



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - Dave Hacker

V. Pres. - John Gettinger

Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

Secretary - Dale Brier

July 8, 2015 1:00 pm

Historic Forks of the Wabash

3011 W Park Dr., Huntington, IN 46750

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Keith Poole (proxy)
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County – Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Parke County - Penny Cox
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County - Kara Kish
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp
Warren County – Louise Jewell (proxy)
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

Jewell Baxter – DNR
Donald Mathias – Huntington County
Sara Peel - WREC
Tom Castaldi – Allen Co. Historian

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Jay County - Doug Inman
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. Introductions were made and Hacker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. Hacker asked if there were any proxies. Dale Brier said that Louise Jewell was the proxy for Warren County and Keith Poole was the proxy for Allen County.

Review and Approval of May 13, 2015 Minutes

Hacker asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from May 13, 2015 and if there were any changes or corrections. There were none and Kara Kish moved to approve the minutes as written; Keith Poole seconded and the motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Tom Castaldi talked about the historic canal.

President's report (Dave Hacker)

Hacker said that he had been working on the River Road Route project and trying to make sure that all of the river roads routes have been chosen and the paper work completed. Hacker also said that he participated in the Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) event at Sugar Creek. He paddled with the group on Sugar Creek, but the Wabash paddle had to be postponed due to flood waters.

Hacker said he made contact with a group consisting of nine northeastern counties working on a blueway trail system. Brier said that he had attended both of the meetings this group had. Hacker said he planned to attend the next meeting and has already had his name added to their mailing list.

Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Brier passed out his standard report; giving the balance of \$283,113 as of end of fiscal year fund balance. No one had any questions or corrections.

Brier presented a special funding request to the commission. The request was from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Parks Division for \$250,000 to complete a trail project at Prophetstown State Park. Brier stated that the project meets the criteria for a Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) grant project. He explained that the project will extend two separate sections of trail to the edge of the park. It runs alongside the Wabash River and would be part of the Wabash Heritage Trail. Dale passed out a map of the project. He went on to explain that the \$2 million project is now short \$380,000. He said that the money had been granted to the DNR, but INDOT* changed the restriction on the money; it cannot be used for paved trails, only roads. Brier said that if the money is not received before September 2015, \$1.2 million in funds will revert back to the federal government. Brier said the DNR is looking for the commission's cooperation to save the project. Jim Andrew asked about funding for future Wabash grant projects. Brier said it could push future grant funding back a year or two, and it would not affect any awarded grants or jeopardize current administrative cost for the WRHCC. There was a lot of discussion. Andrew made a motion to approve the money for this project only; contingent on finding the remaining matching funds. Einselen seconded. Rama Sobhani commented on suspending the rules that only allows \$150,000 for grants or \$1000 for sponsorship. Andrew's motion was tabled. Sobhani then made a motion that they suspend the rule for funding for each individual request in order to address the \$250,000 request. Einselen seconded the motion. There were 2 opposed, but the motion passed. Hacker asked if all other grants have been encumbered. Brier said all awarded grants have been encumbered; no project will be put in jeopardy by this funding request. Andrew made a motion to un-table his previous motion. The motion was seconded by George Mears and passed. Brier read Andrew's motion again: Motion to approve \$250,000 for this project only, contingent on finding the remaining matching funds. Hacker called for a vote by hand. There were 8 in favor and 7 opposed. The motion passed by one vote. Brier said that he would voice the commission's concerns about using money in this way to the DNR executive office.

**This was reported incorrectly at the meeting, INDOT did not deny the usage of the funds for trails; it was the State Finance Committee.*

2016 Appointments

Brier said that member appointments will expire at the end of 2015. If you want to continue serving on the Commission, make sure to get in touch with your county commissioners. He said

that he will send out letters requesting appointments from the counties commissioners around November and he will be providing records of attendance. Hacker stated he will try to create an annual report to be included with the appointment request letters.

Committee Reports

Budget (Bob Shepherd) - Bob Shepherd handed out a budget report and then he passed out another report showing the expenses and revenue from the last 3 fiscal years. Jim Andrew asked about the dues paid in 2013. Brier said that was money paid for the commission to become a corporate member of the Banks of the Wabash. He stated that if they wanted to do the same this year they could. Bill Knowles asked about the terminology “program maintenance”. Shepherd explained that it was another term for sponsorship. Kish moved to accept the reports and Poole seconded. The motion passed.

Grants (Kara Kish) - Kish said that she, Shepherd and Hacker met with Bob Bronson regarding the motion made at the last meeting that would require grant recipients to report back to the WRHCC. After discussion with DNR staff, a revised system was proposed. 1) DNR would report to the commission annually the status on all open grants and 2) within a year of completion of a project, each recipient will be required to attend a WRHCC meeting to make a presentation of their project. Kish made a motion to adopt this as the commission’s reporting process for the grant cycle projects. Arin Shaver seconded the motion and it passed.

Executive (Dave Hacker) - none

Policy and Procedure (Bob Shepherd) - Bob Shepherd said the committee met through email and discussed three possible policies and procedures.

- Request for funding (a request may be presented at any commission meeting but not voted until the next meeting.)
- Local grant request from counties (sponsorships) will be limited to \$1000 for each county in a fiscal year. (dollar amount will be reviewed periodically)
- Outside grant request funding request from outside agency that still represents the goals of the commission will also follow goals outlined in goal 1.

Shepherd will send an email to everyone with this information.

Banks of the Wabash – liaison report - Einselen said that he did not attend the last Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting, on June 17, 2015, but he read from their minutes that the bicentennial event was off to a slow start and they were having technical issues with their website. Shepherd said that he was no longer the treasurer of the BOW.

Old Business

Wabash River Road Route (Ken Einselen) - Hacker said that everyone should have received an email from Einselen. Shepherd said that he had the resolution template if needed. Sobhani asked if the counties that have their river road routes done could move forward with signage rather than wait on the counties that are not ready. Brier said that he is reluctant to do this, the route should be complete, not a patchwork system of roads. Hacker said that he was concerned about how they can put together the route when there are counties that never participate. Hacker said that he has offered to work with those counties commissioners on their routes. He said that

he has not heard from them. Brier said that the group needed to contact the tourism bureau for help with this project. Andrews said that the commission should move forward with the project. Kish said that their map could reflect the counties that did not actually submit a route using suggested routes.

Funding requests

HRI funding request - Larry Southard made motion to approve the HRI funding request of \$1000 and Andrew seconded. The motion passed.

Wabash River Defenders Request - Shepherd made motion to approve the funding request of \$1000 for The Wabash River Defenders and was seconded by Einselen. The motion passed.

Strategic planning action item updates - Kish asked Einselen to email everyone the list of available options for the signs (River road signs, Public access signs, a small directional signs, etc.). This would allow everyone to put together a proper inventory of the signs that they would need for their river road routes. Kish suggested that an extension be allowed to identify guidelines for posting signs. Hacker said that the signs that they have are not approved by INDOT. Kish motioned to amend the strategic plan; she wants to postpone the deadline for submitting selected roads and creating standards for signage to September 2015, and then utilize the standards to put together the inventory by November 2015. Einselen seconded, motion passed.

Kish made a motion to officially adopt the strategic plan as amended and Shaver seconded. The motion passed. Kish suggested keeping this topic under old business on the agenda.

New Business

New funding requests – Because Ralph Weinzapfel was not in attendance, Brier submitted a \$1000 sponsorship request for Posey County’s Paddlefest. The event will be on September 19, 2015. He stated it was the same event that was sponsored last year. The Commission will vote on funding this at the next meeting.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Upcoming committee meetings - Hacker reminded the commission to give Shepherd suggestions on the three policies that he talked about earlier for the policy committee.

Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc.

- Andrew said that they are still having the Riverfest in Tippecanoe County this weekend. The canoe racing portion of the event has been reschedule to August 9, 2015.
- Mike Beauchamp said they will be having a fish fry on July 25, 2015 at the Paradise Spring Park.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests –

- Einselen talked about river flow data from the reservoirs that feed into the Wabash River.
- Einselen said that he emailed a friend in regards to a wood canoe for the video on the Wabash River. His friend said that he could borrow the canoe as long as he took care of it. Einselen contacted Suzanne Schwibs at WTIU and they are looking to do some

filming on July 16, 2015 or a weekend in August. Hacker said that he introduced her to Scott Elzey and he is going to use his airboat as a base for her to do filming somewhere above the Markel area for a more natural river.

- Hacker gave an update on the progress of the WRHCF grant at Historic Forks of the Wabash.
- Beauchamp reported that John and LaNae Abnet made it to New Orleans, Louisiana. They are the couple that is trying to paddle their way to the Gulf of Mexico, by way of the Wabash River.

Kish motioned for adjournment and Shaver 2nd the motion. The motion passed Adjournment at 2:45 pm

Next Meeting: September 9, 2015 at 1:00 pm.
Montezuma Community Center
800 N. Jackson Street, Montezuma, IN

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund			
FY15 as of 06/30/2015			
<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 261,975.47
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 8,811.55	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 622.92	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 264.36	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 986.92	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 601.43	
518107	Payroll Anthem Trad HDHP	\$ 1.33	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 416.51	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 13.07	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 50.51	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 6.07	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 1.43	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 150.84	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 55.50	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 60.64	
519725	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 0.08	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 164.04	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 153.95	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 7,294.32	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 425.60	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 706.95	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ 3.00	
595180	InState Travel - Board Member	\$ 39.00	
599107	AdmOp - Art & Design	\$ 1,000.00	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 6,000.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 387.72	
759910	Dedicated Indirect	\$ 106.21	
	Total FY15 Expense To Date:	\$ 28,323.95	
	Fund Balance:		
	6/30/2014	\$ 415,011	
	FY15 revenues	\$ 261,975	
	FY15 Expenses	\$ 28,324	
	FY15 Encumbrances	\$ 365,550	
	balance as of 06/30/2015	\$ 283,113	
	DNR payroll	\$ 12,043.16	
	travel costs	\$ 8,786.86	
	sponsorships	\$ 7,000.00	
	operating	\$ 493.93	
	Total	\$ 28,323.95	