

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 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	Bill Crase	Craig Cultice
Mark Kingma	Chris Knochel	Tom Larson
Don Lode	Mike Novotney	Ken Porter
Ken Purze	Jerry Tippy	Vince Urbano
James Walstra		

Guests Present

State Representative Mike Aylesworth		
Siavash Beik	Bryan Boggs	Gus Ellicott
State Senator Rick Niemeyer		Harvey Nix
Joe Skelton		

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Chairman Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Walstra made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2017
Kevin Breitzke seconded and the amended minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody announced that Kelly Wenger had taken a new job and was no longer bookkeeping for the KRBC. Jody has learned some bookkeeping from Kelly to run checks until NIRPC replaces the accountant. He explained that most of the remaining money in appropriated funds has been spent or is about to be spent. There is currently \$600,000 from 2015 to be released by the Budget committee. There will be discussion about how to reset priorities for additional monies.

The counties are all up to date on dues or in process of paying. Kevin Breitzke made a motion to accept the report, Tom Larson seconded and the motion was approved.

Old Business

Chris Knochel reported on the river levee project in Newton County downstream of I 65. The planning is continuing but there are problems with disturbance of habitat so there are practices being evaluated to correct or mitigate the problems. Abonmarche will be analyzing the river banks in Newton County from Jasper County to Illinois. Newton County is also drawing up an emergency response plan to address riverbank failures if they occur before weaknesses can be addressed.

Bill Crase said two contractors came to a pre bid conference on the Yellow River project. Bids will be taken on August 18 and reviewed by CBBEL. Upon recommendation the Drainage Board could award the project on August 26. Construction can start this fall. This project is the right project at the right time, according to Bill. The site is significant, the landowners are cooperative, the regulatory agencies are interested and other river interests are watching. The KRBC has worked diligently to get this pilot underway and continues to look for partners in this basin work.

New Business

Members entered into a broad discussion of assessments, storm water fees, MS4, watershed drainage, county drainage, and conservancy districts. Each county is unique and acquiring local funds for work on the Kankakee River will be county specific.

Other Business

Mark Kingma asked the KRBC to support Jasper County SWCD seeking a 319 grant for the Lower Kankakee Watershed. They are not asking for any funding yet just an indication of KRBC support. Kevin Breitzke made motion to support. Ken Purze seconded and motion was approved.

The 3 I bridge between Shelby and the NIPSCO plan has been cleaned out. The Kankakee River Days sponsored by the KRBC and organized by the LaPorte County SWCD will take place at Kingsbury Oct. 2 through Oct.6 and in the Grand Kankakee County Park Oct. 9 through Oct 13. Jim Sweeney said that the Izaak Walton League will have a booth for environmental education at the event as well

The next KRBC meeting will be held on October 5 at 9:30 am. somewhere in Knox with field trip to pilot project site.