

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 AT
9:30 AM CDT
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
Mike Delp	Anthony Hendricks	Mark Kingma
Chris Knochel	Jim Kreiger	Tom Larson
John Law	Josh Lawrence	Mike Novotney
Kim Peterson	Ken Porter	Ken Purze
Gene Schmidt	Vince Urbano	James Walstra

Guests Present

Glenn Abbett	Bob Barr	Dave Bausman
Bryan Boggs	Mike Bohacek	George Bowman
Allan Cameron, Jr.	Allan Cameron III	Jim Carter
Robert Clendenin	John Coulter	Jeff Cummins
Gus Ellicott	Dan Gossman	Connie Gramarossa
Dan Gumz	Douglas L. Gutwein	James Irwin
Christine Keil	Justin Kiel	Rick Lichtenbarger
Don Lode	Jim Long	Lee Magiera
Brian Matthews	Marty Maupin	Julie Morris
Erin Moorhous	Ryan Mueller	Lee Nagai
Jared O'Brien	Harold Parker	Jim Pressel
Jack Ryan	Mark Scarborough	Joe Skelton
David J. Smith	Jim Sweeney	

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Jody introduced Starke County SWCD Supervisor Josh Lawrence who will now serve on the Commission

Chairman Knochel asked for introduction of guests.

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018, with corrections. Anthony Hendricks and Jim Kreiger were added to the attendance list. Anthony Hendricks asked that the minutes reflect that he objected to the officers' election because no nominations were taken from the floor. The final sentence in the finance report was duplicated. Kevin Breitzke seconded with corrections noted and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

No money has been spent from the administrative funds for 2018 yet. Every county has \$10,000 in an emergency account. The last meeting of the KRBC divided up the existing state money and \$161,732.18 is available today for any county with existing needs. At the last meeting LaPorte County received \$85,000, Starke County - \$98,000, and Jasper County - \$71,000.

There is an appropriation of \$600,000 for the KRBC in Indianapolis not yet released by the Budget Committee. Documentation of how that money is to be used is needed by the Committee before it will be released. The release of those funds also required a 25% local match. Newton county has agreed to use county funds to pay for their Kankakee project and appropriated \$150,000 toward it. That provides the local match.

Ken Purze made a motion to accept the finance report, Kim Peterson seconded and the report was accepted.

Flood Damage and assessments

Newton County has \$62,500 of repairs that were made.

St. Joseph County had \$42,000 in repairs. They have a maintenance fund that will cover those repair costs.

Marshall County has \$10,000 in repair costs.

Porter County spent \$105,000 in repairs and is seeking \$60,000 to help cover that.

LaPorte County needs \$20,000 to take debris out. Much of that river bank belongs to the Indiana DNR. It is estimated that it will take \$150,000 to clean the debris from all that area. There was a discussion as to what entity is responsible for cleaning and maintenance. County Drainage Boards have authority over the 75 feet drainage easement according to the LaPorte County Drainage Board attorney. The repairs that were made on state land in this past flood will be submitted to Homeland Security for reimbursement. DNR will have to find money to pay for what was done.

A spirited debate took place about the need for a drainage assessment for the watershed. Each county must levy the assessment under the present drainage code.

Bill Crase said that the project on the Yellow River survived the flood. There is a section about 300 feet that will need to be repaired but this project is a start to slowing the sand problem.

Jasper County needs a long term project to begin to correct riverbank problems. The emergency repairs have been made but much more work is needed.

Starke County needs an additional \$25,000 to take trees out of the Yellow River channel.

Lake County is not seeking any money at this time. Lake did spend over \$47,000 in pumping at Shelby and Wildwood. The requests for funds in this report to the KRBC amounts to \$177,500. There is \$161,732.18 available. Ken Purze made a motion to approve all request totaling \$177,500 with the shortfall being made up from the remainder of the WRP money not spent on the pilot project. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the motion for funding was approved.

The process of legally repairing riverbanks was discussed and George Bowman from IDNR Division of Water explained some of the requirements. An emergency situation exists and repairs can be made to go back to pre-existing conditions. Additional work may require permits and mostly like a SEA meeting involving regulatory agencies.

Rep. Pressel and Rep. Gutwein explained their work for the KRBC and funding. Sen. Bohacek said that he has worked with the County Commissioners and KRBC members in the struggles for proper funding. He is not optimistic that there is a state solution; it is a local solution.

Old Business

North State Environmental, the contractor on the Yellow River Pilot, will return to Starke County to repair the 300 feet that failed during the flood. They have asked for help in funding the repair with truck rental. Kevin Brietzke made a motion, seconded by Kim Peterson, that the KRBC authorize up to \$10,000 to be used for this repair. The motion was approved.

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Executive Director search committee had met and discussed what direction leadership should take with the employment of a new director. They have started a job description and preliminary review of possible directions. Tony Hendricks suggested that perhaps the KRBC should eliminate the position and use the administrative money toward local work match. Chris Knochel said that idea is being discussed.

Long term planning committee of Tony Hendricks, Mike Novotney, Tom Larson, and Chris Knochel is beginning the process of creating a continuing work plan by compiling information from all work done by contractors for each of the counties. That compilation can then be used to prepare specification for consultants or others to create a long range plan.

Other Business

Jimmy Carter asked if the KRBC had any plans for the State Line Bridge since it was holding tree debris again. Jody Melton said that Kankakee Co., IL and Lake County, IN were in discussion about the fate of the bridge.

Dan Gumz asked about private money that had been used for repairs on the river and if there was any chance to recoup the costs. That will all have to be included through the individual counties and await a disaster declaration from the federal government.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 9:30 am CDT, Keener Township Trustees Office, 321 15th St. SE, DeMotte, IN.