

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012 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	Dan Bridegroom	Dennis Estok
Myrna Harder	Tony Hendricks	Chris Knochel
Tom Larson	John Law	Russ Pumroy
Ken Purze	Gerry Scheub	Bruce Shepherd
Vince Urbano	Jim Walstra	

Guests Present

Alan Cameron	Jim Carter	Kerry Daily
Ted Daube	Rep. Tom Dermody	Jim Fahey
Dan Gardner	James Irwin	Christine Keil
Don Lambert	Tim Lathrop	Catherine Lax
Robert Lax	Donald Lode	Ron Knickrehm
Scott Morlock	Harvey Nix	Dan Perkins
Kim Peterson	DanPlath	Jim Sweeney
Mark Wunderink	David Zack	

Staff Present

Jody Melton

Ken Purze asked that the agenda be amended to include a discussion of Lomax Station under new business. Gerry Scheub made a motion to amend the minutes. Vince Urbano seconded and motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Ken Purze made a motion to approve the February 23, 2012 meeting minutes. Russell Pumroy seconded and the minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Jody Melton presented the financial report for this period. Very little has changed from the February report. He will be filing claims with each of the counties for 2012 dues. Russ Pumroy made a motion to accept the report. Gerry Scheub seconded and the motion passed.

Chris Knochel asked for self introductions from all guests.

New Business

Due to time constraints, new business will be first.

Ken Purze explained that the 3 County Board had entered into a relationship with the US Geological Survey to install 3 sediment gauges on the Yellow River. These will be used to quantify sediment amount, help identify sources, and evaluate trends. He introduced Scott Morlock and Tim Lathrop with USGS. The gauges will be cost shared between USGS and the 3 County Board and will help monitor future projects. These were installed at near 50/50 match between the two agencies. Tim Lathrop provided details as to how the gauges work and how they are read.

Ken Purze said that with this project upstream, in the future the KRBC may want to think about gauges downstream on the main channel.

Dan Plath from the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association (450 members strong) came before the Board to explain that the Paddlers Association had asked the LaPorte County Drainage Board to provide the Association easement rights to set up a camping area in LaPorte County on land owned by the IDNR leased to the LaPorte County Parks Department. Because this

is recreational use consist with the goals of the KRBC, he is seeking an endorsement of this project as a good use for the Kankakee. He provided an explanation of the history and activities of the Paddlers Association. He showed designs for shelters called chickees which are used for transient camping. The plan is to erect at least one in LaPorte County on land leased by the Park Board from IDNR and then later look downstream for other camping areas.

Ron Knickrehm from the LaPorte County Parks Board told the KRBC that the Parks Board is working on an arrangement with the Association.

Ken Purze made a motion that the KRBC supports the use of the Kankakee River as a canoeing recreational trail and supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association in its program to find camping sites along the Kankakee River beginning with this project in LaPorte County. Kevin Breitzke seconded and the motion was approved.

Ken Purze and Tony Hendricks passed out maps of the Lomax Station area in Starke County to raise attention to the fact that Lomax exists and might provide an area for recreational and tourism potential for the Kankakee River area. While Lomax is located in Starke County, it has possibilities to affect the Basin economically. There are existing buildings, it once was a tourist camping site, and there is an abandoned airstrip on site. The idea of re-creating Lomax Station is an idea which should be explored.

Ken Purze thanked Rep. Dermody for his attendance today and Rep. Dermody reminded the Board that the next fiscal biennium is coming and the KRBC needs to start prioritizing its funding request.

Old Business

Porter County Drainage Board has filed for several permits for levee work and is awaiting authorization for the work.

Vince Urbano said Jasper County has received its permit for levee work and Misch Excavating will begin work to establish a roadway from the Newton County line to US 231. The fallen trees will be removed from the levee.

Jody Melton reported that the Sumava Resorts mitigation has been mostly completed by Mark Wunderink under contract with the KRBC and Newton County Drainage Board. The results will be sent to the Detroit District Corps of Engineers.

The sign committee of Kevin Breitzke, Tony Hendricks, and Vince Urbano said that LaPorte County will be working with the LaPorte County Highway Department to get signs for river mileage on the river. The signs will be consist with other signs along other rivers.

Other Business

Tony Hendricks told the Board that he had attended the Kankakee Roundtable in Kankakee, Illinois and discussed activities in Indiana, especially the sediment traps. Ken Purze made a motion and Jim Lambert seconded that Tony be named the official liaison with the Kankakee Roundtable in Illinois for the KRBC. The motion was approved.

Tony Hendricks discussed the assessment software available to surveyors and Drainage Boards. Schneider Corporation offers the software and other services and he is interested in finding if there is interest in other counties in acquiring the software. Ken Purze said that the 3 County Board might want to use KRBC monies already allocated to it for this product. This is under discussion. Several surveyors have experience with the software and it will remain under discussion.

There was discussion about the expenditure of funds on various projects and that the projects funded should be completed or the KRBC needs to determine where the money should be re-allocated.

Ken Purze made a motion seconded by Kevin Breitzke that Chris Knochel and Jody Melton contact Robert Barr of IUPUI to come to the next KRBC meeting to facilitate a discussion on geology and drainage in watersheds. Motion approved.

The next meeting of the KRBC will be July 12, 2012 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Headquarters at 9:30 am CDT unless there is a conflict. The meeting was adjourned.