

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015 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

Kevin Breitzke	Dennis Estok	Larry Fisher
Rance Glinge	Randy Glinge	Myrna Harder
Chris Knochel	Jim Lambert	Tom Larson
John Law	Brad Lawrence	Kim Peterson
Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub
Vince Urbano	James Walstra	

Guests Present

Allen Cameron	Jim Fahey	Don Lode
Harvey Nix	Lyle Patchett	Joe Skelton
Larry Smith		

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the February 26, 2015 meeting minutes. Tom Larson seconded and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Finance Report

Due to the ongoing construction at NIRPC and the availability of getting the records together, the finance report was passed out today for review. It was not included in the packet earlier. There have been no major changes or expenditures since the February meeting. Ken Purze moved to accept the report, Kevin Breitzke seconded and the report was accepted.

Kevin Breitzke said that there was a problem in Porter County across from Ramsey's Landing. An old boat ramp was creating an area where the river is going to overtop. Russ Pumroy made a motion that Porter County be allowed to use \$25,000 of KRBC funds to fix that spot. Ken Purze seconded and the funding was approved.

Old Business

Jasper County Surveyor Vince Urbano reported that Jasper County completed levee work around the houses downstream of US 2311 on the levee. It took almost \$70,000 in riprap and labor because of the delicate situation.

There was a lengthy discussion about the work done between the County Line and US 231 last year. The high water currently being carried by the Kankakee is eroding the banks of that area. There is concern about the sedimentation that is being carried away, the damage to the banks, and the further eroding of those levees. There are logistical problems for correcting those banks because usually they lie between wetlands and the river. To grade the levee back to a sufficient slope requires working in a wetland or filling in the river. Neither is acceptable. There will be further discussion about this; the Silver Jackets may get involved. Vince Urbano said he would welcome any help in solving this problem.

Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub asked Jody Melton to read a letter on his behalf announcing that the new Range Line Bridge over the Kankakee River was completed and open. It took many years to get that accomplished working with the regulatory agencies.

LaPorte County has removed several trees from the Kankakee River and will begin work on the sediment trap near the Travis Ditch.

Larry Fisher, Marshall County Surveyor, is working on permits to deal with sedimentation in certain areas of the Yellow River.

Newton County Surveyor Chris Knochel said the DeHaan wetland project continues. He needs to coordinate with Alan Cameron to modify the permit for work on the Kankakee Levee and also the blowout of the DeHaan Ditch. Norfolk and Southern Railroad will also be involved.

Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor, said that the 625W Bridge in Porter County (Ramsey's landing) has been cleaned of debris.

John Law of the St. Joseph Surveyors Office said that while the Kankakee River in St. Joseph County was all right, they are having a beaver problem on some of the lateral drains. The dams are causing flooding and need to be removed. A hitch to the problem is that the Pokagon tribe owns much of the land and considers the beaver to be protected. They will allow the beaver and dams to be removed if the flooding is affecting other properties but insist on a ritual before the beavers are removed. So far it has worked out.

There was no report from Starke County.

New Business

Bob Barr from IUPUI and CBBEL were scheduled to give their presentation on the work they have been doing on the Yellow River watershed. They asked to make the report at the next meeting when they had a more firm grasp of the report/

The Indiana State Budget allocated \$600,000 to the River Basin Commission for the next two years.

The attempt by the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association to get National Water Trail Designation for the Kankakee River in Indiana and Illinois is progressing. Dan Plath has filed the application.

Alan Cameron advised the Board that in the Des Plaines River north of Chicago the engineers used interlocking blocks on the slopes to prevent erosion. It might be something the KRBC should look at.

Jim Fahey said there was a boat running pretty fast on the Kankakee River at Ramsey's during this high flood time. There's little to enforce boat etiquette but it is damaging to the banks and to the homes.

The next regular meeting of the KRBC will be held on August 25, 2015 provided CBBEL and Bob Barr are prepared with their report.