



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - Dave Hacker

V. Pres. - John Gettinger

Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

Secretary - Dale Brier

January 14, 2015 1:00 pm

The Garrison - Lawrence Room

6002 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Ron Zartman
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 - Keith Poole (proxy)
Parke County - Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Vigo County - Kara Kish
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Guests:

Jewell Baxter - DNR
Doug Keller - DNR, Fish and Wildlife
Stan Lambert - WREC
Jon Mareachen - DNR, Finance
Randy Nowaskei - Knox Co. alternate
Mia Partlow - WTIU
Suanne Schwibs - WTIU
Angie Tilton - DNR, HRI
Marianne Woodruff - WTIU

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Jay County - Doug Inman
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew
Vermillion County - Larry Southard
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm. John Gettinger opened the agenda and Dave Hacker wanted to add the topic of Committees to the agenda. Introductions were made and Dale Brier announced the proxies; Larry Southard gave his proxy to John Gettinger, Ken Einselen gave his proxy to Keith Poole, James Andrew and Ryan Noblitt gave their proxies to the president.

Review and Approval of November 12, 2014 Minutes

Gettinger asked if there were any corrections for the previous minutes and there were none. Gettinger asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written; Rama Sobhani made the motion and Arin Shaver seconded it. The motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Asian Carp update – Doug Keller of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Wildlife Division gave a presentation on the Carp, mainly the distribution and control options of the fish. Keller showed a map of rivers showing areas populated by the carp and explained how the fish may have been unknowingly moved to the areas by anglers. The species most found were the Silver and

Bighead Carp. The Wabash River is a free flowing river so it is not a conducive habitat for the carp. Keller said that controlling the Asian Carp by commercial fishing would not be a productive way of controlling the population. Gill netting is not allowed any other place except for on the Ohio River and is not profitable for the commercial fisherman. Keller stated that some of the most popular ways of controlling the fish being used today are: using water cannons and annoying sounds in locked chambers, pheromone repellants to push or keep the fish out of the areas and Bio-bullets to kill the fish. Possible natural ways of killing the fish are high nitrogen, high Oxygen levels or bacterial/fungus on the fish. Keller suggested that the members encourage people to bow fish the carp, as a sport, to help reduce the number of the fish.

HRI update – Angie Tilton, with the DNR Fish and Wildlife, gave a presentation on the Healthy River Initiative (HRI) to the commission. Tilton spoke about how the DNR, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Wetland Reserve Easement Program and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are seeking to purchase around 43,000 acres around the Wabash River and Sugar Creek areas. The Nature Conservancy of Indiana provides up to 25% of the acquisition price on some purchased land. The DNR wants to open this land to the public for recreational benefits. To date, DNR has purchased 8,488 acres; permanently protected 23,562 acres, and opened 5,214 acres to the public. Properties are co-managed by Fish and Wildlife, State Parks and Forestry. Funding for the purchases are through lifetime license sales and wildlife restoration funds. These properties are opened for hunting and other recreational activities and they are thinking of opening them for primitive camping only.

Video project update – Marianne Woodruff, WTIU, told the commission WTIU has been awarded the official bicentennial endorsement and that they have relationships with other public stations. Woodruff introduced Suanne Schwibs, the project producer. Schwibs showed examples of her video projects that she has already done. She is planning for the Wabash video to be a similar historical documentary. She said that they will start shooting in April 2015 on the project and March 2016 will be the release date. Schwibs asked the commission for their help with shooting some of the scenes.

President's report- None

Officer Elections- Ron Zartman announced that John Gettinger will not run for President but will run for the office of Vice President. Zartman said that Dave Hacker will run for President. Gettinger asked if there were any nominations from the floor, but there were none. Shaver made a motion to close nominations and elect the new officer without a vote. George Mears seconded. The motion passed. Everyone thanked Gettinger for his service. Hacker, now the new president, asked if Bob Shepherd would continue to serve as Treasurer. Shepherd accepted.

Finance Report – Dale Brier passed out a copy of his report and said that revenues were around \$102,000. Brier said the balance was around \$437,842 and that this did not include the encumbrance of the two new grants (\$290,000).

Committee Reports

✦ **Budget** - Bob Shepherd said that his report would be along the same lines as Brier's.

✦ **Grants** - No report.

✦ **Executive** - No Report.

- ✦ **Banks of the Wabash – liaison report** - Shepherd said that there was a meeting next Wednesday, 1-21-15 at 10 am in the West Lafayette Library.

Old Business

- ✦ **Wabash River Road Route** - Hacker said that Ken Einselen has been working on this and if counties have not submitted their route to him already, they should be doing so as soon as possible.
- ✦ **Vote on funding requests for Riverfest** - Brier said he had a copy of the \$1000 request and that it just needs to be voted on. Stan gave a little more information about the event and what the sponsors receive for their contributions. Beauchamp made motion to fund the project, Shepherd seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business

- ✦ **New funding requests-** Zartman submitted a request for the Sol fest fundraiser in Fort Wayne on May 2 and 3, 2015. Zartman explained a little bit about the event and stated that as Master of Ceremonies he would be promoting the WRHCC and the Wabash River. He asked for \$1000.

Hacker submitted a request for the Splash on the Wabash. He showed the commission a copy of the budget from last year and explained that they are asking for \$500. He said that they do have \$4700 from last year's event toward the budget, but needed additional funds. This event will be at the Forks of the Wabash on July 11, 2015. There will also be transportation and educational opportunities dealing with environmental and river sciences.

- ✦ **2016 Grant project ideas** - Brier passed out a list of the commission's ideas for grant project type. This list was from 2 years ago when the grant committee worked on the criteria options. The commission discussed how to define a couple of the options on the list such as fishing piers and public access. He explained that the commission needed to vote on 3 priorities from the list and to determine the focus of the 2016 grant. Shaver suggested that a list/survey be sent to each member for a vote on the top 3 or 4 ideas and the results would determine where the commission would go from there. Dale said that he would email this survey to each member for the vote and they would discuss the results at the next meeting
- ✦ **2015 meeting locations-** Sobhani said that he would host March's meeting in Knox County. Hacker said Huntington County can host the meeting in July. Penny Cox said Parke County will host the meeting for September and November's meeting will be hosted in Tippecanoe County. The January meeting can be in Indianapolis again. Shaver asked that parking passes be sent in advance for the meeting in Tippecanoe County. The meeting for May is tentatively scheduled in Gibson County. If river is up, another location of close proximity would be chosen to hold the meeting.

Strategic Planning – Kara Kish passed out an outline of the strategic plan. Kish explained the process of how the plan worked and she spoke on the responsibility the group has for making sure the goals are met. Kish stated that there were 3 goals on the outline that she felt would be a good starting point. Kish asked for suggestions on how they could accomplish getting the goals met and several members suggested that a timeline be set for each goal. Arin mentioned dealing with one goal at a time to assure its completion; then add another from the list of things that the commission wants to accomplish. Kish suggested that the members take a look at her document and check off a goal or goals that they would

be interested in working on. Kish told the members that the strategic plan is important to the commission and once they have adopted a plan, they can revisit the plan to make any amendments needed.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

✦ **Upcoming committee meetings-** none.

✦ **Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc. –** none.

✦ **Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests-** Gettinger told the members that they have done a great job serving on the commission and educating the public on the river. He said that he was proud of them. Penny Cox stated that she thought that having 3 presentations in one meeting was too much. Hacker explained that this only occurred because of rescheduling of the guest speakers.

Next Meetings: March 11, 2015 at 1:00 pm. Knox County
 May 13, 2015 in Gibson County (tentative)
 July 8, 2015 in Huntington County
 September 9, 2015 in Parke County
 November (date TBD) in Tippecanoe County
 January 13, 2016 in Indianapolis

Bob Shepherd motioned to adjourn the meeting and Rama Sobhani seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY15 as of 12/31/2014

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 102,642.82
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,291.09	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 299.05	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COnt	\$ 128.73	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 480.61	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 183.58	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$ 326.07	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 6.34	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$ 24.59	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 2.95	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.69	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 71.87	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 29.50	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 16.00	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 123.21	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$ 87.97	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 3,219.92	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 100.60	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 176.44	
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	\$ 3,500.00	
659410	Postage	\$ 151.03	

Total FY15 Expense To Date: \$ 14,262.24

Fund Balance:		
	6/30/2014	\$415,011
FY14 revenues		\$102,643
FY14 Expenses		\$14,262
FY14 Encumbrances		\$65,550
balance as of 12/31/2014		\$437,842

DNR payroll	\$ 5,861.07
travel costs	\$ 3,750.14
sponsorships	\$ 4,500.00
operating	\$ 151.03
Total	\$ 14,262.24