



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

July 13, 2011 Regular Meeting - 11:00 AM

Big Four Depot

200 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette IN 47904

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

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Ron James (alt)
DNR – Dale Brier (alt)
Gibson County - William Knowles
Huntington County – Dave Hacker
Miami County – Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Posey County - Marianna Weinzapfel (proxy)
Tippecanoe County – Lucky Neiburger
Vermillion County - Eliza Porter
Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alt)
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County – Sara Peel (proxy)

Guests:

Tim Andrew – Tippecanoe County
Phil Cox – Parke County
Dan McCain – Wabash & Eric Canal Assoc.

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp – DNR Nature Preserves

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Voting Members Absent:

Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Janet Shoaf
Jay County - Jim Zimmerman
Knox County – Chase Ellis
Sullivan County – John Gettinger
Wells County – Scott Elzey

Counties not represented:

Adams County - vacant

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda

Lucky Neiburger called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM and asked for introductions. Dale Brier read the proxies, Margie Deveral gave her proxy to Sara Peel and Ralph Weinzapfel gave his proxy to Marianna Weinzapfel Kassenbrock.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

none

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ron James to approve the May 21 minutes with a second from Ken Einselen. Marianna Weinzapfel had a correction; she was on the list instead of her father, Ralph Weinzapfel. Dale then clarified that Ralph should have been listed. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

President's Report

No report, John Gettinger was not in attendance.

Finance Report

Dale reported in the absence of Chase Ellis and distributed the finance report. As of July 1, there was \$272,364.73 in the Corridor fund. Expenses since July 1, 2010 were \$14,998.92. Ron then commented that with the revenue from last year being at \$171,579.25 that next year's revenue should be comparable and maybe even a little higher under current gas prices. Lucky inquired if the current balance of \$272,364.73 was drawing any interest, Dale said that under state guidelines that all of the accounts draw interest but it is at such a low interest rate. Lucky then ask if it was possible for the Commission to invest it, Dale commented that was not possible. Right now to get the money, it first has to be appropriated, then allotted, encumbered and spent. Ron James then went on to say the DNR is in control of the fund. Keith went on to mention that even though we have all this money in our account it does not mean that it is safe. LARE money was swept this year as an example of what can happen.

Budget Report

Chase Ellis, the budget committee chair, was not in attendance and Dale did not think that the Budget Committee had met. Dale thought the Budget Committee had not met in years. Much discussion then followed about how if you want to request an increase in the budget then you need to have an active Budget Committee. Dale then went on to say that if you have an idea what your budget is, that lets you plan for grants and it helps the WRHCC plan for the long term. He went on to say it had been over a year since the DNR had given the commission an estimate of how much the administrative cost would be for a grant round. Again, estimated costs per grant are \$5,000. Ron mentioned that Chase had requested Dale to send him the marketing plan (Action Item #3). Dale could not remember if he had sent the marketing plan, but he would send it to Chase right away (Action Item #4). Mike then suggested that Chase should bring a proposed budget to the September meeting (Action Item #1).

Grants

It was decided very early in the discussion that Bob Bronson should come to the next meeting and report any information that he had concerning the grant round. Ken even suggested that he would like to have a draft by the next meeting. Several members of the Commission even committed to give Bob a call. John would need to call him as well as Ron and Eliza. (Action Item #5)

Legislature

No report

Water Trail

Ron said that most of the members are failing to report the condition of the water trail in each respective county. The point of the assessment is to make sure that all of the posts and signage are up. If everyone would find time to take a little drive to find out the status of the water trail, check access points and make sure brochures are available, that would be great, he commented. (Action Item #6) If things are not in place and things are needed please report any issues back to Ron.

Banks of the Wabash

Ken was at the Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting in Lafayette where the annual awards were presented. Ron reported the Banks of the Wabash awards many small grants and they are easy to get. They give out awards in the area of recreation, conservation, preservation and education. Ron suggested if you know of worthwhile projects in your county, you need to let the BOW know. Ron then mentioned that all of the members of the Commission should also be members of the Banks; the cost is only \$10.00. There is also about \$13,000 that is dedicated to the WRHCC. John G. keeps trying to come up with ideas of how to spend it, Ron commented.

War of 1812 Bicentennial

Ken had a handout from George Rogers Clark NHP, it contained a request to participate in the National Muzzle Shooting event in September, many links to websites about the Bicentennial and a listing of related events.

Old Business

Newport Chemical Depot Land “Re-Use”

It is at a standstill, it is moving very slowly because it is a military site. Phil Cox has been attending the monthly meetings. Phil has been working on trying to protect the prairie. He mentioned that the proposed plan along the Wabash is the most important economic development in the area. Tom Swinford from Nature Preserves made a presentation in May about the 18,000 acres. The conservation plan is under consideration and they are not willing to commit until they get the property.

River Currents

The deadline for the next issue is the end of August.(Action Item #7) There have been many nice photographs along with some interesting articles. If you join the BOW for \$10.00 per year, you will automatically receive the *River Currents* which is a minor amount for a major benefit.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016

No report

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs

Some counties have their signage out, but many do not. There are still plenty of signs available.

Bridges and Railings

Keith reported that it is impossible to take the railing off unless the bridge is under reconstruction. INDOT is open to the idea of open railing and Keith will talk with Joe Novak from INDOT specifically about this concept.

Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference (MATAG)

Dale reported that the sponsorship has been paid, it includes two paid admissions and Ron and Chase are going. Dave then said he would like to attend as well. The Commission will pay for his sponsorship and anyone who would like to attend. The cost is \$150.00 per person before Sept 2. The agenda has not been finalized yet but Ron is on the agenda for the water trails section.

The pre-conference Paddling Trip is Sunday, October 2 at 1:00 PM. Dave H. will be organizing and leading the float. (Action Item #8) They will leave the Forks or landing on Little River and paddle up to Hanging Rock, Dave commented that you could do that but the last time it took him five hours. Ron said they had only allotted three hours for the float and that they are hoping for high water. Pick up will be at the Hanging Rock national monument. We will then return to the Grand Wayne Center by 6:00 PM hopefully, Ron added.

Meeting Cancellation Procedures

No report.

New Business

Ron suggested that action items should be sent out right after the meeting to highlight things that need to be done for the upcoming meeting. Ron that thought maybe the action plan for the budget report should be Chase is to request the marketing plan from Dale and call a budget meeting. Ron then proceeded to explain to the committee how important an action item list would be for all members, it would hold them accountable for the items that which they were responsible. Ron moved that within a week after each meeting an action list be sent out to all the members by email. It would just be stating an action that someone has stated that would be done. Marianna seconded the motion. Dale stated two weeks after the meeting is a more realistic timeline, he went on to say DNR would get the action list done before the minutes, so they could go out in plenty of time. Ron said from his experience that there should only be about six or seven action items to come out of one meeting. The motion was then amended for a two-week deadline on the Action List instead of one. The motion carried with one opposing vote. Dale and Leah agreed to create one for this meeting and get it out within two weeks.

2012 Commissioner Appointments will need to be made for all 19 counties. Please contact your County Commissioner if you are interested in serving again. (Action Item #9) Some counties are not participating at all. Dale was asked to let members know when the letters will be sent to the County Commissioners. When he sends them out he will cc the current Wabash Commissioners as well. Dale is going to try to write up a better description of the kind of people the Commission is looking for.

Dale also mentioned that he got an email from INDOT and they want to receive the Wabash Heritage Corridor Commission minutes. He took it as an opportunity to say that the WRHCC has a vacant position for INDOT; however, they declined to have a seat on the WRHCC. There has not been a person from INDOT since Ray Irvin which has been at least three or four years. There is supposed to be someone from Historic Preservation, INDOT, Tourism, IDEM, and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation serving as advisory positions.

Ken was hoping the Commission would have received a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers about the Mississinewa Reservoir. Scott Dalms is asking for grant information and funds to deepen and stock an area of water that is about one mile from the Wabash; it is an emergency overflow area. The Army Corp of Engineers has control and owns the pond. Ken made a motion to write a letter of support on behalf of the WRHCC with a second from Mike. Motion passed. (Action Item #10)

Dale will send the WRHCC letterhead to everyone electronically so that all correspondence will be on it. (Action Item #2)

Mike B. was happy to announce that the De-trash the Wabash would be happening on July 30th, 19.2 miles of the river will be cleaned out by 20 teams of 12 members per team. They are hoping for about 300 volunteers. Mike then presented one of their t-shirts to Ron J. as a Wabash River defender. If you would like more information, you can go to wabashriverdefenders.org. There was also an article in *River Currents*.

The Sullivan County 8th Grade River Expedition is coming up, a motion was made by Ron James to provide a \$500 sponsorship with a 2nd from Marianna, motion carried.

Arts Faces Art Fair preplanning meeting will take place on July 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn, the planning theme for 2013 is the Year of the River. It will be a brainstorming meeting. Keith will try to attend.

Dan McCain gave a brief presentation about Canal Park in Delphi.

It was mentioned that George Mears had an accident, and was now doing better.

Dale asked that everyone please fill out his or her travel vouchers and direct deposit form.

Sara announced that there were refreshments and everyone could help themselves.

Dave mentioned that Jerry Hay had an excellent book on river maps if anyone was interested. The group discussed the book and its audience.

Ron James brought his Corridor Citizen of the Year award so that everyone could see it. The group discussed as how to proceed in selecting the next recipient, Ron suggested that the MATAG conference could make a good presentation point and he would serve as the chair of the committee. Ron then made a motion to have a committee for a citizen of the year award and they report to the Commission by September on the recipient. Marianna 2nd, motion carried. (Action Item #11)

The next meeting is September 14, 1:00 PM at the Honeywell Center in Wabash. Mike B. will make reservations at the Honeywell Center and let everyone know if they will gather for lunch. (Action Item #12)

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM, motion was made by Ron with a second from Marianna. Motion carried.

WRHCC Dedicated Fund**Beginning balance July 1, 2010**

115,784.40

Revenue

171,579.25

Expense

(14,998.92)

Balance As of June 30, 2011

272,364.73

REVENUE

431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	<u>171,579.25</u>
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EXPENSES

510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	6,677.21
515000	Fringe	2,400.69
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	23.11
581160	Event Sponsorship	2,000.00
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	3,347.84
	InState Travel - Per	
595120	Diem&Meal	52
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	201.04
	InState Travel -	
595170	Parking&Tolls	19
659410	Postage	<u>278.03</u>

Total Expenses

14,998.92

WRHCC ACTION PLAN

July 13, 2011 Meeting

Due to the few tasks being accomplished between meetings, it was moved at the July 13 meeting that a list of specific tasks for individuals be sent out within two weeks of the meeting to better inform members of assignments they committed to.

1. Chase Ellis needs to call a budget committee meeting before the September 14 meeting to discuss the budget.
2. Dale Brier will send an electronic version of the WRHCC letterhead to all members.
(completed 7-14-11)
3. Dale Brier will send a copy of the DNR marketing plan to Chase Ellis. *(completed 7-14-11)*
4. Chase Ellis needs to review the DNR marketing plan.
5. Several members volunteered (Eliza P., Dave H., Keith R., Ron J., Ken E., and Marianna W.) to call Bob Bronson (317-232-4075) and check on the progress of the WRHCC grants and request he attend the September 14th meeting to update the Commission on the Grant Round progress.
6. Water Trail assessments need to be taken care of only 1/6 of them have been filled out. Ron has asked that this be a priority to those who haven't turned them in.
7. *River Currents* please turn in articles by the end of August for September publication.
8. Pre-Conference MATAG Paddling Trip is to be organized by Dave H., and Ron Z.,
9. Commissioner appointments, if you are still interested in serving on the WRHCC contact your County Commissioner.
10. Ken E., is to compose a letter of support for work to be done on the Mississinewa River one mile from the Wabash that needs to be dredged and made deeper to be stocked with fish.
11. Ron J., will chair a committee for the Citizen Award and will have a report to the Commission by the September meeting.
12. Mike B., is to make the arrangements for the September 14th meeting to be held at the Honeywell Center, if lunch is being planned please let everyone know so they can plan accordingly.