

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012 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	Dennis Estok
Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert
Tom Larson	John Law	Jim Pistello
Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub
Bruce Shepherd	Jim Walstra	

*Guests Present*

Bob Barr	Joe Cantwell	Jim Carter
Edgar Corns	Kerry Daily	Julie Duttlinger
Ted Daube	Joe Exl	Jim Fahey
Dan Gardner	James Irwin	Christine Keil
Harvey Nix	Joe Skelton	Mark Wunderink
David Zack		

*Staff Present*

Jody Melton

Ken Purze asked that the agenda be amended to include a discussion of Lomax Station under new business. Gerry Scheub made a motion to amend the minutes. Vince Urbano seconded and motion was approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the May 24, 2012 meeting minutes. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the minutes were approved.

Chris Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

### **Finance Report**

Jody Melton presented the financial report for this period. Jim Lambert made a motion seconded by Ken Breitzke to accept the financial report. The motion was accepted.

### **Old Business**

Porter County Surveyor met with US Corps about several permits outstanding for work on the Kankakee River.

Jasper County is to begin work on the river levee from County Line to US 231.

The Three County Drainage Board has begun to look for a pilot project on the Yellow River near the Marshall-Starke Co. Line. They are also having several log jams removed from the Kankakee following the last windstorm. The Lomax Station area is still being discussed by several entities, including the 3 County Board. The USGS has begun to monitor data on the sediment gages places in the Yellow River.

LaPorte County Drainage Board, LaPorte County Parks Department, LaPorte County Surveyor, the LaPorte Commissioners, and the NW IN Paddlers Association are working toward an agreement to create a campground for paddlers along the Kankakee in LaPorte County. Tony Hendricks met with the Kankakee Roundtable and is taking a canoe trip soon in Illinois. The Illinois side is trying to get active with the Corps help and the IN KRBC needs to stay in contact.

Chad Miller from Kankakee Co. Farm Bureau will attend IN meetings to represent Illinois.

The sign committee found that the signs for river mileage will cost about \$40 to produce according to LaPorte County Highway.

### **New Business**

Bob Barr from the IU Applied Water Research Institute of IUPUI is also a member of the Silver Jackets. The Silver Jackets is an interagency hazard mitigation group representing many state and federal agencies in dealing with water hazards. In 2008 following severe flooding in central Indiana, the Silver Jackets began to look at ways to mitigate flooding because of the extreme losses being built up from repeated floods. 60% of flooding damages is caused not by inundation but by erosion. The Institute has spent the last year mapping natural rivers in Indiana determining geography and geology of the systems. They are preparing a toolkit for river planning. The Kankakee River system is fundamentally changed from its natural state. Actions have consequences. How have the actions taken in the Basin affected other parts of the Basin? What can be done to alleviate damages? How do other rivers in Indiana and elsewhere act? What should the priorities be?

Bob Barr will be conducting an all-day meeting in early November to show what their research on the Basin has shown and to get reaction from those who live here. He will work with Jody Melton and Chris Knochel to get this meeting arranged. Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Jim Lambert that the KRBC host this meeting and the motion was approved.

The legislative committee accepted requests from Newton County, Porter County, Jasper County, and the 3 County Board for inclusion into the packet to be prepared for the 2013 legislature. Those will be presented to the full board at the September meeting

Gerry Scheub discussed a culvert at Shady Shores that has been closed for several years. The river used to meander through that bayou before the culvert failed. He would like to get the culvert replaced. Jody Melton said that Lake County had some money left in their account and Ken Purze pointed out that not all of the last appropriation has been allocated. Ken Purze made a motion that the KRBC authorize Lake County to spend up to

\$150,000 and 20% overage to get the culvert replaced now. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the motion to fund immediately was approved.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be September 6, 2012 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CDT unless there is a conflict. The meeting was adjourned.