

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017 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 Vince Urbano called the roll.

Members present

Kevin Breitzke	Craig Cultice	Bill Crase
Mark Kingma	Chris Knochel	Jim Krueger
Tom Larson	John Law	Randy Matthys
Mike Novotney	Duane Parry	Kim Peterson
Ken Porter	Ken Purze	Gene Schmidt
Jerry Tippy	Vince Urbano	James Walstra

Guests Present

Bob Barr	Siavash Beik	Kathe Brunnick
Les Burton	Bryan Boggs	Robert Clendenin
Gus Ellicott	Steve Engelking	Don Lode
Harvey Nix	Randy Peterson	John Rogner
Joe Skelton	Mark Wunderink	David Zack

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Jody Melton welcomed new members Craig Cultice from Marshall County, Mike Novotney from Porter County and Jerry Tippy from Lake County.

Chairman Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting. Tom Larson seconded and the minutes were approved.

Election of Officers for 2017

Russell Pumroy, retired, presented the slate of officers for 2017. The nominating committee recommended that Chris Knochel remain Chairman; Ken Purze, Vice Chairman; Kevin Breitzke, Treasurer; and Vince Urbano, Secretary. Bill Crase made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation and elect the officers as named. Randy Matthys seconded and the officers were elected for 2017.

Finance Report

The end of the 2016 calendar year budget report was presented. A budget for calendar year 2017 was presented, as well as the yearly contract for services with NIRPC. Ken Purze made a motion to approve the 2017 budget. Tom Larson seconded and the budget was passed. Ken Purze then made a motion to sign the agreement with NIRPC for services to the KRBC for 2017. Tom Larson seconded and the agreement was approved.

Old Business

Randy Peterson from Abonmarche Engineering distributed drawings of engineering work Abonmarche has undertaken on the banks of the Kankakee River in Newton County to stabilize the bank just west of I 65. The project area is about 8000 feet where the bank is eroding and the bank is less than 4 feet wide in several places. The bank has been surveyed, the wetlands defined, and a preliminary sketch and plan has been prepared. Recently the permitting agencies were given a tour of the site. The plan is to slope the banks back at a 3:1 ration, create a 5 foot shelf, then put a 15 foot wide top access road then slope the back side down into backside. There will be effects to wetlands that must be mitigated. The landowner in the area is willing to help with mitigation. Total wetland disturbance is about 5 acres. This is being developed as a pilot project that could be used elsewhere particularly in the lower basin.

Siavash Beik and Bob Barr talked about the ongoing efforts to get the Yellow River project underway. They made a presentation to the State Soil and Water conservation districts annual meeting in January and it well received. Kim Peterson helped put that presentation together. Otherwise, the plans and specifications are proceeding and the permit process is underway.

Ken Purze asked if the tree removal portion of the Yellow River project being undertaken is being funded as part of the pilot project. Bill Crase said that it is considered part of the overall project.

Mike Novotney from Porter County told the KRBC members that the Heimberg Ditch project at the Kankakee River is finally finished. There is a little cleanup work to do. Kevin Breitzke said that the KRBC had budgeted \$75,000 for this project. The total cost was \$83,179.09. Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Vince Urbano to fund the total \$83,179.09 from the KRBC budget. The motion was approved.

Jody Melton told the members that the Indiana House Ways of Means has begun deliberations on the budget for the next biennium and the KRBC has been allocated \$600,000 in that budget being considered. That is the amount we received in the last budget. There are representatives who might try to amend the budget to get more money. The KRBC had asked for \$2.5 million so the members should continue to talk to their Indiana State Senators to see if the Senate can get more money in the budget for the KRBC.

Duane Parry of the LaPorte County Surveyor's Office said that the Surveyors Office has been asked to clean a sediment trap in the Kankakee near the Little Kankakee. A permit has been applied for.

St. Joseph County let a contract for brushing the bank near Crumstown Highway.

New Business

Internal Control Resolution 17-1 was explained to the members. The policy refers to expenditures the Commission makes and provides for safeguards for the distribution of public funds. Ken Purze made a motion to adopt the 'resolution and Kim Peterson seconded. The motion was approved.

Chris Knochel reported on the Kankakee River Water Conference held on the campus of Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. There were a number of specialists who made presentations concerning hydrology, sediment, climate, biology, fisheries, economics with much discussion. The exchange of ideas was very helpful and a learning experience for those who attended.

Other Business

LaPorte County is having a workshop on 'building soil health' on February 28th 9 to noon at Red Mill County Park. There are flyers around the table about it.

Ken Purze made a motion to adopt KRBC Resolution 17-02 honoring Russell Pumroy of Porter County for outstanding years of service to the KRBC. Kevin Breitzke seconded the motion and it was adopted by acclamation.

Public comment

Mark Wunderink reminded the KRBC that a wide levee prototype was created in Lake County in 1988. This project is a success and could be used a model for other areas. He invites anyone to come meet with him and look at what has been accomplished in flood control in south Lake County.

Robert Clendenin of Jasper County asked that the KRBC take an interest in helping to protect his property downstream of the Hodge Ditch. His house was not part of the protection plan that Jasper County performed on the west end of the houses. Vince Urbano will go out and take a look at the situation and see what could be done. Jody Melton will go along. There are a few other areas in the vicinity to look at as well.

The next KRBC meeting will be held on April 13, 2017 at 9:30 am. The meeting site will be at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area Headquarters.