

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 AT
9:30 AM CDT
BASS PRO SHOP MEETING ROOM
6425 DANIEL BURNHAM DR.
PORTAGE, IN 46368**

Chairman Chris Knochel called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Secretary Vince Urbano called the roll.

Members present

Kevin Breitzke	Bill Crase	Tony Hendricks
Chris Knochel	Jim Kreiger	Tom Larson
John Law	Kim Peterson	Ken Porter
Russ Pumroy	Ken Purze	Gene Schmidt
Vince Urbano	James Walstra	

Guests Present

Mike Aylesworth	Bob Barr	Siavash Beik
Kathe Brunnick	Les Burton	Jim Carter
Gus Ellicott	Steve Engelking	Catherine J. Larson
Matthew Linn	Harvey Nix	Mike Novotney
Tim Nugent	Dan Plath	Joe Skelton
Mark Wunderink	David Zack	

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Chairman Knochel asked for self-introductions from all guests.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Breitzke made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2016 meeting. Russ Pumroy seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

The finance report as presented goes through July 31, 2016. There has been river cleaning in Starke and LaPorte Counties not reflected on this sheet. Most counties have paid the 2016 dues and administrative expenditures are normal. Kevin Breitzke moved to accept the report, Tom Larson seconded and the motion was approved.

Chris Knochel, Ken Purze, and Jody Melton presented to the State Budget Committee the KRBC's request to release \$395,000. The Committee asked about the National Water Trail designation and members were very complimentary.

Old Business

Siavash Beik from CBBEL talked about the Yellow River project in Starke County. Recommendations have been made about management practices in the Upper Yellow River Basin, a pilot project is being designed upstream of Knox, and surveying is taking place downstream of Knox. A handout was distributed showing bank instability and stabilization by specifically placed trees. A national expert on this method will be coming to the Yellow River site in October and CBBEL and KRBC will host a meeting with him. Bob Barr, IUPUI, brought sand, funnels, and a bucket to demonstrate how sand moves in a river channel to answer a question about downstream sediment flow. Water has power to move sediment but sometimes sediment will overload the system. Then sediment only moves under extreme conditions and tends to move in large mass. If excessive erosion is slowed, the river naturally carries sediment. The pilot project on the Yellow will show how to slow erosion. The river then can move sediment efficiently. A long discussion took place concerning downstream Indiana and Illinois, the Six Mile Pool, and the Kankakee dam. Without further assessment of the Kankakee watershed, it is premature to plan downstream but to start in the Yellow River to address sand is the natural start.

Vince Urbano asked about the experts in this kind of work referencing back to Siavash Beik's comments. Bob Barr said that the experts are Darrell Westmoreland and Brandon Spaugh from North State Environmental (<http://www.nsenv.com/>). They have done several projects including the oil spill cleanup in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan which is a sand based river.

There were many questions about sand load in the downstream portion of the Yellow, sand movement, sand removal, and bank instability. It was agreed that the pilot project will remain the main focus while North State Environmental will look at practicalities. Further work including an assessment of the Kankakee River Basin needs to be completed.

Following conversations with NRCS in Indianapolis and Farm Bureau about this project, Justin Schneider from Indiana Farm Bureau organized a day in Knox to have a presentation made to the local farmers and legislators. The event was held on August 11. The morning was inside with presentations from CBBEL, Bob Barr, Justin, and Jody Melton. The afternoon was a field trip to the Trigg farm project site. There were good comments in the meeting and the KRBC and Starke County were encouraged to continue.

The Rivers Edge property owned by the KRBC has been advertised for lease for farming. The Lease Committee will meet to review bids when a meeting can be scheduled.

New Business

At the last KRBC meeting the Board authorized an appraisal of 120 acres adjacent to Rivers Edge Farm that is for sale. The appraisal came in at \$660,000. While some of the land might be useful for flood water storage, that is not in our budget at this time. After discussion Tony Hendricks made a motion to send the matter back to the Land Committee and working with Kevin Breitzke, see if there is any reason to pursue any or all of this area. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the motion was approved.

Jody Melton passed out copies of the request for funding for Biennium 2017-2018 from the Indiana General Assembly. He was asked to prepare a document for State Budget Agency for review. This is the copy of the request. Jody and Ken Purze will create a booklet for use in explaining the needs.

Jim Walstra said that there is a problem area in Jasper County west of US 231. It needs immediate attention. Tony Hendricks made a motion to allow Jasper County to address this emergency. Tom Larson seconded and the motion was approved.

John Law said that St. Joseph County got heavy rains in July. The Kankakee flooded pretty badly and there was damage. Most of the levees are being repaired. Damage is mostly to farm fields and John Law was told to contact NRCS to see if any aid is available.

Bill Crase, Starke County Surveyor, said he has 61 trees in the Yellow River that need to be removed. Starke County did have one levee repair to make after the heavy rain.

LaPorte County is pulling log jams from the Kankakee.

Public comment

Kathe Brunnick of the Kankakee River Conservancy District of Illinois commented on the dirty water in Momence even through low waters of June and July. While not sure of the source, some pictures of the Jasper County bank erosion show that is a particular problem. She encouraged work there and advocated for more vegetation on the slopes. Illinois DNR is completing some study work and the Corps of Engineers has indicated it might have use for some of the Momence wetland sand.

The next KRBC meeting will be held on December 8, 2016 at 9:30 am. The meeting site will be at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area Headquarters.