

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011 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 Jim Lambert called the roll.

Members present

Kevin Breitzke	Dan Bridegroom	Tony Ekovich
Dennis Estok	Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel
Jim Lambert	Tom Larson	John Law
Brad Lawrence	John Nelson	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Ken Sebasty, Sr.	Gerry Scheub
Vince Urbano	Jim Walstra	

Guests Present

Joe Cantrell	Jim Carter	Edgar Corns
Rep. Nancy Dembowski		Gus Ellicott
Jim Fahey	Rep. Douglas Gutwein	
Jerry Gumz	Marge Hefner	Don Lambert
Terry McCloskey	Harvey Nix	Joe Skelton
Joe Toth	Mark Wunderink	David Zack

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the November 04, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody Melton presented the finance report as shown. He explained each page and what each item means. There are funds for emergencies, Sumava Resorts, administrative costs, a proposed budget for 2011, and a spreadsheet outlining the expenses so far with the 2009 appropriation from the General Assembly. Included in the packet is the 2011 contract with NIRPC for services. Kevin Breitzke made a motion to approve the contract with NIRPC and the 2011 budget. Ken Purze seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Purze recognized Senator Nancy Dembowski and Representative Doug Gutwein.

Chris Knochel asked for self introductions from all guests.

Old Business

Dennis Estok reported that the sediment trap cleaning within the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers have been completed. The Yellow River traps filled back up in 2 months, the Kankakee traps are still functioning. All work should be done by end of summer. Starke County Commissioners have applied for an OCRA grant to fund cleaning log jams out of the Yellow River in Starke County. There are a few items to be completed before the grant application is submitted.

Tom Larsen asked if Yellow River traps were useful. Dennis Estok said only if we have continual maintenance money. We do not have the money to keep those clean and Tony Hendricks has some ideas on what next to do. Tony Hendricks outlined a 5 point plan for dealing with the Yellow and Kankakee Rivers. It includes log jam removal, bank stabilization, ditch outlet maintenance, channel reconstruction in the Yellow River, and trap maintenance on the Kankakee.

Representative Gutwein and Senator Dembowski were pleased to announce that the KRBC was awarded \$1 million for work on the Kankakee and Yellow River for the 2011-2012 biennium.

Sumava Resorts project was granted an after the fact permit from the Corps of Engineers. The Newton County Drainage Board and the citizens of Sumava will instigate the mitigation required.

Gerry Scheub said that the State Line Bridge is still under discussion with state officials. The Clay Street Bridge is clogged with logs and is due for replacement. Within the next few months progress in paperwork should make the Clay Street project advance.

Vince Urbano described a project in Jasper County in which the DeHaan Ditch is going to be cleaned and the Corps is requiring about 4 miles of sediment to be removed. Jim Walstra, Chris Knochel, and Jody Melton have been discussing the situation in Jasper County along the Kankakee River bank near 1500 North in Keener Township. Could this fill be used to build a new bank along the road or is there some other way to tie these two projects together? Because of the existing houses on the levee, it presents an interesting problem.

New Business

Vince Urbano again described the situation in Jasper County and the need for action on the existing levee which is in danger of failing. He asked that the Jasper County Drainage Board be authorized to spend up to \$200,000 to work toward that project. They will try to combine a local county project with the Kankakee project and save money for both sides.

Ken Purze on behalf of the Three County Drainage Board again outlined the plans that Board has for the future. \$200,000 is requested by the Board to continue the progress on the long range plan and \$113,400 for log jam removal.

Kevin Breitzke speaking for Porter County outlined a plan for the Kankakee in Porter County and asked for funding of \$275,400.

Jody Melton also asked that \$185,000 be allocated for emergency funds. Each of the 7 paying counties would get \$25,000 and \$10,000 will be used for paying debris cleanup from the past June storm.

Ken Purze said that each of these funding requests were representative of the work plan that the KRBC provided to the General Assembly. He made a motion that the KRBC authorize the use of the new funds for the requests as stated. Kevin Breitzke seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business

Senator Dembowski said that she was certain that the work done at the General Assembly and the recognition of the economic power of the Kankakee drainage led to our success in gaining additional funding.

Don Lambert asked about the situation of the proposed stone quarry in Lake County. Commissioner Scheub said that the proposal is under review by the Drainage Board. The garbage to ethanol plant is still under discussion.

Terry McCloskey said that he was willing to volunteer to work with the Drainage Boards and the Izaak Walton League to continue partnerships for mutual goals.

Joe Skelton said that Marshall County has filed for a 319 grant for the Yellow River.

Jody Melton read Resolution 2011-1 commending John Wunderink of Lowell, IN for his work and efforts in the early years of the KRBC. Gerry Scheub made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-1; Tom Larson seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Report of the nominating committee

Russell Pumroy for the Nominating Committee nominated Chris Knochel for Chairman, Ken Purze for Vice Chairman, Kevin Breitzke for Treasurer, and Jim Lambert for Secretary for 2011. Gerry Scheub seconded the motion, nominations were closed and the slate was elected unanimously.

Ken Sebasty, Sr. called attention to a federal court case concerning a mint farmer from Starke County. He asked that people attend the trial to show support.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be August 11, 2011 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST. The meeting was adjourned.