



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

President - Dave Hacker

Vice President – Kara Kish

Treasurer - Robert Shepherd

Secretary - Dale Brier

January 13, 2016 1:00 pm

The Garrison - Lawrence Room

6002 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County – Sandy Voglewede
Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County – Arin Shaver
Fountain County – Bob Shepherd
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County – Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Jim Andrew
Wabash County – Mike Beauchamp
Wells County – Doug Sundling
DNR – Dale Brier (alternate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Bill Smith – INDOT

Guests:

Nila Armstrong – DNR Outdoor Recreation
Phil Cox – Parke Co. alternate
Dale Gick – DNR Engineering
Benjamin Miller – DNR Healthy Rivers Int.
Randy Nowaskie – Knox Co. alternate
Mia Partlow – WTIU
Sara Peel – Wabash River Enhance. Corp
Keith Poole – Wabash Co. alternate
Susanne Schwibs – WTIU
Randy Walter – INDOT Byways
Marianne Woodruff – WTIU

Voting Members Absent:

Parke County – Penny Cox
Jay County – Doug Inman
Vermillion County – Larry Southard
Vigo County – Kara Kish
Warren County – Steve Eberly

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by commission president, Dave Hacker. Introductions were made with Hacker welcoming two new members to the commission. Dale Brier announced that Penny Cox left her proxy to the president. No topics were added to the agenda. President Hacker requested to switch the order of Comments from the Visitors section.

Review and Approval of November 18, 2015 Minutes

Hacker asked if there were any corrections for the previous minutes and there were none. Hacker asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written; Jim Andrew made the motion and Bill Knowles seconded it. The motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Prophetstown trail project update – Dale Gick, Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Engineering, gave a progress report on the Prophetstown trail project. Gick thanked the commission for the funding and support of this project. He began his presentation by displaying an aerial view of Prophetstown State Park. Gick indicated the two sections of trail that were funded by the WRHC funds. The short segment is a trail in the front section of the park and the larger segment is in the back of the property near a small pond. The two mile trail will be a ten foot wide paved path with two overlook areas. The work will start this year and be completed in 2017. The park master plan shows the trail continuing all the way through the property. Director Gick again thanks the commission for the \$250,000 that kept the nearly \$2 million project from being cancelled. Jim Andrew asked about river access to the park and if there is camping available near the river. There is no primitive camping or boat ramp, but there is a modern campground. Andrew also asked if the state has plans for the addition of access to the park from the Wabash River for river users. Gick said he didn't think so. Several of the commissioners asked who to contact regarding the issue? Gick replied that Jason Getz is the property manager and should be the first point of contact about Prophetstown. The Commission wants to make it known that river access to the property is a high priority for them. Brier commented that Fish and Wildlife would be very reluctant to put an access site within the park. The access sites use federal funding and are supposed to be free. The Division of Fish and Wildlife would be more likely to fund a site outside the park than inside the park boundaries.

WTIU video project update –Marianne Woodruff thanked the Commission for being the first financial partner on this project. Suzanne Schwibs shared two partial clips of this documentary. The voicing and music still need to be finalized. There have been numerous voluntary hours, including the actors, working on this project. *Along the Wabash* will include history, poems, quotes, and stories. The video will be available to the entire state and each member of the WRHCC will receive a copy. The video length is 56 minutes. Schwibs stated that this is her love letter to the Wabash. The first air date is March 7, 2016 on WTIU during their fund drive. Mia Partlow stated that this video has a bicentennial component. There was a request that the commission be a part of the WTIU fund drive. Brier will serve as the contact person with WTIU in Bloomington and will forward information to the Commission. Dinner and training will be part of the telethon for volunteers. Brier reminded the commission that this is an allowable travel expense. They will need at least six people at the studio. The group could wear their WRHCC shirts. Gettinger noted that WFYI made a Wabash River video years ago and they made copies available to all the libraries in Indiana. Marianne Woodruff will look into doing the same for this video.

Finance Report

Dale Brier had a handout of the financial report through December 31 (see attached). Brier commented that revenue has gone down. He was warned by the Division of Oil and Gas that as the price of crude oil and gasoline goes down, so does the royalty revenue. We still have funds to pay the bills and do the things that are necessary. It means that we may have to push the next grant round back. There was a discussion regarding the encumbrances. There are no current demands on the \$84,794 balance. Brier noted that the next large expense will be for road signs. Ken Einselen moved to accept the report, Rama Sobhani seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Budget – Bob Shepard noted that Brier has already hit the highlights. We are still within the budget. Shepherd noted that expenses for salaries were a little higher than in past reports. The reason is the time used by the grants staff.

Executive – Hacker was authorized to transfer funds from the Banks of the Wabash (BOW) to another organization. There were two groups – The Historic Forks of the Wabash (HFoW) and the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and the HFoW was the better choice. The committee agreed to transfer the funds to The Historic Forks of the Wabash. The funds would be a joint effort of the Forks of the Wabash and commission. Hacker plans to attend the January 20 BOW meeting to formally request the funds be moved. There is currently \$12,688 with the BOW. New commission members were bought up to speed regarding this topic. These funds were generated several years ago from an art fair. These are not state funds; it was a donation to the Commission many years ago. Mears questioned why we are moving the funds. Hacker replied that the BOW is not sure of their future.

Policy and Procedure – Bob Shepherd reported that there was nothing to bring to the table. Brier stated that a copy of the document that the committee presented and approved was emailed to the commission.

Banks of the Wabash liaison report- Ken Einselen reported that the meeting is January 20.

Nomination committee report –Rama Sobhani presented a brief report on the proposed officer slate; President – Dave Hacker and Vice President - Kara Kish. There were no other recommendations.

Old Business

2016 Officer Elections –The nomination committee report was presented as the slate of officers for the WRHCC. Jim Andrew moved that the commission accept the report. It was seconded by Bill Knowles. Motion passed. There was a motion that we accept the slate of officers. It was seconded by Bill Knowles. Motion passed. Hacker asked for a vote. Andrew made a motion to elect the slate of officers. It was seconded by Arin Shaver. Motion passed.

2016 Appointments – Brier reported that 18 of the 19 counties have appointments. He welcomed new members Sandy Voglewede and Doug Sundling. Sullivan County still has to make an appointment to the commission.

Note: Sullivan County made the appointment of John Gettinger on January 5th, but the paperwork was not received until January 19. Gettinger's appointment was official at the time of the meeting.

Non-state funds - It was already covered.

Dave Hacker asked the new members to introduce themselves. Douglas Sundling has numerous degrees from Ball State University and works for the city of Bluffton at the filtration plant. He is also a member of the Upper Wabash River Commission, which comprises of Well, Adams, Huntington, and Jay counties. Sandy Voglewede works for the Adams County Soil and Water

Conservation District. She was approached by a county commissioner and asked if she would serve as the county representative on this board.

Dale Brier announced that he has copies of the updated commission member list.

Strategic planning action items updates.

INDOT Scenic Byways –Bill Smith introduced Randy Walter. Walter is the expert on this Scenic Byway program. The commission has been working for several years to establish a river road route through all the counties along the Wabash River. Every county has defined a route. The question had been asked at past meetings about how to promote the road and make the public aware of it. Walter explained the positives and negatives of byways. Currently, the state has two National Byways designated and four State Byways designated. INDOT has an agreement with DNR and Tourism for this program. The commissioner of INDOT and the Lt. Governor are authorized to make the designation for the state. The process includes submitting an application with documentation of the planned route. The biggest issue is the restriction on outdoor advertising along the byway. All future billboard-type advertising is banned. If the WRHCC route is designated as a scenic byway, it means that all counties and cities will be required to follow the restriction. The byway sign is just like traffic signs, you would need to check with each county and city to have them installed. Currently there are no federal funded programs to assist with this project. Applications should include letters of endorsement from each of the MPOs, mayors and county commissioners. Hacker asked about the time frame for this project if the WRHCC decided to apply for the Scenic Byway designation. It will take a few months after submitting the application. The designation can be obtained two ways; by Indiana Department of Transportation or legislation but legislation is frowned upon. Ken Einselen and Bill Smith have the route mapped. It was determined that each commissioner will need to inform their county commissioners of the restrictions before submitting the application. Ron Zartman questioned if these restrictions would hurt the development of businesses along the planned route. This topic will be discussed further at the retreat in March. Hacker requested that Brier make arrangements for Mark Newman from Tourism to be invited to attend the retreat.

2016 Meeting locations – Brier asked for volunteers to host the meetings. 2016 meeting will be held at:

- March 2 –Turkey Run State Park
- May 11 – Posey County
- July 13 – Carroll County
- September 14 – Sullivan County
- November 9 – Tippecanoe County
- January 11, 2016 – Fort Harrison in Indianapolis

New Business

New funding requests- Zartman submitted a request for the Sol Fest at Fox Island Park on April 30 and May 1. Zartman explained the event and stated that he will be the Master of Ceremonies and would be promoting the WRHCC and the Wabash River. The WRHCC supported this last year. He is requesting \$1000. The commission will vote at the next meeting.

Grant project updates – President Hacker requested that Bob Bronson give the annual DNR grant update at the March meeting.

Retreat planning – Hacker has a draft agenda. Brier will send out an email soon with reservation information and more details about the retreat.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Ken Einselen noted that Miami County has a printed calendar showing the Bicentennial events within the county. Hacker added that each county should have received a bicentennial bison. An organization in each county has one.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 pm, motion passed.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2016 at 1:00 pm. (Note the date change from the regular format)
Turkey Run State Park

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY16 as of 12/31/2015

| <u>Account</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Revenue</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 431401 | AD - Oil and Gas royalty along | | \$ 68,926.77 |
| 510101 | Payroll Salaries & Wages | \$ 7,778.39 | |
| 516003 | Payroll Social Security | \$ 551.93 | |
| 517003 | Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr | \$ 233.33 | |
| 517005 | Payroll PERF State Share | \$ 871.20 | |
| 518105 | Anthem CDHP1 | \$ 541.14 | |
| 518151 | Anthem Trad 2 | \$ 307.73 | |
| 518606 | Payroll Life Insurance | \$ 11.62 | |
| 518796 | Payroll Anthem Dental Trad | \$ 2.51 | |
| 518798 | Payroll Delta Dental Trad | \$ 39.64 | |
| 518800 | Anthem Vision | \$ 5.43 | |
| 518901 | Payroll Employee Assistance | \$ 1.27 | |
| 519006 | Payroll Long Term Disability | \$ 136.12 | |
| 519503 | Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch | \$ 48.70 | |
| 519721 | Payroll Health Savings Acct 1 | \$ 50.27 | |
| 541002 | Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline | \$ 116.58 | |
| 547046 | SpOp-Audio Visual | \$ 27.68 | |
| 591024 | NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals | \$ 97.30 | |
| 595110 | InState Travel - Mileage | \$ 3,215.04 | |
| 595120 | InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal | \$ 454.35 | |
| 595130 | InState Travel - Lodging | \$ 403.12 | |
| 595170 | InState Travel - Parking&Tolls | \$ - | |
| 595180 | InState Travel - Board Member | \$ - | |
| 599116 | AdmOp-Event Sponsor | \$ 2,000.00 | |
| 659410 | Postage | \$ 351.95 | |

Total FY16 Expense To Date: \$ 17,245.30

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Fund Balance: | | |
| | 6/30/2015 | 283,113 |
| FY16 revenues | | 68,927 |
| FY16 Expenses | | 17,245 |
| FY16 Encumbrances | | 250,000 |
| balance as of 12/31/2015 | | 84,794 |

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| DNR payroll | \$ 10,579.28 |
| travel costs | \$ 4,286.39 |
| sponsorships | \$ 2,000.00 |
| operating | \$ 379.63 |
| Total | \$ 17,245.30 |