

## RECOMMENDATION 7-2021

To: Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission  
From: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Subject: Access Improvement  
Date: September 10, 2021

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**DESCRIPTION:** The Director has received several requests for mowing or access clearing along the Kankakee River. Sufficient access to the channel is essential for safely managing logjams, maintaining bank stability, implementing erosion control efforts, and making basic repairs.

**LOCATIONS:**

LAKE COUNTY – Mowing and 1-2” tree cutting from the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge to the Isaac Walton League Property; approximately 1.5 miles

LAPORTE COUNTY – Mowing and small tree cutting from U.S. 35 downstream to the end of DNR property; approximately 0.6 miles

LAPORTE COUNTY – Clearing atop bank from a line extending from a line extending from the end of 1650 South upstream to 1500 South, approximately 1.5 miles

PORTER COUNTY – Approximately 1.5 miles beyond previously approved access improvement work

**ISSUES:** Maintenance of access and the cost-contained establishment of new access atop the banks of the Kankakee provides lasting value beyond the initial cost of the work. If tree removal atop the bank is necessary, work would be limited to the periods between October 1 and March 31 outside of endangered bat roosting season. Any access creation that would entail crossing a regulated wetland would require approval from the appropriate federal and state agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Subject to the budgetary limitations of the Commission, the Committee recommends that Commission make reasonable funds available for this access maintenance and creation, provided that work 1) does not require extensive permitting and 2) is not wider than is necessary to safely accommodate work vehicles and heavy equipment.

**ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE 9/10/2021**

**ADOPTED BY COMMISSION 10/29/2021**