



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepard Secretary – Dale Brier

November 14, 2012 1:00 pm

Big Four Depot
200 N. 2nd Street
Lafayette IN 47904

Meeting minutes

Voting Members Present:

Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Fountain County - Robert Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County – Sara Peel (proxy)
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew
Vermillion County - Thomas Gosnell (alternate)
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Steve Eberly
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

Guests:

Dan McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal
Bill Smith - INDOT
Stan Lambert - Wabash River Enhancement Corp.
Rae Schnapp - Tippecanoe County (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

None

Voting Members Absent:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Wells County - Scott Elzey

Counties not participating

Jay County

DNR Staff Present:

Leah Kopp - DNR Nature Preserves

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. After member introductions, John G. asked for proxies; Scott Elzey gave his to Dave Hacker, Ryan Noblitt gave his to John Gettinger, and Penny Cox gave hers to Sara Peel. John G. thanked Jim Andrews and Rae Schnapp for hosting the meeting.

Dave H. asked to add commission affiliations discussion regarding the membership in INCA. Kara requested more discussion about shirts during old business. A motion was then made to accept the agenda by Dave H. with a second from Jim A., motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Dan McCain commented that he was very anxious to hear about the grant information.

Review and Approval of September 12, 2012 Minutes

Jim Andrews made a motion to approved the September 12 minutes with a second from Ken Einselen, motion carried.

Presidents Report (John G.)

John reported that he had spent time on the river with the youth rafting trips in Sullivan county. He reported as well that he continues to stay busy with Natures Classroom. He also mentioned attending an Executive Meeting in Indianapolis on November 1.

Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Dale announced that the current balance of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$458,587.18 (see attached report). He then mentioned that the upcoming grants would encumber \$400,000.00. Mike B. then asked about the \$8,000.00 administrative fee. John mentioned that he had called the State Budget Agency and was assured that there was an explanation for the \$8,000.00 and that it would be in the mail. Jim A. then suggested going to the state Senators to contact the person that John spoke with to find out what the charges actually are.

Committee Reports

Budget – Bob S. passed out a sheet on the proposed WRHCC Budget. The total budget is slated at \$66,800.00 with a balance of \$55,043.28 minus the \$400,000.00 for the grant round. He stated at this point that more money is coming in than being spent. Dale suggested a couple of minor changes to the spending categories. Bob mentioned that the estimated WHRCC travel budget was low, but it is a good problem to have. It means commissioners are showing up to meetings. The next grant round will be in 2014 and is estimated at \$300,000.

Grants – Dale reported that the DNR Grants Staff is still working on getting the grants rated and ranked and are working with the grant applicants to get more information. All of the grants have problems or issues and some need financial numbers adjusted. Dale is hoping that the grant recipients will be announced at the January meeting. There were five grant applicants; Carroll County (2), Fountain County, Huntington County and Montezuma. Bob Bronson will attend the January meeting in Indianapolis.

Dave H. also had the idea of presenting each recipient with a large ceremonial check from the WHRCC for a photo opportunity when the grants are awarded. A press release should be made as well. More discussion followed about checks, promotion and funding sources. Dale reminded the Commission that the grants are state funds, not WRHCC funds.

Legislative – Dave H. and John G.

No report.

Water Trail - Dale passed out a map of the water trail progress showing the information gathered so far and it now includes Sullivan County. Dale does not have public access and information from Carroll, Knox, Tippecanoe, and Warren counties. If you have not submitted your information, you need to get it to Dale as soon as possible.

Banks of the Wabash – Ken E. reported that the next meeting will be held on November 20 at the Honeywell Center. He also reported that officers were elected in September. Jeff Gosnell then reported that he had sent a letter to *River Currents* and has yet to hear anything back as to whether they received it or not.

War of 1812 Bicentennial – Ken E. reported that the 1812 events have come to an end. He did participate in the events at Mississinewa 1812. Rae S. thanked Ken for keeping the Commission involved in what was going on.

Indiana Bicentennial in 2016 – Rae S.
No report.

River Road and Heritage Community Sign Programs – Knox County - Rama S. reported that he found a lot of road signs stored in a closet and has had some of them put up on a park entrance road. Many more need to be put in the county.

Bridges and Railings – Kara K.
No report.

Shirts – Kara K. reported that new shirts are in the works. The committee has come up with two options, a formal button down light blue dress shirt and a regular royal blue polo shirt. Members and alternates can order one shirt and the Commission will pay for it. They will have same embroidery as the current polo shirts. Sizes are due to Dale by December 1. An email with more details will be sent to the members in the next week. If members are interested in ordering another shirt or other products with the WRHCC logo, they can contact the vendor.

Membership in INCA – At the last meeting, it was discussed if the WRHCC should join the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) and participate in Conservation Day at the statehouse. After more discussion, it was decided that the commission would not join, but would still participate in Conservation Day on January 23, 2013.

New Business

River Cleanups – Rae S. reported that Purdue had participated in a river clean up on October 28. She reported that it was cold and despite the weather, the event had a good turnout. They found a lot of trash but also found a lot of old railroad spikes. The spikes were not accepted at the recycling center so they were donated to a local blacksmith organization. Another fraternity sponsored another clean up the following week that was much smaller and she was very pleased with their work.

Officer Elections

Ralph W. will chair the nominating committee and Rae S. and Bill K. will serve on the committee as well.

Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) Update

Dale B. passed out information form Angie Tilton on The Healthy Rivers Initiative. It is Indiana's largest land conservation initiative. It includes a partnership of resource agencies and organizations who are working with willing landowners to permanently protect over 43,000 acres located in the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek, and over 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands.

To date, HRI has permanently protected 29,722 acres. Recent Highlights include:

The Wabash River Project area was selected by the Department of Interior as an America's Great Outdoors initiative project; as well as an America's Great Outdoors Rivers initiative project.

HRI was awarded the first ever Excellence in Conservation Award by the Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in June 2012, which recognizes a specific project exemplifying the goal of fish and wildlife conservation.

HRI acquired approximately 24 acres of wetland at the Elanco Clinton Labs demonstration site in May 2012. This site is a 308-acre conservation easement with DNR.

Over 3,475 acres within Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Area was acquired from Indiana Michigan Power on January 31, 2012. This was the single largest land acquisition for HRI to date.

The Commission requested an update from the HRI coordinator, Dale will ask Angie Tilton to make a presentation at the January meeting.

Future Meeting Locations – the group began planning for meeting in 2013. Members from various counties volunteered for the following meeting locations:

January 9, 2013 – Fort Harrison – Lunch at 11:30 AM at the Garrison

March 13, 2013 – Knox County

May 8, 2013 – Allen County – Fox Island County Park

July 10, 2013 – Vigo County

September 11, 2013 – Vermillion County

November 13, 2013– Tippecanoe County

January 8, 2014 – Fort Harrison (tentative)

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Upcoming Committee Meetings

The nominating committee is slated to meet before the January meeting.

Final comments - It was discussed to have Dale B. set up state employee speakers for the regular meetings if the commission is interested. The Commission would have to make suggestions.

July 15, 2013 will be the Wabash River Fest Event in Lafayette. Stan Lambert asked the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission for a \$1000 sponsorship. Kara K. made the motion to sponsor the event with a second from Rama S. Motion carried.

Ron Z. then requested a \$500.00 sponsorship for the Solfest, which will be May 4 – 5, 2013. Jim A. made the motion to sponsor the event with a second from Bob S. Motion carried. Dale reminded them that they would have to send an invoice to him for the sponsorship.

Dave H. brought up the fact that he had purchased flowers for the services of Lucky Neiburger and Ron James and was wondering if the commission could reimburse him. Kara made the motion for the reimbursement followed by a second from Jim Andrews. Motion carried.

December 8-9, 2013 – Canal Park will hold a Christmas event.

2015 will be the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Stan Lambert, Executive Director of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation made a short presentation on the Master Plan for the Wabash River Urban Corridor. He spoke about their vision along with their goals. He also brought up their watershed management project and passed out brochures about their projects.

Rama S. made the motion to adjourn at 3:00 PM with a second by Ralph W.

Next Meeting – January 9, 2013 1:00 PM at Ft. Harrison in Indianapolis. Lunch will be at the Garrison at 11:30 am before the meeting.

2013

48686 WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR

REVENUE

431401 AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	54,597.18
510101 Payroll Salaries & Wages	5,295.72
516003 Payroll Social Security	369.95
517003 Payroll Perf St Pd Em COnt	158.88
517005 Payroll PERF State Share	513.69
518105 Anthem CDHP1	181.67
518107 Anthem CDHP 2	298.48
518151 Anthem Trad 2	310.55
518606 Payroll Life Insurance	7.18
518798 Payroll Delta Dental Trad	41.36
518800 Anthem Vision	4.14
518901 Payroll Employee Assistance	0.94
519006 Payroll Long Term Disability	92.64
519503 Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	40.45
519721 Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	18.17
519725 Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	14.95
541002 Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	200.9
547026 SpOp-Awards & Gifts	135
547038 SpOp-Recreation	134.98
591024 NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	97.17
595110 InState Travel - Mileage	2,692.80
595120 InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	26
595130 InState Travel - Lodging	75.1
599116 AdmOp-Event Sponsor	1,000.00
659410 Postage	46
EXPENDITURES	11,756.72

Balance as of July 1, 2012	415,746.93
plus revenue	54,597.18
minus expenses	-11,756.93
Balance Nov 5, 2012	458,587.18