



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

September 14, 2011 Regular Meeting - 1:00 PM

Honeywell Center

275 E. Market Street - Wabash, IN 46992

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

## Meeting minutes

### Voting Members Present:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Allen County - Ron Zartman  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County - Chase Ellis  
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen  
Parke County - Ron James (proxy)  
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel  
Sullivan County - John 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:

Dick Beamer  
Gary Hunter  
Susan A. Hunter  
Don Jewell  
Steve Johnson  
Sara Peel - WREC  
Kevin Poole  
Rae Schnapp - BOW

### Voting Members Absent:

Cass County - Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Janet Shoaf  
Gibson County - William Knowles  
Jay County - Jim Zimmerman  
Tippecanoe County - Lucky Neiburger  
Vermillion County - Eliza Porter  
Wells County - Scott Elzey

### Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM and asked for introductions. Dale Brier read the proxies; Penny Cox gave her proxy to Ron James; Eliza Porter gave her proxy to John Gettinger.

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Keith Ruble to approve the July 14 minutes with a second from Ken Einselen. There was one correction to be made; The Newport Chemical Depot Land "Re-Use" report should have read 1,800 acres instead of 18,000. Minutes approved with the correction.

### President's Report

John had spent the summer in Minnesota. On August 30 and September 1, John met with the eighth graders in Parke and Vermillion County. They had a "wetland project" along the Wabash River. It was a very successful project and the kids are understanding the river and the flood

plain. They are hoping to enlarge the project the next time. He is getting ready for the River Expo in Sullivan County where every eighth grader is in the river for seven hours in rafts. Some of the students who have gone on the trip previously now want to come back and help with the trip. It is one of the highlights seniors mention about their eighth grade year.

### **Finance Report**

Dale distributed the finance report (see attached). As of August 31, 2011, there was \$289,383.44 in the Corridor fund. Revenue between July 1, and August 31 totaled \$21,084.90. Expenses since August 31, 2011 were \$4,240.74. A motion to accept the finance report was made by Ron J., with a second from Ken, motion carried.

### **Budget Report**

The Budget committee has yet to meet. John, Dave, and Chase will meet in Indianapolis and Chase will call the meeting and notify everyone. Dale said they are welcome to use the conference room in Outdoor Recreation for their meeting. Chase was to send an email to the committee members to see what dates was available. Dale also mentioned that he would be available if the committee needed him.

### **Grants**

Bob Bronson was unable to attend. Dale went on to say they have a draft of grant criteria. They are still working on the manual and have run into some questions and need clarification from the Grants Committee. They are asking the Grants Committee to meet with Bob and his team to answer some of these questions and to go over some concerns. Chase suggested setting the meeting up the same day as the budget meeting. Chase said he would send Bob an email to see what dates are available and Chase will set the meeting up. The committee consists of John, Chase, Ron J., Dave, Keith, and Dale. Dale asked the members of the committee to see him after the meeting so he could pass material out to them.

John then went on to explain to the guests in attendance a little history about the WRHCC.

### **Legislative**

No report. Without a specific goal or agenda, the Commission agreed to lay low and not push any legislative items until after the first round of grants had been awarded.

The group had a long discussion about dumping trash on the river, clean ups and fines. The current fines seem very low. Possible funding for future river clean ups was also discussed, with the possibility of using WRHCF money for sponsorships.

### **Water Trail**

Ron J. handed out the River Inventory forms again. He was thinking that by winter he could get members to inventory their water trails and bring back this report. That would give everyone almost six months to get this form done. Ron went on to say that he knows that Allen and Wabash Counties have their reports in. Dale mentioned that one of the things that came up in the Grant meetings was a need for accurate locations of existing river access sites and camping areas. They have the maps from years ago but he thinks there are still some holes and as of right now they only know of two campsites on the entire Wabash River. What he needs from f the counties is a listing of all of the public access sites and all the canoe campsites that are open to

the public. Please do not wait until March because the Grant criteria will be delayed. Ron suggested getting this form turned in right away so they could get this grants rolling.

### **Banks of the Wabash**

Ken introduced Rae Schnapp as president of the BOW. She went on to say that they have been focusing on river cleanups. They helped de-trash Lafayette in the spring, and they hauled all of their equipment up here and helped Mike B., and his groups with their cleanup. Another will be held in two weeks in Williamsport.

### **War of 1812 Bicentennial**

Many of the events to be held will have taken place before the next scheduled meeting.

Ken had a handout of events, most of which were collected from a few websites.

<http://libguides.indstate.edu/content.php?pid=116853&sid=1008017>

[http://lineage.gradeless.com/Indiana\\_1812\\_Calendar.htm](http://lineage.gradeless.com/Indiana_1812_Calendar.htm)

<http://www.in.gov/history/3950.htm>

### **Old Business**

Newport Chemical Depot Land “Re-Use” John has been told by the people in Vermillion County that they will get a campsite or public access site out of the operation, however it is moving slowly.

*River Currents*: Next edition article submission deadline would be by the November meeting.

This way she could get an edition out before the holiday. Please get articles to Susan Ulrich.

### **Indiana Bicentennial in 2016**

No report. Rae does get notices and will forward them to the Commission members as far as she knows the state does not have a plan. Indiana will observe the Bicentennial of its Statehood in 2016. A compendium containing a history of Indiana’s centennial celebration, bicentennial projects highlighting the state’s natural resources, education, ethnicity, and transportation, responses from various state organizations is available.

### **River Road and Heritage community Sign Programs (Allen County)**

No report from Allen County. Ron Z. was not aware that it was his turn for the report. Mike commented that his county put up 80 signs and there was not a specified formula in doing so.

### **Bridges and Railings**

Keith reminded everyone of the issue, modern bridges are built in such a way that motorists cannot see the river. He has been working with Joe Novak with the Indiana Department of Transportation and he is going to make a trip to talk to him about it. He thinks this is a bigger issue than this group can deal with, we need to get county commissioners and others involved in this, he commented. The whole idea is when the state decides to remodel a bridge they take into consideration that the barrier they put back is something that you can see through. Keith went on to hint that if enough people write letters it could be changed. Ken said what they are looking at is crash approved safety rails which is referred to as a “Texas Rail.” It allows motorists to see the water. The current design is done with safety and cost as primary factors, not aesthetics.

### **Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference**

Chase and Ron are going to attend the conference. Their reservations have been paid for. Several are planning on helping with the paddling trip. Dale was asked if he could bring the WRHCC display up to the Conference since Ron J., said it was all in his office.

### **MATAG pre-conference paddling trip**

Ron Zartman spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers, they will make sure to release water for the event. Many items were discussed including fees, transportation, water levels. They will leave from the Conference Center in Ft. Wayne at 1 PM and return at 6 PM if the waters are still low. There is a meet and greet that night at 6PM, the group might be a little late. Overall things are looking good, Ron Z., commented.

### **Meeting Cancellation Procedures**

No Report. A suggestion was made for members to call Dale and he would put out an email. It was noted that many members do not check their email hourly. A phone tree was also suggested. This agenda item has been put off since last March.

### **2012 Commissioner Appointments**

Dale has not done anything with them yet. He mentioned to the board members at the last meeting that appointments were coming up and if they want to be reappointed they need to start working with their county commissioners. He will be sending out some letters this fall. Louise then asked how long the appointments were good for and Dale answered two years with no term limits. Mike asked the question if you have to live in the county that you represent. Dale answered that there is nothing in the law that says that you have to be from that county. The county commissioners appoint the members. There are a couple of counties that have a long history of non-participation. Ralph W. then asked Dale if when he sends out the letter if he could stipulate in it the importance of their representative attending the meetings. At this point, the County Commissioners may not know who is attending and who is not, he thought maybe if he added a line to the letter stating that the participation in grants would be based on the representative's participation and attendance that it might help. Dale will include it in the letter as well the participation of each of the 19 counties over the past two years.

### **New Business**

The Corridor Citizen of year should take place at the MATAG Conference. Ron J. nominated Lucky Neiburger, with a second from Chase E., motion carried. The presentation will take place at the Conference.

### **Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion**

Upcoming committee meetings, Chase is to set up a grant committee meeting with Bob Bronson and Dale in Indianapolis at the Government Center.

### **Other County or Special Event Announcements, Festival Dates for next year**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> Wabash County will have a float from Hanging Rock to Paradise Spring on the day of the Wabash chili cook-off, the largest such cook-off east of the Mississippi River. The float will start at 10 AM; it is a tremendous event with five to six thousand people usually attending, over \$100,000 was raised for charities.

Ken announced that the 2011 River Friendly Farmer was an award that was presented at the State Fair this year and the recipient was from Wabash County.

The next meeting is scheduled at the Conference Center in Indianapolis, Keith commented. He was at a meeting at Eli Lilly over in Vermillion County and the Governor was there. Eli Lilly gave the State of Indiana about 300 acres along the Wabash River for a wetland. Keith talked to the Lilly people and asked them if they would host the Commission and they said yes, they would provide lunch and a tour of the wetland. Chase then made a motion to meet at Eli Lilly in Vermillion County on November 9 if the arrangements could be made with Lilly, Ken made a second and the motion carried. Keith will get in touch with Dale and let him know for sure as soon as possible.

Mike B. then thanked everyone for coming to Wabash. Please stop back at the hotel for ice cream or if you are interested in coffee you can stop at the coffee shop, he added.

The Commission thanked Mike and his group for hosting such a nice meeting. A great lunch and wonderful tour through the city and along the Wabash in an open-air bus converted into a train made for a very special day.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM, motion from Ron J., with a second from George. Motion carried.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be at Eli Lily in Clinton IN.

Attachment A: Finance Report

FY 2012 48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor

Revenue	As of August 31, 2011	
431401 AD-Oil and Gas royalty along		\$21,084.90
<b>Revenue Total</b>		<b>\$21,084.90</b>
Expense		
510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages		\$2,279.19
515000 fringe		\$813.85
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline		\$75.50
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts		\$135.00
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals		\$32.39
595110 InState Travel - Mileage		\$860.64
659410 Postage		\$44.17
<b>Expense Total</b>		<b>\$4,240.74</b>
Beginning Balance, July 1, 2011		\$272,539.28
Total revenue as of August 31, 2011		\$21,084.90
Total expenses as of August 31, 2011		\$4,240.74
<b>Balance as of August 31, 2011</b>		<b>\$289,383.44</b>