. Russ Pumroy asked for an additional up to \$20,000 for sand for the project. He made a motion to that effect. Ken Purze seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Russell Pumroy also made a motion, seconded by Ken Purze, that the Crooked Creek project would be funded for the last 1000 feet by the KRBC allotment. Motion was approved.

Tom Larson led a discussion about the culverts at Shady Shores in Shelby. The culverts that connect the bayou with the river are not sealing tightly and the river bank at the downstream culvert is eroding. The Lake County Drainage Board, the Surveyor, the County Highway Department and the KRBC are conferring about a solution.

Ken Purze asked Kevin Breitzke to explain the new Stormwater Management Board and fee levied upon property in unincorporated Porter County. Kevin said that since Porter County was a MS4 county there was a need to address stormwater beyond legal drains. The old drainage assessments were not capable of handling the additional management required of the county. So a levy has been assessed to every property owner in the unincorporated county and that money will be used to address drainage. There will be no more drainage assessments for legal drains and any money already accumulated will be spent down and not continued. The County Commissioners will serve as Drainage Board in conjunction with the new Stormwater Management Advisory Board. For KRBC purposes, Porter County will have assessment money for work on the Kankakee River.

Chris Knochel said Newton County has contracted with Abonmarche Engineering to survey the embankment from I 65 to the 3 I railroad to determine how the bank can be repaired.

Tony Hendricks said LaPorte County is evaluating the sediment trap just upstream of the Davis gage on the Kankakee River.

### **New Business**

The Upper Yellow River Basin Watershed Management Plan is an undertaking of the Marshall County SWCD with financial support from LARE and the KRBC. Matthew Linn from CardnoNew is the project manager and told the KRBC that this started in 2015. The first year has been water quality sampling and will be followed by demonstrations of best management practices areas. Much of this work partners well with the Starke County project downstream of the Marshall County Line. It is one of the three emphases that the KRBC is pushing; sediment and water retention, bank stabilization, and watershed management study. There is a strong steering committee in Marshall County and support for this Yellow river plan. Matthew Linn also said Marshall County SWCD also received funds from EPA to study functional wetlands in this same upper watershed. It will rank areas by function and provide insight on areas of possible restoration.

Tony Hendricks asked Jody Melton to compile a list of past and present projects on the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers. Surveyors will submit work to Jody to help compile this list.

Tom Larson announced that Tim Lathrop from USGS is going to have a public meeting at the Shelby Fire Station on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to explain to those interested in how the new Sentry gages work and what they measure.

Bob Barr and Siavash Beik spoke of the progress on the Yellow River work they are undertaking. They are still collecting some data and are having meetings with regulatory agencies to explain the concepts they are creating. They have talked to the Silver Jackets, IDNR, and IDEM. They have met with State Farm Bureau. So far the meetings have been positive. They also met with NRCS State staff.

There is a meeting with Illinois interests set up by Rep. Robin Kelly of Illinois to have a conversation about mutual interests and needs of the two states.

The demonstration site was explained as to why that site was selected. They would be willing to look at other sites. The site is indicative of the area as a whole and will provide enough distance to make a worthwhile example. The emphasis is now on the Yellow River. When will the work progress downstream to help the lower Kankakee in Indiana and Illinois? Bob Barr says they need time to analysis the Kankakee watershed as they did the Yellow. Hopefully that analysis of the Kankakee can be done at the same time as the Yellow River demonstration site is completed.

Russell Pumroy reporting for the nominating committee made a motion to re-elect the current officers for 2016. Jim Walstra seconded and the officers were re-elected. Chris Knochel is Chairman, Ken Purze is Vice Chairman, Kevin Breitzke is Treasurer and Jim Lambert is Secretary.

Dan Plath said the designation of the Kankakee River as a National Water Trail is still awaiting approval from the National Park Service. He expects an announcement on June 4. There is a website to visit, [kankakeeriverwatertrail.org](http://kankakeeriverwatertrail.org).

Allan Cameron said that there are always logs at the 3 I Bridge and he worries about canoeing danger there. The Lake County Highway Department stabilized the bank downstream of the Range Line Bridge.

The next KRBC meeting will be held on May 12, 2016 at 9:30 am.  
The meeting was adjourned.