

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010 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	Dennis Estok	Myrna Harder
Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert
Tom Larson	John Law	John Nelson
Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze	Ken Sebasty, Sr.
Gerry Scheub.	Vince Urbano	

Guests Present

Al Alsop	Alan Alsop	Ders Anderson
Mitch Barloga	Jim Carter	Ted Daube
Gus Ellicott	Jim Fahey	Dan Gumz
Don Lambert	Terry McCloskey	Harvey Nix
Terri Price	Bruce Shepherd	Joe Skelton
David Zack		

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Chris Knochel asked for self introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Gerry Scheub made a motion to approve the July 8, 2010 meeting minutes. Ken Purze seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

There is little change since July. LaPorte County did have an emergency expenditure. Ken Breitzke moved to accept the report, Russ Pumroy seconded

Old Business

Ken Purze said that the 3 County Board had met and put out bids pending release of the sediment trap money. On Wednesday Sept. 29th the Board will meet to finish that process and get the work underway. The 3 County Board is asking for \$104,800 to begin the process of log jam remove from Knox upstream in the Yellow River. There was considerable discussion about funding for this activity. There is supposedly log jam removal money available for accepted projects through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Edwin Buswell of the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission has submitted a grant application for the Iroquois River Conservancy District and perhaps he could submit for the 3 County Drainage Board. Dennis Estok said he would contact KIRPC. Ken Purze said that an application to OCRA should be made and if match is needed maybe the KRBC could be the local match. Jody Melton asked if the Yellow River is a regulated drain for its entire length in Starke County. Dennis Estok will check that as well. The 3 County Board will discuss this at there next meeting and make a report to the KRBC at a future meeting.

The State Budget Committee did release the money from the State Budget Committee for the sediment traps.

Ken Sebasty, Sr., a member of the 3 County Drainage Board and KRBC member from St. Joseph County, expressed his displeasure with the process and the final result of the 3 County Board's sediment trap project. He feels that the project is overcost, it is wasteful to haul sand away, and better use

could have been made with the money. He also is unhappy with how one of the contractors was treated during and after the bid process. After some discussion, Ken Purze said that he felt this was a topic and discussion to be held in a 3 County Drainage Board meeting, not a KRBC meeting. There was discussion about former engineering reports and the viability of previous sand traps but the new traps have particular needs different from previous ones. Chairman Knochel said he wanted to make sure that the KRBC was not getting involved in any illegal work that would not pass Corps, IDNR, or IDEM specs.

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. Dennis Estok said that all necessary agencies approved with the project as bid. Vince Urbano asked about the idea that contractors were interested in taking the sand so that no trucking costs would be incurred. Tony Hendricks explained that sand tests are being done and it is hoped State and County highway Districts will take the sand. The largest of the sand traps is having the sand hauled away by the contractor at no cost to the 3 County Drainage Board.

Jody Melton reported that the work at Sumava Resorts is now under review by the Corps of Engineers, the IDNR, and IDEM. Christopher Burke Engineering prepared the paperwork for an after the fact permit for the Newton County Drainage Board.

Jody Melton also reported that the Lake County Drainage Board has accepted bids for the work on the Williams Levee from US 41 to the State Line. The work will hopefully begin this fall. They must have an SEA review before work progresses.

Gerry Scheub told the KRBC about a proposed quarry north of the Singleton Ditch in Lake County on 600 acres. This quarry will operate by pumping groundwater down and out into the Singleton Ditch. It is his feeling and most of the neighbors and downstream Singleton Ditch users that the Singleton will be unable to sustain additional pumping into that system. The neighbors are also worried about groundwater withdrawal and loss of residential wells. Ken Purze made a motion that the KRBC send a letter to

the Lake County Council opposing the development of this quarry in the flood hazard area in Lake County due to pumping and groundwater concerns. Vince Urbano seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Vince Urbano said that he continues to work in Jasper County identifying bad levee areas. He presented a report to Jody that will be discussed at future drainage board meetings.

New Business

Ken Purze who chairs the Legislative committee reported that the committee recommends that the KRBC ask the Indiana General Assembly for \$2 million in the next biennium. It is broken into 6 areas;

- \$200,000 is needed for home buyout in Jasper County
- 500,000 is needed for levee repair in Jasper and Porter Counties
- 500,000 is needed for bank restoration in all the counties
- 150,000 is needed for log jam removal
- 150,000 is needed for emergency flooding situations
- 500,000 is needed for sediment trap maintenance.

A booklet is being prepared. Kevin Breitzke made a motion that the committee report be approved. Russ Pumroy seconded and the motion was approved.

There was a discussion of priorities and sedimentation versus levee failure. Tony Hendricks talked about the work of the Corps, the sediment models being used, and the value of measuring what will happen with the current sediment trap project.

Vince Urbano said that after the report is prepared, the legislative committee should prioritize the projects to provide funding for the most important projects if the finances are available, Ken Purze seconded and the motion was approved.

Mitch Barloga from NIRPC began a presentation on the Kankakee Water Trail being developed by NIRPC. He distributed maps and talked about the interest in canoeing the Kankakee.

Ders Anderson, with the Openlands Project, talked about the interest in canoeing in general, and the Kankakee specifically. He also outlined areas of access in the Kankakee, discussed conversations with landowners and

government agencies, and the need for signage. KRBC members were asked to read the map that was presented and give any feedback to Jody Melton if they see mistakes or want additional information added.

Other Business

The lease committee continues to work on providing for new leases and bidding of KRBC property for ag year 2011. Ken Purze made a motion and Russ Pumroy seconded that a Porter County attorney provide legal review for the document since the land is in Porter County. The motion was approved.

Ken Purze and Kevin Breitzke discussed the possibility of a canoe float trip with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association taking the lead to promote recreation on the Kankakee. Ken Purze volunteered to facilitate a discussion with Dan Plath who is head of the Paddlers' Association. IDNR is willing to promote a trip as well. A fall float would be interesting. A Spring float if the river is floatable should be advertised and encouraged.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be November 4, 2010 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CST. The meeting was adjourned.