

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010 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 Jim Lambert called the roll.

Members present

Eric Blad	Kevin Breitzke	Dan Bridegroom
Dennis Estok	Myrna Harder	Tony Hendricks
Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert	John Law
John Nelson	Jim Pistello	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub.	Vince Urbano
Jim Walstra		

Guests Present

Steve Bowers	Jim Fahey	Jerry Gumz
Don Lambert	Harvey Nix	Curt Ralston
Linda Schmidt	Joe Skelton	Joe Toth
Dick Welsh	David Zack	

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the September 10, 2009 meeting minutes and the November 12, 2009 meeting minutes. Ken Purze seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

The status of the funds are listed in the emergency pages, the page called 'other funds' concerns the funds from Newton County, the administrative page is a listing of the office expenses. There is also a proposed budget for 2010 based on anticipated revenues for the coming year. Attached to the packet today is the annual contract for approval with NIRPC to provide staff services for 2010. Ken Purze made a motion, seconded by Kevin Breitzke to approve the administrative budget for 2010, but to table the NIRPC contract until the next meeting. The motion was passed unanimously. Ken Purze also asked to review the lease of the Rivers Edge Farm and to report at the next meeting. Chairman Knochel appointed Ken Purze, Russ Pumroy, and Jim Lambert to conduct that review and make a report.

Old Business

Dennis Estok and Tony Hendricks reported that much of the work to clear log jams from LaPorte County and Starke County has been completed. Some work is left to do. There are pictures available showing before and after. Dick Welsh thanked the contractors, the surveyors, and all involved in getting the work done. He also recognized Rep. Dermody for his work in helping to get state funding. HB 1232 will help with reducing regulatory issues for clearing log jams and Rep. Dermody worked hard on that.

Jody Melton asked that the KRBC officially approve a letter today to the State Budget Agency requesting release of \$516,000 for the work that is being undertaken on the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers, the emergency funds that have been appropriated, and the Williams Levee work in Lake County. Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the letter and the request to the State Budget Agency. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the request was approved. Ken Purze asked that the 3 County Drainage Board be allowed to present a series of requests for funding and perhaps have the letter amended.

After discussion, it was decided to not amend the original letter but if necessary to send a second letter for funds release.

Vince Urbano from Jasper County said that the Jasper County levee repair is going to be much more expensive than originally thought but there are other problems in Jasper that need to be addressed and will want to submit funding requests.

New Business

Ken Purze said that the 3 County Board is interested in continuing to fund projects in their area and they would like to ask for funding for cleaning and creating sediment traps. Dennis Estok and Tony Hendricks have put together a plan to identify existing traps, have reviewed those sites, and have created engineering to clean those traps. The proposal submitted to the KRBC asks for \$383,770 to fund this project.

There is still a question as to whether there is any private interest in this material and what the composition of the sand is.

Ken Purze made a motion that the KRBC approve the request by the 3 County Board for \$383,770. Jim Lambert seconded. There was discussion about the availability of the funds and the fact that the KRBC does not have that money yet. It will have to be requested from the Budget Agency. Vince Urbano stated that he is concerned that there will be no money for any other projects in any other county. Kevin Breitzke expressed concern about downstream areas being affected by upstream work but more importantly that funding is limited. The question was called and the motion passed with Jim Walstra and Vince Urbano voting no.

Ken Purze made an additional request for \$25,000 to sample silt from the Yellow River and to preliminarily engineer a long term solution to the 5.25 miles of Yellow River from SR 39 to the confluence with the Kankakee River. Tony Hendricks said that they had looked at this section of the Yellow much as they had the Kankakee. They are taking samples and want to search for long term solutions to the siltation problem.

Jody Melton asked that this request be tabled until the next meeting so that the Section 519 Yellow River Watershed Preliminary Reconnaissance Report of 2006 be reviewed. The Corps of Engineers with assistance from IDNR, the state of Illinois, the KRBC, and Starke County had worked through several meetings and the Corps issued a long term solution for Yellow River sediment problems. The project never progressed because there needed to

be matching funds to provide local share and the money wasn't available. At the November 2009 meeting the Starke County Drainage Board submitted a letter to the KRBC saying they were not in favor of the Corps long range solution so there has been no movement. The Corps of Engineers used the Sedimentation Analysis Laboratory of Vicksburg, MS to conduct the study and it is very thorough.

Ken Purze moved to table, Kevin Breitzke seconded and motion was tabled.

Election of Officers

Russ Pumroy for the nominating committee made a motion to elect officers for 2010. He nominated Chris Knochel as Chairman, Ken Purze as Vice Chairman, Jim Lambert as Secretary and Kevin Breitzke as Treasurer. Vince Urbano seconded. Officers were elected unanimously. Russell Pumroy thanked Jack Nelson for his many years of service as vice chairman.

Kevin Breitzke told the Board that Porter County has undertaken a major mapping project that will be used for land use and watershed planning. Tony Hendricks said that LaPorte County is also updating its mapping.

Jody Melton told the Board that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to allow the refurbishing of the State Line Bridge and the replacement of the Clay Street (Range Line) Bridge over the Kankakee River.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be April 22, 2010 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST. The meeting was adjourned.