



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

November 9, 2011 Regular Meeting - 1:00 PM
Clinton Laboratories
10500 S. State Rd. 63, Clinton, IN 47875-9560

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

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Ron James (alt)
Carroll County – Tom VanSickle (alt)
Gibson County - William Knowles
Huntington County – Dave Hacker
Knox County – Chase Ellis
Miami County – Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Penny Cox
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County – John Gettinger
Vermillion County - Eliza Porter
Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alt)
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County – Louise Jewell
DNR – Dale Brier (alt)

Guests:

Don Jewell
Phil Cox – Parke County alternate

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Janet Shoaf
Jay County - Jim Zimmerman
Tippecanoe County – Lucky Neiburger
Wells County – Scott Elzey

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp – DNR Nature Preserves

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce proxies, Open Agenda

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and asked for introductions. Dale Brier read the proxies; Ryan Noblitt gave his proxy to President John Gettinger. Agenda items that need to be added to New Business included the formation of the Nominations Committee and for Chase suggested the spring retreat in March be brought up for discussion. A motion was made to accept the agenda with those additions by Dave H., with a second from Chase E., motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Chase Ellis made a motion to approve the September 14 minutes with a second from Ken E., motion carried.

President's Report

John G. reported on the Sullivan county 8th grade paddle trips. The WRHCC was one of the sponsors of the trip. Seventy-five different Businesses's helped with expenses and over fifty volunteered their time to help with the trips. This is a wonderful event to teach the students in Sullivan County about the Wabash. Dale B. mentioned that he never received an invoice from Sullivan County, so no money was sent. John will work on it.

John also spoke to a Garden Club in Sullivan County; they were interested in finding out about the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. It was a nice audience and something fun to do, John added.

Finance Report

Dale B. distributed the finance report (see attached). As of October 31, 2011, there was \$303,372.88 in the Corridor fund. Revenue between September 1, and October 31 totaled \$38,805.26. Expenses since September 1, 2011 were \$7,797.11. A motion to accept the finance report was made by Dave Hacker, with a second from Ken Einselen, motion carried.

Budget Report

Chase handed out the proposed budget for 2012. Estimated operating expenses are \$30,000, sponsorships were estimated at \$6,000, a training meeting to be held in March of 2012 at Turkey Run State Park is estimated at \$3,000, and the Grant round was estimated at \$150,000. After discussion, the grant amount was corrected to \$300,000 bringing the total 2012 calendar year budget to \$339,000. It was stated the proposed budget is an internal document of how the Commission wants the money spent. Nothing is set in stone and it is considered a working tool for the Commission. Louise Jewell moved to approve the proposed corrected budget with a second by Ron James, motion carried. The 2013 budget year will be discussed later.

Grants

On October 25, Dave H. and Chase E. met with DNR staff and spent about four hours discussing the grant criteria. Chase passed out a draft of the new grant criteria, including the points and scoring. It was decided that the Grant Round deadline will be October 1, 2012. Much discussion then ensued about the criteria and definitions. Bill K. asked if access sites in Illinois on the Wabash River would be eligible. Indiana money cannot be spent in Illinois. To make it simple this year, it was recommended that access points in Illinois should not affect Indiana criteria. Ron J. then made the motion to approve the report of the grant committee with a second from Tom V., motion carried. It was noted that Bob Bronson, DNR Grant Coordinator, and his staff would manage the grant program. Dale added that the real power is creating the grant criteria; it is what determines how and where money is spent. Mike B. acknowledged that the group chose the priorities. The grant round will officially open when the manual is done. Inventory maps need to be done by March, with all inventories turned into Ron. These maps identify the access sites and camping areas and are needed to score the grants. If the information is not received, it can hold up the grant process.

Legislative Report

No report was given. The WRHCC does not have specific goal or agenda that needs moved through the legislature at this time.

Water Trail

Ron asked that everyone please get them done, the sooner the better. They have been handed out for over a year now. Send all mapping to Dale or Ron. If you do not get this information to the Commission, it will hold up the grant process!

Banks of the Wabash

Ken has not attended a Banks of the Wabash (BOW) meeting in a while. He did comment on the good reports on River clean-ups this past year. John suggested that the Banks of the Wabash

work together with the River Keeper folks, hopefully the organizations could work together. John mentioned that he would be attending a meeting next week. Mike then said that the water quality of the Wabash is one of the main concerns of everyone he also said that to clean up the water you do not start at the mouth; you start at the headwaters. Dale then suggested that someone call IDEM to talk to someone about water quality.

War of 1812

No report

Old Business

Newport Chemical Depot Land "Re-Use" John spoke about the 40-acre tract of land on the Wabash River and how the Vermillion County Park Board is hoping to open a campsite there.

River Currents: The next edition is coming out soon, but there is still time to get an article in. Please get articles to Susan Ulrich. Dale added that once the grant manual is done, the Commission could start promoting it. As of right now the October 1 deadline is not being advertised.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016

Allen County's Historical Society is working on it now. Ron James is trying to inspire people to get started!

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs

Ron was pleased to announce that Allen County is moving forward on their river road signs. With the help of Dave H., the route will start out at what is believed to be the Richardville House that the Historical Society operates. The river road will start in Portage and will run to Huntington County. There will be 13 turns and about 26 signs will be needed, which happens to be how many Ron J. still has at home.

Bridges and Railings

No report.

Meeting Cancellation Procedures

Still no action, John will come up with a plan at his convenience.

2012 Commissioner Appointments

Dale reported that letters were sent to the 19 County Commissioners, along with the attendance records for the last two years. Vigo County is the only county to have perfect attendance in that time. The letters mention the attendance points for the grant round and the Commission is writing the criteria and setting the direction for how the money is spent. If you are interested in being reappointed, get with your County Commissioner.

Corridor Citizen Award

Lucky Neiburger is the Corridor Citizen of the year. Chase made a motion to move the January meeting to the Depot in Lafayette, with a second from Mike. Motion carried. Louise will contact Stan Lambert at the Depot to make arrangements.

New Business

2012 Election Committee

Keith, Ralph and Penny will serve on the Election committee.

Spring Meeting in March

Chase suggested a Spring Retreat at Turkey Run State Park similar to what the WRHCC has done in the past. The new Commission members should be appointed by then. Chase talked about how much the retreat helped him gain insight on the Commission when he was new. A retreat date of March 13 and 14 is being proposed with the regular meeting being held March 14 at the regular time. On Tuesday afternoon, everyone will work together putting the water trail map together. Wednesday morning Bob Bronson and his team will be there to talk with everyone about the grant process. Chase felt it would be a good training session for the Commission and it will help everyone learn more about the grants and the process as well. Dave commented that in order to save time, everyone should get his or her information to Dale at the January meeting. Ron then made a motion to hold the retreat on March 13 and 14, with a second from Louise. Motion carried.

County or Special Event Announcements

Ron James asked for sponsorship for the Sol Fest in Fort Wayne, which is the first weekend in May. He will need the display from Dale. Ron then made the motion for a \$500 sponsorship with a second from Bill Knowles. Motion carried. Dale will require an invoice from the organization putting on the event.

Mike B. then made a motion for a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Wabash River Clean-up, which will be held on July 28 in Wabash County, with a second from Chase. Motion carried. Dale will require an invoice from the organization putting on the event.

Keith Ruble motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Tom. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be at the downtown Depot in Lafayette on January 11, 2012.

2012 48686 WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Beginning Balance			272,364.73
Revenue			
431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty alo	USD		38,805.26
Expenses			
510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	USD	4,376.46	
515000 Fringe benefits		1,547.01	
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	USD	94.09	
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	USD	135	
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Ren	USD	32.39	
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	USD	1,509.20	
659410 Postage	USD	102.96	
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		7,797.11	(7,797.11)
Ending Balance, October 31, 2011			303,372.88