

**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
HELD FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 AT
9:30 AM CST
KNOX COMMUNITY CENTER
55 EAST LAKE STREET
KNOX, IN 46534**

Chairman Chris Knochel called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer Kevin Breitzke called the roll.

Members present

Kevin Breitzke	Bill Crase	Scott Cooley
Craig Cultice	Michael Delp	John Doods
Tim Drenth	Bill Emerson	Tony Hendricks
Mark Kingma	Chris Knochel	Tom Larson
John Law	Josh Lawrence	Mike Novotney
Kim Peterson	Ken Porter	Gene Schmidt
Jerry Tippy	Vince Urbano	Tyson Edwards (Marshall Co.)

Guests Present

Kendell Culp	Julie Duttlinger	Lyle Patchett	Christine Keil
Lee Magiera	Steve Woolever	Katie Nelson	Erin Moorhous
Brian Wolff	Ryan Mueller	Larry Jernas	Chuck Chesak
Rick Chesak	Gus Ellicott	Joe Skelton	Zach Woolever
Chester Magiera	Sarah Longnecker	Jack Ryan	Chris Salatas
George Bowman	Chris Havens	Kevin Halter	Nicole Messacar
Randy Dickson	Steve Bohan	Al Cameron III	Al Cameron, Jr.
Dan Gumz	Mark Scarborough	Justin Schneider	Kyle Boone
Andrew Wheeler	Jennifer Santillon	Angel Crawford	Tom Bennett
John Shue	Justin Kiel	Vern Schafer	Tammy Patterson
Peg Kohring	Aaron Damrill	Tim Zorn	Jody Melton
Mike Aylesworth	David Smith	Jim Pressel	Larry Smith
Elizabeth Johnson	Jim Sweeney	Don Lode	

Staff Present

Scott Pelath

21 members were present and three were absent. The chair determined that a quorum was present to conduct business, and introduced and welcomed new board members John Dooms, Scott Cooley, and rotating Marshall County SWCD Representative Tyson Edwards.

Recommendation by Search Committee

Kevin Breitzke was recognized to issue a report and recommendation from the search committee to replace Jody Melton on his retirement. The search committee recommended that Scott D. Pelath be selected as the new Executive Director.

The chair accepted the recommendation in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Kim Peterson. There was no discussion.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Scott Pelath was selected as Executive Director. He was then recognized to introduce himself, offer his deep appreciation to the commission, and to share his values in conducting the work ahead. He also thanked Jody Melton, who received a standing ovation, for his expert assistance throughout the transition.

The chair read into the record a resolution honoring and thanking Jody Melton for his many years of service to the Kankakee River Basin Commission. [ATTACHMENT 1]. The resolution was signed by Chris Knochel, Chair, and Vince Urbano, Secretary. Jody Melton expressed his appreciation for the resolution.

Approval of Minutes

The chair moved for approval of the minutes from the November 18, 2018 meeting, and received a second.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Election of 2019 Officers

The chair recognized Michael Novotney of the Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for 2019. The recommendation was to elect Chris Knochel, Chair; Jerry Tippy, Vice Chair; Vince Urbano, Secretary; and Kevin Breitzke, Treasurer.

The recommendation was accepted in the form of a motion and the chair heard a second.

The chair asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Finance Report

The chair recognized Kevin Breitzke for a finance report. He announced that the budget for administration and office expenses would be essentially the same as last year. However, because 2018 is still being closed and the 2019 budget still being formulated, his report was provisional. Due to the earliness of the January meeting and the NIRPC bookkeeper being in training to start the year, he suggested a special February meeting to complete the figures. He said the available dollars were substantially unchanged since October.

Mr. Breitzke asked that the commission continue to contract with NIRPC for accounting, copying, and graphic services for \$14,708 per year.

The chair accepted the request in the form of a motion, which was seconded by Bill Emerson.

Tony Hendricks asked if the KRBC was going to run two months without a budget.

Kevin Breitzke answered that it has happened in the past due to meeting occurring early in the year.

Mark Kingma asked how the NIRPC contract compared to the previous year. Kevin responded that the amount was being reduced. He said

NIRPC's original proposal was double the amount of that the revised contract will contain.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Kevin Breitzke asked for authorization to auction the truck provided to Jody Melton.

Tony Hendricks moved that the truck be auctioned, and the chair heard a second.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Addition to Agenda

Departing from the agenda, the chair recognized State Rep. Doug Gutwein to explain House Bill 1270, which would change the structure of the commission.

While leaving many of the current powers and duties intact, the bill would, among other things, repeal the Kankakee River Basin Commission, replace it with the Kankakee River Basin Development Commission, and reduce the number of members from 24 to 9. He stated the bill would receive a House committee hearing on Tuesday, January 15.

During Rep. Gutwein's explanation, he was joined by State Rep. Jim Pressel and later by State Rep. Mike Aylesworth.

The lawmakers fielded questions from both commissioners and guests in attendance, with some seeking further understanding of the bill's intent, some voicing initial concern about the bill, and some voicing initial sympathy.

Numerous commission members and guests expressed varying views, and a free discussion of the legislation ensued.

New Business

The chair recognized Bob Barr and Siavash Beik from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC, to present their report to the commission. [WRITTEN

COPIES OF THE REPORT AND THE PRESENTATION SLIDES ARE ATTACHED AS ATTACHMENT 2].

The consultants fielded questions from both commission members and guests.

Tony Hendricks moved to table the long-range management plan until July 1, 2019. The chair heard a second.

There was no discussion.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Tony Hendricks moved that the commission not support the preliminary findings of the report from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC. Josh Lawrence seconded the motion.

Tony Hendricks requested a roll call vote.

After discussion, Kevin Breitzke called for the question, and Secretary Vince Urbano called and recorded the roll.

MOTION WAS DEFEATED, WITH 3 “YES” VOTES AND 12 “NO” VOTES. [*Cultice, Craig – N; Dooms, John – N; Emerson, Bill – N; Hendricks, Tony – Y; Kingma, Mark- N; Law, John – N; Lawrence, Josh – Y; Novotney, Mike – N; Peterson, Kim – N; Porter, Ken – Y; Schmidt, Gene – N; Tippy, Jerry – N; Urbano, Vince – N; Edwards, Tyson – N*]

Jerry Tippy moved to support the report with respect to funding for bank stabilization and request necessary state funding. Kevin Breitzke seconded the motion.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Jerry Tippy moved to authorize Scott Pelath to not oppose HB 1270, but to engage in continued discussions with lawmakers regarding the make-up of the board and any additional membership. The chair heard a second to the motion.

Gene Schmidt urged the commission and Scott Pelath to offer lawmakers positive solutions with respect to the commission and the future of the basin.

MOTION PREVAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 14, 2019 at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area.

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.