



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

March 9, 2011 Regular Meeting - 1:00 PM
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis IN, 46204
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 18

President - John Gettinger Vice-President - Norman Neiburger
Treasurer - Chase Ellis Secretary - Dale Brier

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Miami County – Don Jewell (proxy)
Parke County – Penny Cox (proxy)
Posey County - Marianna Weinzapfel (proxy)
Sullivan County - John J. Gettinger
Vigo County - Keith Ruble (alt)
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Louise Jewell
DNR - Dale Brier (alt)

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp – DNR Nature Preserves

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

Stan Lambert – WREC
Phil Cox – Parke County alternate

Voting Members Absent:

Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Janet Shoaf
Gibson County - William Knowles
Jay County - Jim Zimmerman
Knox County - Chase Ellis
Tippecanoe Co. - Norman “Lucky” Neiburger
Vermillion County - Eliza Porter
Wells County – Scott Elzey

Counties not represented:

Adams County - vacant

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:21 PM and asked for introductions. Dale Brier read the proxies; Ken Einselen gave his proxy to Don Jewell, Ralph Weinzapfel gave his proxy to Marianna Weinzapfel, Chase Ellis gave his proxy to Keith Ruble, and Norman “Lucky” Neiburger gave his proxy to John Gettinger. Dale suggested assigning your proxy to someone, who can come and represent your county, you can assign it to anyone you want. Giving your proxy to another member who will already be at the meeting does not help make a quorum or accomplish goals of the WRHCC.

Locations for the summer meetings will be added to the agenda under new business.

Guest Stan Lambert commented that Lafayette had acquired a couple of pieces of property including 17 acres immediately north of the depot, and he remarked that the master plan was complete.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by George Mears to approve the January 12 minutes with a second from Marianna Weinzapfel; minutes were then accepted as presented.

Presidents Report

No report.

Finance Report

Dale distributed the finance report (see attached). As of March 1, there is \$225,832.51 in the Corridor fund. Last month's error was a glitch in the system, the next day the amount of postage was down to where it should be. Keith R. asked how much money the dedicated fund would bring in this year. This fiscal year the fund is averaging almost \$15,000.00 per month, which would be over \$170,000 a year. John suggested a grant round before the state decides to come in and sweep the fund. John said Bob Bronson should hurry to get the grant criteria finished. Dale reminded everyone that the DNR grants staff is still waiting for some decisions from the WRHCC. Penny C. moved to accept the financial report with a second from Marianna W. and the finance report was accepted.

Budget Report

Mike B. asked if a budget was set up. The Commission does not currently have a budget, but it is something the budget committee needs to work on. The budget committee has not met in a long time.

Grants

Dale mentioned handouts were given to the members of the Grant committee at the last meeting; it was a draft of criteria from the DNR and the Grants Committee meeting. Dale announced that Bob has yet to receive a phone call or meeting request from anyone on the Grant committee, there are still decisions to be made. The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Grant web page is a brief version of where we are now; all old content from the last grant round in 2000 has been removed. The new information gives a brief synopsis of the grant program and that the revenue is approximately \$125,000.00 per year.

The group discussed the decisions that still need made. Dave Hacker suggested that since there was a quorum today, they should make some decisions and not wait for the Grant committee to meet in the future. Dave then asked if decisions was made today, how soon could they have a grant round back to the Commission? Dale could not answer the question because Bob and his grant staff have other grant rounds open and due May 1 and June 1. Dale guessed that if everything went perfect, the soonest a grant round would open is September. The group discussed potential time lines for spending the money and how it would be disbursed.

John suggested the WRHCC make decisions today and move forward quickly with this grant round. Louise J. made the motion to make the grant round \$250,000 with a second coming from Penny C. After discussion about administrative costs, timelines and future income, the motion carried.

John mentioned the need to set a minimum and maximum for individual grants. John suggested a \$25,000.00 minimum. Marianna about a maximum of \$250,000 with the potential of only one grant project. The group discussed minimums and maximums for a long time. Dale moved to set the minimum at \$25,000, with a maximum of \$250,000, Louise seconded that motion. After more discussion, Mike B. moved to amend the motion with a \$150,000.00 maximum, Keith seconded the motion to amend and it carried with Dale casting the only opposing vote. A vote was called on the amended motion and it passed.

Legislative Report

No report.

Water Trail Committee Report

Ron James was not present for the meeting; John Gettinger received completed assessments from Ralph W. and Ron James. Dale volunteered to keep the reports for now. John then stressed that

Ron had created the assessment form and each Commissioner should fill one out each year for their county. New assessment forms were passed out to those in attendance. John asked if everyone agreed that the assessment form should be introduced into the minutes. Dave said that in reading the assessment it sounded like a job description to him for the Commissioners. Dave then made the motion to accept the assessment in the minutes and Mike gave the second to accept as presented. Motion carried. Louise asked who was in charge of repairing the plastic boxes that the maps go in. Dale commented the WRHCC members are and he had extra boxes up in his office.

Banks of the Wabash

John Gettinger told the group John Friedt passed away last month. Banks of the Wabash (BOW) has started a fund in his memory. It would seem appropriate for this Commission to donate money to that fund. The money would come from the BOW funds dedicated to the WRHCC. Dave made the motion to request \$500.00 for an appropriate contribution for an appropriate cause in John's name, as approved by the Chairman of the WRHCC; Marianna gave the second, the motion carried.

It was also mentioned that Sherrill Marginet, a former WRHCC member passed away recently.

1812 Bicentennial

John said that he would pass out some information after the meeting.

Newport Chemical Depot Land "Re-Use"

No report.

Corridor Citizen Award

Ron James will finally receive his Corridor Citizen Award; it will be presented to him on Saturday, May 21, at a function held by Acres, Inc in Huntington at the Historic Forks of the Wabash. The program runs from 2 - 4 PM. Ron Zartman made the arrangements and the award will be presented sometime between 2:30 and 3:30 PM. Marianna made a motion to provide a sponsorship of \$500.00 for the event in which Ron James will be honored. Dave gave the second and the motion carried. Dale will need an invoice from them for the sponsorship. John suggested the May meeting be moved to Saturday, May 21 to coincide with the Acres meeting. Dale suggested they hold that discussion when they talk about future meetings.

River Currents

Please send articles to Sue Ulrich she needs them by March 15.

Indiana Bicentennial In 2016

No report.

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs

No report from Adams County.

Bridges and Railings

Keith spoke to the Vigo County River Committee and they thought it would be something to look into and work with INDOT on how to implement. Keith said he would let the committee know what he finds out.

Meeting Cancellation Procedures

John G. has not created a plan.

WRHCC Website

Dale made the comment that if anyone wants something on the website to let him know. He plans to go through and streamline the site. www.in.gov.WRHCC

Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference

The Conference will be October 2-5, 2011 in Fort Wayne at the convention center downtown. It is an eight state trails and greenways conference. Would the Commission be interested in sponsorship or setting up a booth? Dale is on the planning committee and suggested a \$500 or \$1000 sponsorship. Ron Z., suggested offering a field trip on Sunday after the conference, Dale mentioned the planning committee has a similar idea. Those wishing to help can contact Dawn Ritchie. Dale also mentioned a possible session about the Wabash Water trail. Ron James would be a great presenter for that topic.

Marianna made a motion to sponsor the event at the \$500 level, Louise Jewell seconded. John suggested up to \$1,000.00 with some paid admissions, if people from the Commission would be attending. Dale then amended Marianna's motion up to \$1,000.00 with a second from Ron Zartman. The amended motion carried.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Earlier in the meeting, it was suggested to move the regular May meeting to May 21 to coincide with the Acres event and presentation of the WRHCC citizen corridor award. Dave Hacker made a motion to have the May meeting moved to Saturday, May 21 in Huntington at Historic Forks of the Wabash at 11:00 AM. George Mears seconded the motion. The motion carried. Marianna made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 of BOW funds to provide lunch, with a second from Keith. Motion carried. Dale and John will create a "light" agenda so the meeting does not run long.

Fox Island SOL fest is April 30 and May 1. Ron Z. commented everyone should come out and enjoy the activities and music.

July 13 Commission meeting will be held in Lafayette at the Depot downtown

September 14 meeting will be held in Wabash with lunch at noon.

Final Comments

Louise commented it was good to see everything on track! John thanked everyone for coming. Dale commented that there were copies of the article published in 2003 Outdoor Indiana if anyone was interested in taking one. He also has river maps, videos and plastic boxes for maps if anyone needs them. At 3:50 PM, Keith made the motion to adjourn with a second from George. Motion passed.

Next meeting

The May meeting has been moved to **Saturday, May 21** in Huntington. Please note that this is different from the regular meeting schedule. Historic Forks of the Wabash

www.historicforks.org

WRHCC Dedicated Fund (created in FY 2011)
WRHCC Dedicated Fund (created in FY 2010)
Projection Worksheet Notes Page - FY 2011

<u>Beginning balance July 1, 2010,</u>	115,784.40
<u>Revenue</u>	119,714.49
Expense	(9,666.38)

	Balance	225,832.51
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