

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011 AT
9:30 AM CDT
KANKAKEE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA HEADQUARTERS
4320 W. TOTO ROAD
NORTH JUDSON, IN 46366**

Vice Chairman Ken Purze called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Jim Lambert called the roll.

Members present

Eric Blad	Kevin Breitzke	Dan Bridegroom
Dennis Estok	Myrna Harder	Tony Hendricks
Jim Lambert	Tom Larson	
Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub
Bruce Shepherd	Vince Urbano	Jim Walstra

Guests Present

Kerry Daily	Jim Fahey	Marge Hefner
Don Lambert	Terry McCloskey	Harvey Nix
John Sabo	Joe Skelton	Joe Toth
David Zack		

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Jim Walstra made a motion to approve the June 16, 2011 meeting minutes. Russell Pumroy seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

This is a 3 page report. The old emergency funds are the first page, the second page shows the new emergency money, and page 3 is the administrative account.

Old Business

Jim Walstra discussed the state of the levees in Jasper County from the Newton County line upstream to the Hodge Ditch.. The heavy windstorm in June has caused several trees to uproot and threaten the integrity of the levees. Several houses have been damaged and are in danger of eroding into the river. Homeland Security from Indianapolis will take a tour of the area and are seeking emergency funds to help with the repair. Vince Urbano said there is no way the current emergency fund for Jasper County can cover the damage.

Russ Pumroy said that trees in Porter County had fallen and caused problems west of US 231. The road has been opened on top of the levee. They have not checked all those east of 231 yet.

Gerry Scheub of Lake County said that the garbage to ethanol plant proposal at Schneider is still being studied. The stone quarry near SR 2 and the Singleton Ditch is under review by the Drainage Board. There is work being conducted along the Niemeyer Levee west of US 41.

Tony Hendricks reported for the 3 County Board. They are preparing a sediment trap site near the outlet of the Travis Ditch. Dennis Estok said the OCRA grant paperwork has been submitted and they are awaiting a response in early winter. The Office of Community and Rural Affairs has grant money available for log jam removal. Starke County will put up \$5,000 and that application is for \$185,000.

Tony Hendricks also said that he is researching the value of trying to institute a two stage ditch project somewhere within the Yellow River corridor to see how that might affect sedimentation.

The 3 County Drainage Board is also considering marking the Kankakee with mileage markers so that boaters would know where they are. The KRBC thinks it is a good idea. DNR and the Corps will need to be involved to determine the proper markers and distance. Tony Hendricks, Kevin Brietzke, and Vince Urbano agreed to serve as a committee to research this topic.

New Business

Dan Bridegroom from Starke County told of how the Starke County Drainage Board rejected the original Corps idea of remeandering the Yellow River to address sedimentation and flooding issues along the Yellow. After the work of the 3 County Board, the Starke County Drainage Board has sent a letter to the KRBC asking that the Corps be asked to return to the Yellow River situation and see if there is a way to design a plan that would be more agreeable with the local authorities and with a chance to succeed. Jim Lambert made a motion and Bruce Shepherd seconded that the KRBC accepts the letter from the Starke Board to reinstate conversation with the Corps.

Jody Melton distributed the Kankakee River Water Trail Map that has been created through the Greenways and Blueways Northwest Indiana Regional Plan. The NW Indiana Paddlers association is planning a float on the Kankakee sometime in October. The KRBC may want to help sponsor the event or at least help publicize it for its recreational value.

Other Business

Harvey Nix said that some pipework that needs repair on the Rivers Edge Farm. He will talk to Russ Pumroy and Jody Melton about it.

Joe Skelton told the Board that a group has formed the Marshall County Lakes Association. It will be an incorporated 501 C group to address the many lakes in Marshall County and they are holding a meeting on August 24 at 5 pm. at the Marshall County Building. Ken Purze reminded Joe Skelton that he lives in a county that has not chosen to participate in the KRBC for a few years and perhaps he could ask his commissioners to review their non member status.

Mike Aylesworth of IDEM said that he watched the debris buildup at US 231 bridge and had mentioned it to his peers at LaPorte District. Jody Melton said that the debris has been removed. There was further discussion about the driveway tube that is located on the northeast corner of the bridge.

Ken Purze told members of the Commission that the LaPorte County Drainage Board would be meeting with DNR Director Rob Carter in Indianapolis. If any members have any concerns, please contact Ken or Jody Melton and let them know so they could deliver the messages and concerns to Director Carter.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be October 13, 2011 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST. The meeting was adjourned.