

President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Project Commission

Fort Harrison State Park Inn
Roosevelt Room
5830 N. Post Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

December 9, 2025
11:00 A.M.

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Comments by Chair
2. Review and Approval of the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust (PBHCT) Project Commission Minutes for the meeting held September 9, 2025
3. Financial Report and Environmental License Plate Sales – Mark Becker, PBHCT Executive Director
4. Land Acquisition Report – Mark Becker, PBHCT Executive Director
5. Next Meeting
6. Adjournment

Appointed Officer Information:

Name	Term End Date	Appointing Authority
Amanda Wuestefeld	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(1)
John Seifert	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(2)
Ron Hellmich	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(3)
Brandt Baughman	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(4)
Cathy Ferree	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(5)
Missi Bush-Sawtelle	*	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(6)
Kristopher Krouse	June 30, 2029	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(i)
Betsy Yankowiak	December 31, 2025	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(ii)
C. Sam Bond	June 30, 2029	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(iii)
Kade Carter	June 30, 2029	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(iii)
Gene Hopkins	December 31, 2025	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(iv)
Emily Kress	December 31, 2025	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(v)
Mary McConnell	June 30, 2029	IC 14-12-2-14(b)(7)(v)
Rep. Mike Karickhoff **		IC 14-12-2-14(b)(8)(A)
Rep. Ryan Dvorak **		IC 14-12-2-14(b)(8)(B)
Sen. Greg Taylor **		IC 14-12-2-14(b)(8)(C)
Sen. Justin Busch **		IC 14-12-2-14(b)(8)(D)

* No term start or end date, as the commission appointment is based on the job title and does not have a specific term

** Non-voting member

**President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Project Commission
Indiana State Museum
Board Room – 3rd Floor
650 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Minutes of September 9, 2025

1) Call to Order

Emily Kress, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order of the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust (PBHCT) Project Commission at approximately 11:00 a.m., EST, on September 9, 2025, at Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mark Becker, DNR Director of Land Acquisition, welcomed new board member Gene Hopkins. Hopkins represents organized hunting and fishing groups and the southeast region of the state.

2) Review and Approval of the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust Project Commission Meeting Minutes for June 10, 2025

Minutes were approved. Zach Smith seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

3) Public Access and Open-Door Law Update

Stephanie Flittner, DNR General Counsel, discussed the requirements now in effect for public access and Open-Door Law as they apply to PBHCT Project Commission meetings.

Becker thanked Flittner for her assistance with re-appointments and navigating the livestream requirements.

4) Financial Report and Environmental License Plate Sales

Becker presented the financial report. He shared license plate sales are the highest since 2014.

5) Land Acquisition Report

Becker indicated there have been 36 files closed this calendar year to date by the Division of Land Acquisition. They are: 15 conservation easements; 3 fee simple; 12 easements (utility, ingress/egress, etc.); and 6 other (environmental restrictive covenants, etc).

The following 10 PBHCT projects were closed from January 1 – July 31, 2025:

#1571 – Lake County Parks and Recreation Board: Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park

#1582 – LaGrange County Park Board: Pine Knob County Park

#1524-B – South Adams Trail Inc.

#1589 – Shirley Heinze Land Trust: East Branch Little Calumet River Conservation Corridor

#1592 – Sycamore Land Trust

- #1581 – Lake County Parks and Recreation Board: Lake Hills County Park
- #1591 – Oak Heritage Conservancy
- #1595 – DNR Division of Forestry: Jackson Washington State Forest
- #1577 – Acres: Disko Fen
- #1594 – Acres: Heinzerling Family Five Points Nature Preserve

6) State Fair T-shirt Report

Becker noted at the June meeting that the board approved up to \$7,000 from PBHCT stewardship/marketing funds to buy t-shirts for DNR employees and volunteers working at the State Fair. He reported the invoice was \$6,884 which was under the budget amount.

7) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2025, 11:00 a.m., at Fort Harrison State Park Inn, Roosevelt Room.

8) Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Attendance

Emily Kress*
Missi Bush-Sawtelle*
Ron Hellmich, Nature Preserves*
Kris Krouse*
Sam Bond*(call in)
Anthony Sipes, State Parks proxy*
Gene Hopkins*
 Dale Brier
 Andrea Huntington
 John Connell
Rep. Mike Karickhoff*(call in)

Mark Becker
Mary McConnell*
Zach Smith, Forestry proxy*
Betsy Yankowiak*(call in)
Mike Linderman, State Museum proxy*
Chad Whitis, Fish & Wildlife proxy*
Rep. Ryan Dvorak*(call in)
 Emily Biesecker
 Erika Hinshaw
 Stephanie Flittner

***Board Members/proxies**

President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust
BALANCE SHEET FISCAL YEAR 2026
As of 10/31/2025

	Period FY26	
Beginning Balance on 07/01/2025	\$15,780,877.00	
FYTD Plate Sales: 17,307	\$432,675.00	<i>+348 plates from October 31, 2024</i>
Misc. Income	\$0.00	
Reimbursed Match Funds	\$0.00	
Donations	\$0.00	
Interest	\$312,495.82	<i>Interest is retained in the fund account</i>
Appropriation	\$0.00	<i>No General Fund Appropriation for FY26</i>
Total Income	\$745,170.82	
Revenue Adjustment	<u>-\$319,996.00</u>	<i>Not distributed</i>
Subtotal	\$16,206,051.82	
Current Year Disbursements		
Admin Exp.	-\$178.60	
Stewardship Exp.	\$0.00	
Land Acquisition Exp.	-\$1,134,714.84	
Current Ending Fund Balances	\$15,071,158.38	
Stewardship	-\$2,426,353.13	
Commitments	<u>-\$6,079,775.44</u>	
Current Available Funds	\$6,565,029.81	

**President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust
Fund Accounts**

(IC 14-12-2-26)

	<u>State Parks and Historic Sites</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>Nature Preserves</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation and Trails</u>	<u>Fish & Wildlife</u>
Beginning Balance	\$2,057,538.00	\$1,440,610.00	\$1,165,946.00	\$1,745,155.00	\$1,832,065.00
Income	\$67,810.54	\$67,810.54	\$67,810.54	\$67,810.54	\$67,810.54
Appropriation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenue adjustment	-\$29,119.64	-\$29,119.64	-\$29,119.64	-\$29,119.64	-\$29,119.64
Disbursements	\$0.00	-\$21,209.92	-\$415,945.92	-\$22,375.00	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$2,096,228.90	\$1,458,090.98	\$788,690.98	\$1,761,470.90	\$1,870,755.90
Commitments	<u>-\$148,400.00</u>	<u>-\$1,271,428.44</u>	<u>-\$766,175.00</u>	<u>-\$289,218.00</u>	<u>-\$515,912.00</u>
Available Funds	\$1,947,828.90	\$186,662.54	\$22,515.98	\$1,472,252.90	\$1,354,843.90

	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
Beginning Balance	\$5,151,297.00	\$2,388,266.00
Income	\$339,052.72	\$67,065.37
Appropriation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenue adjustment	-\$145,598.18	-\$28,799.64
Disbursements	-\$675,184.00	-\$178.60
Ending Balance	\$4,669,567.54	\$2,426,353.13
Commitments	<u>-\$3,088,642.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Available Funds	\$1,580,925.54	\$2,426,353.13

**President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust
License Plate Revenue**

	CY2014		CY2015		CY2016		CY2017		CY2018		CY2019	
	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates
January	89,175.00	3,567	84,375.00	3,375	77,100.00	3,084	72,900.00	2,916	80,850.00	3,234	67,525.00	2,701
February	94,625.00	3,785	92,650.00	3,706	91,900.00	3,676	98,100.00	3,924	85,525.00	3,421	86,500.00	3,460
March	94,250.00	3,770	104,550.00	4,182	102,350.00	4,094	99,450.00	3,978	87,750.00	3,510	94,525.00	3,781
April	99,150.00	3,966	94,725.00	3,789	89,550.00	3,582	89,925.00	3,597	85,550.00	3,422	86,775.00	3,471
May	91,125.00	3,645	88,975.00	3,559	90,625.00	3,625	89,400.00	3,576	92,900.00	3,716	91,900.00	3,676
June	96,350.00	3,854	88,900.00	3,556	90,350.00	3,614	87,750.00	3,510	87,125.00	3,485	90,875.00	3,635
July	88,425.00	3,537	85,175.00	3,407	86,900.00	3,476	86,300.00	3,452	82,175.00	3,287	87,950.00	3,518
August	90,525.00	3,621	92,550.00	3,702	85,850.00	3,434	87,100.00	3,484	87,975.00	3,519	88,100.00	3,524
September	90,275.00	3,611	91,025.00	3,641	83,350.00	3,334	85,650.00	3,426	82,928.00	3,317	84,175.00	3,367
October	85,425.00	3,417	85,050.00	3,402	76,325.00	3,053	81,975.00	3,279	85,250.00	3,410	87,675.00	3,507
November	58,050.00	2,322	54,325.00	2,173	58,050.00	2,322	58,050.00	2,322	56,600.00	2,264	59,800.00	2,392
December	30,050.00	1,202	28,500.00	1,140	29,600.00	1,184	32,250.00	1,290	39,950.00	1,598	43,875.00	1,755
	1,007,425.00	40,297	990,800.00	39,632	961,950.00	38,478	968,850.00	38,754	954,578.00	38,183	969,675.00	38,787

	CY2020		CY2021		CY2022		CY2023		CY2024		CY2025	
	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates	Distribution (\$)	# of Plates
January	64,700.00	2,588	72,325.00	2,893	67,000.00	2,680	71,975.00	2,879	79,050.00	3,162	70,250.00	2,810
February	86,675.00	3,467	88,150.00	3,526	85,925.00	3,437	101,575.00	4,063	96,125.00	3,845	102,575.00	4,103
March	82,050.00	3,282	106,625.00	4,265	100,400.00	4,016	103,325.00	4,133	98,050.00	3,922	109,050.00	4,362
April	81,850.00	3,274	95,350.00	3,814	107,250.00	4,290	105,650.00	4,226	102,100.00	4,084	111,400.00	4,456
May	91,950.00	3,678	96,450.00	3,858	100,475.00	4,019	100,050.00	4,002	102,125.00	4,085	112,450.00	4,498
June	98,525.00	3,941	104,275.00	4,171	105,125.00	4,205	104,050.00	4,162	100,375.00	4,015	110,000.00	4,400
July	93,850.00	3,754	93,325.00	3,733	94,350.00	3,774	98,225.00	3,929	104,675.00	4,187	113,350.00	4,534
August	101,550.00	4,062	95,225.00	3,809	107,800.00	4,312	110,025.00	4,401	108,550.00	4,342	102,925.00	4,117
September	101,625.00	4,065	88,675.00	3,547	91,500.00	3,660	96,925.00	3,877	101,300.00	4,052	103,650.00	4,146
October	92,475.00	3,699	96,025.00	3,841	97,825.00	3,913	93,725.00	3,749	104,275.00	4,171	104,200.00	4,168
November	65,700.00	2,628	65,475.00	2,619	72,450.00	2,898	74,775.00	2,991	76,025.00	3,041		
December	47,000.00	1,880	50,125.00	2,005	52,950.00	2,118	53,625.00	2,145	61,150.00	2,446		
	1,007,950.00	40,318	1,052,025.00	42,081	1,083,050.00	43,322	1,113,925.00	44,557	1,133,800.00	45,352	1,039,850.00	41,594