

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010 AT
9:30 AM CDT**

LaPorte County Government Center, Meeting Room 2
8153 Lincolnway
LaPorte, IN

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	Dennis Estok
Myrna Harder	Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel
Jim Lambert	Tom Larson	Brad Lawrence
John Nelson	Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze
Gerry Scheub.	Ken Sebasty, Sr.	Vince Urbano
Jim Walstra		

Guests Present

Steve Bowers	John Coulter	Rep. Nancy Dembowski
Gus Ellicott	Jim Fahey	Dan Gumz
Jerry Gumz	Ken Layton	Harvey Nix
Linda Schmidt	Joe Skelton	Dick Welsh

Mark Wunderink

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Eric Blad asked that the word “second” in the second paragraph of New Business be changed to “additional”.

Kevin Breitzke made a motion to approve the February 25, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. Ken Purze seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

The status of the funds are listed in the emergency funds page, the page called 'other funds' concerns the funds from Newton County, the administrative page is a listing of the office expenses. Kevin Breitzke made a motion, seconded by Russ Pumroy, to approve the NIRPC contract for 2010. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ken Purze, Russ Pumroy, and Jim Lambert reported that they had toured the Rivers Edge property and were satisfied that the lease currently under contract was proper for the KRBC. They recommend that the lease be rebid at least every 5 years. Myrna Harder made a motion, seconded by Kevin Breitzke that the Rivers Edge farm lease be rebid for 2011. Russ Pumroy spoke of the filter strips installed on the property and Kevin Breitzke expressed concern about the security of the buildings. The motion was approved. The same committee along with Kevin Breitzke will work on the lease details.

Dennis Estok presented a bill from Dan Gumz for \$19,065.75 that was incurred in August 2009 on a levee repair of the Yellow River. Dennis asked that the KRBC consider paying Mr. Gumz for the work even though it had not been authorized prior to the work. The work was necessary in the Starke County Surveyor's opinion. Ken Purze said that there is a procedure for being repaid and it would be a dangerous practice for the KRBC to authorize payment for work that is presented to the Board just because someone says they needed to do the work. Kevin Breitzke discussed the safety procedures used in competitive bids and the safeguards they create. Gerry Scheub said that if there was an emergency, it makes sense for the farmer or landowner to fix it if possible. Ken Sebasty Sr. said that he believes if Dennis Estok says it should be paid by the KRBC, his opinion should be respected. Ken Purze pointed out that there is \$18,250 in the Starke County emergency fund provided by the KRBC. He made a motion that the KRBC recommend to the Starke County Drainage Board that if they feel Mr. Gumz work was indeed an emergency, they use that \$18,250 to repay Mr. Gumz for the work. Myrna Harder seconded. She stated that she felt that either this was an emergency or it was not. If it was an emergency, then the county should use the emergency fund. Dennis Estok was concerned that the emergency fund has been designated for log jam removal to be spent later. Kevin Breitzke suggested that the present problem should be taken care of and if there is future plans for log jam removal that should be brought back to the KRBC for requests for additional funding. Motion was called and the motion passed 13 yes, 3 no with Brad Lawrence, Gerry Scheub, and Ken Sebasty Sr. voting no.

Old Business

Ken Purze said that the 3 County Board accepted bids for cleaning and creating sediment traps. Tony Hendricks passed out information concerning sites and costs. INDOT has also indicated interest in using the sand. LaPorte County might also approve using the sand as well. If transportation is not needed to remove the sand because the highway departments will truck it, the costs of the traps will drop. The bid amount was \$382,000. There are 3 traps in the Kankakee and 2 traps in the Yellow. IDNR and IDEM will also play a part in the disposition of the sand depending on what their sediment tests show. There was again discussion about the usefulness of these traps and that Tony Hendricks will be able to monitor the flow of sediment and have a better model than when the traps were created back in 1999. It may be able to show Illinois and others what is really happening with the sediment. Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Gerry Scheub that the KRBC ask the State Budget Committee to release the remaining KRBC monies to be used on these sediment traps. Jim Walstra stated that the 3 County Board should not start the project until the money is released. It is understood that the project will not start until the Budget Committee recommends release. Motion was approved 14-2, Jim Walstra and Vince Urbano voting no.

Tony Hendricks also reported that he had floated the Kankakee River downstream of US 421. There are several trees in the DNR property and a few downstream. He also mentioned that there were many kayaks, canoes, and a boat on the river.

Jody Melton, Ken Purze, and Chris Knochel went to the State Budget Committee meeting on May 12th and asked for the release of the \$516,000. Rep. Dembowski made phone calls, Rep. Dermody attended the meeting, and Sen. Hershman sits on the Committee and the funds were granted with few questions asked.

Vince Urbano told the KRBC that Jasper County had repaired an area of levee east of US 231. There were also some trees removed that were in the river.

Jody Melton told the Board that Commissioner Pistello of Newton County had received a warning letter from the Corps of Engineers in Detroit

concerning the flood protection work which was done in Sumava. The Corps said it was unauthorized work and a permit should have been requested. The major issue is the concrete slabs which were placed on the river side of the levee. Using the remaining Newton County and KRBC funds, Christopher Burke Engineering is applying for after the fact permits. A meeting with Detroit Corps, IDNR, IDEM, CBBEL, and KRBC took place and inspections were made. Newton County Drainage Board will be the applicant for the work. Kerry Daily of CBBEL said that IDNR and IDEM seemed to feel the work was undertaken under the emergency clause at the time but the Corps is insisting upon reviewing the work for an after the fact. Chicago Corps data on the large construction project designed by Chicago calls for far more work than the local Sumava effort did so hopefully this can be resolved.

Mark Wunderink asked why sediment traps aren't being placed closer to the State Line downstream from LaPorte and Starke Counties. It would seem that would be more consistent with addressing Illinois's complaints. He also wanted to know what the long range plan will be for cleaning proposed sediment traps when they get full. He does not favor dredging the river from end to end because it would drop the ground water table. But he is concerned that all the work in the upper basin is going to cause problems downstream.

Dick Welsh said that the cleaning of the river in the LaPorte County area has absolutely made a difference in the river flood stage this year.

New Business

Section 519 Yellow River Watershed Preliminary Reconnaissance Report by Detroit Chicago Rock Island Corps of Engineers of 2006 was discussed. 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. 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 is not actively pursuing that project. A Sediment Impact Analysis Model (SIAM) was constructed for the Kankakee River in Illinois and Indiana. The Corps office in Vicksburg, MS was in charge. The Corps will

not actively engage in sediment trap studies at this time in the Yellow River but they are interested in results that Tony Hendricks may be able to measure when the sediment traps in the Kankakee, and especially the Yellow, are built and working. Russell Pumroy made a motion, seconded by Ken Purze that Jody Melton on behalf of the KRBC work with the Corps to keep and get their involvement in studying the effects of the sediment traps on downstream areas. This will help Illinois and address some of Mark Wunderink's concerns. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris Knochel appointed a legislative committee composed of Kevin Breitzke, Tony Hendricks, Jack Nelson, Ken Purze, Vince Urbano, and Chris Knochel. The Committee will begin to determine priorities of the KRBC for the next funding cycle and compiling lists of projects.

Russell Pumroy made a motion, seconded by Tom Larson that Jody Melton be authorized to finish development of the KRBC website with OnSite Computers and to replace the KRBC vehicle by taking three bids. The motion was approved unanimously.

Russell Pumroy said that Porter was going to address some trees off the bank near 400 W. Jody Melton said that he knew of no movement on the State Line or Range Line Bridges over the Kankakee. The waste to ethanol plant to be built in Schneider is still being pursued. Lake County is considering a stone quarry near Range Line Road on 600 acres just north of the Singleton Ditch. He also displayed a plaque awarded to the KRBC for its participation in the Ivy Tech 7 County 'Dare to Dream' project. He also said that Lake County Drainage Board would be taking bids on the Williams Levee project this month.

Chris Knochel thanked Senator Dembowski for her help in getting funding for the KRBC in the last session. She said she was pleased to help and was helped by the KRBC information provided.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be September 23, 2010 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST. The meeting was adjourned.