



**MINUTES OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN AND YELLOW RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

KRB-YRBDC Technical Advisory Committee

**Wednesday, December 21, 2022
10:00 a.m. CST/11:00 a.m. EST
155 Indiana Avenue, Suite 205
Valparaiso, IN 46383**

Tony Hendricks, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CST.

Scott Pelath, Executive Director, called the roll.

Members Present Physically or Electronically

Kevin Breitzke	Dan Gumz	Tony Hendricks	Mark Kingma
Tom Larson	Vince Urbano		

Staff Present

Scott Pelath

Guests Present Physically or Electronically

Angel Crawford	Jennifer Thum	Sheila Schroeder	Adam Bales	Christine Keil
Al Cameron	Duane Hovorka	Jen Birchfield	Julie Morris	Siavash Beik
Al Allsop, Sr.	Al Allsop, Jr.	Anthony Ferraro	Jim Kreiger	Hodge Patel
Charlie Dewes	Nick Echterling	Brad Feaster	Ross St. Clair	Ian Hahus
Courtney Anderson				

The chair announced the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2022, MINUTES

Kevin Breitzke moved to approve the September 23, 2022, minutes. Dan Gumz seconded the motion.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Kingma – Aye
Larson – Aye
Urbano – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Pelath reviewed the 2022 finances and reported on Commission activities [ATTACHMENT 1].

OLD BUSINESS

Thayer Farm transition update

Zack DeYoung, property manager of the LaSalle FWA, reported that the physical transition of the Thayer Farm is complete. The planned spillway has been constructed and a culvert connected the Thayer Farm to Blackberry Marsh is installed.

Yellow River project update

Ross St. Clair from Stantec provided an after-action review of the 2022 work.

Yellow River Project, Phase II design

Mr. St. Clair reported on the final stages of the Phase II Yellow River reconstruction design and permitting. He also laid out a tentative schedule for bid solicitation, contractor selection, and 2023 construction.

Water control structure design at Aukiki WCA

Charlie Dewes from Burke Engineering updated the Committee on the bid solicitation and expected construction schedule for the planned water control structure at the Aukiki WCA in Jasper County.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) update

Jennifer Thum from the Indiana Department of Agriculture shared upcoming developments pertaining to the department’s approved RCPP. She added that they currently are in negotiations with NRCS to include the Iroquois basin.

Jasper County FEMA Project augmentation

Mr. Pelath reported on ongoing discussions with Jasper County officials regarding the project scope and progress.

Sediment management

Mr. Pelath presented Draft Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation 8-2022 pertaining to sediment traps.

Mr. Gumz moved the Committee submit Recommendation 8-2022 to the Commission. Tom Larson seconded the motion.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Kingma – Aye
Larson – Aye
Urbano – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

Kankakee FWA configuration

Mr. Pelath reported on communications with DNR leadership regarding a planned hydrological study of the Kankakee FWA.

NEW BUSINESS

Bank repairs of less than 200'

Mr. Pelath reported on DNR's intentions to streamline permitting and oversight for small bank repairs.

Invasive species control program

Mr. Pelath presented Draft Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation 9-2022 regarding invasive plant species control [ATTACHMENT 3].

Mr. Breitzke moved that the Committee submit Recommendation 9-2022 to the Commission. Mr. Gumz seconded the motion.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Kingma – Aye
Larson – Aye
Urbano – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

Hydroseeding evaluation

Mr. Pelath explained what he is watching for in hydroseeding results.

Yellow River Project, Phase III

Mr. St. Clair and Mr. Pelath reported on the evaluation of possible Phase III Yellow River reconstruction sites.

State Line Bridge

Mr. Pelath reported on federal, state, and local discussions regarding the recommended relocation of State Line Bridge to an historic preservation site. Mr. Pelath also recognized Tony Ferraro from U.S. Braun's staff to address the matter. Mr. Pelath thanked Mr. Ferraro and the senator's office for their assistance in moving the discussion forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m. CST.



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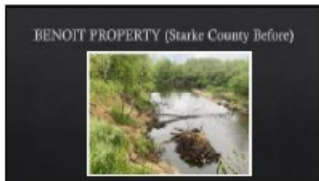
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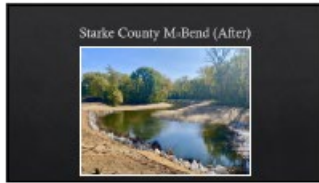
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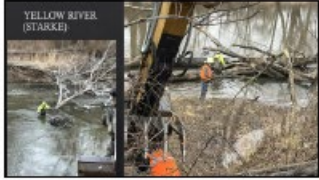
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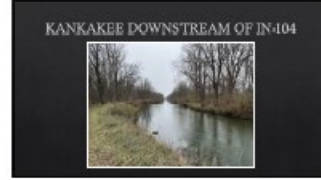
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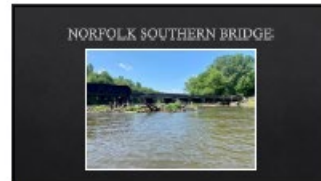
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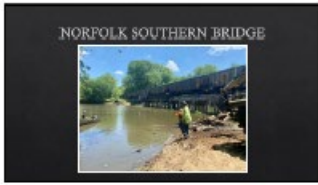
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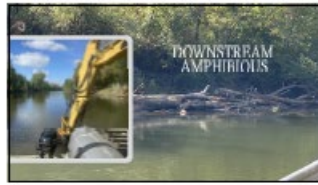
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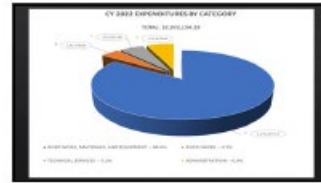
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RIVER INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN

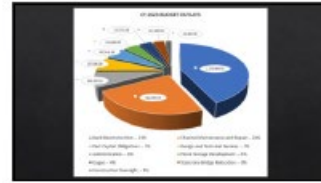
Water Flow Construction, Permit \$1,681,354	Logjam Management \$774,137	Major Project Design and Construction \$284,263	River Clean \$124,788
Road Repairs and Other Improvements \$114,423	Water Quality Pilot Program \$91,632	Hydrology \$57,771	Debris Removal \$12,230

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ASSESSMENT REVENUE

County	CY2021	CY2022	%CHG
Jasper County	180,000.00	180,000.00	-
Lake County	995,000.52	995,000.52	0.00%
LaSalle County	648,866.42	765,249.36	11.79%
Marshall County	525,893.42	545,173.05	10.04%
Menard County	64,433.54	150,368.05	234.00%
Mercer County	352,000.00	340,000.71	-3.41%
St. Joseph County	328,517.48	348,478.06	10.00%
Warren County	287,776.42	300,197.15	10.22%
ASSESSMENT REVENUE	3,468,666.41	3,887,448.79	11.21%

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SOME OTHER THINGS,
STARTING WITH...
NOVEMBER 4-7 AT
KANKAKEE FWA

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ATTACHMENT 2

RECOMMENDATION 8-2022

To: Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission
From: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Subject: Sediment Traps
Date: December 21, 2022

DESCRIPTION: Under existing guidelines, state and federal regulators will permit the construction and maintenance of sediment traps along the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers.

Traps gradually fill with sediment. If their continued function is desired, they must be maintained to reduce the transportation of new sediment downstream.

The Commission previously has approved the maintenance and construction of these devices a measure to reduce the downstream transportation while more longer-term sediment reduction measures are being executed. The costs and benefits of a maintaining or constructing a particular trap are evaluated on a case-by-case basis within the Commission's budgetary parameters.

In 2022, the Commission authorized the maintenance of Trap #11 on the Kankakee River and Trap #23 on the Yellow River. The former trap is fully permitted, and work will commence when conditions permit. Formal consultation with regulators has occurred with respect to the latter trap. USACE and IDEM have stated that the trap does not require their permits. IN-DNR currently is processing the permit application.

LOCATION: Various previously permitted locations along the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers upstream of the LaPorte-Porter County Line

ISSUE: Under the Commission's budgetary parameters, the next trap selected for maintenance is yet to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION: Once Trap #11 and Trap #23 maintenance is complete, the Committee recommends that the Commission maintain existing Trap #22 upstream of the Kankakee River's confluence with the Little Kankakee River. Furthermore, since several Yellow River sediment traps are being superseded by planned bank reconstructions, the committee recommends the creation of a new Yellow River trap upstream of 200 East in Starke County.

The Committee further recommends that to maintain the project feasibility and marginal benefit, the Commission should avoid any need to transport removed material away from the work site.

ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE 12/21/2022.

ATTACHMENT 3

RECOMMENDATION 9-2022

To: Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission
From: Technical Advisory Committee
Subject: Invasive plant species control
Date: December 21, 2022

DESCRIPTION: Certain areas of the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers are inundated with invasive plant species, particularly a species commonly known as bush honeysuckle. Such invasive vegetation often prevents native, bank-stabilizing grasses from taking root or receiving enough sunlight to flourish.

LOCATION: Various sections of the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers

ISSUE: The Commission has invested in the seeding of barren and unstable banks with native grass species such as Virginia wildrye and switch grass. However, invasive species often reduce the effectiveness of these efforts or obscure sections of bank in need of erosion control. The application of herbicide to invasive species during critical periods could allow a more favorable environment for locally native grasses and vegetation to flourish.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Technical Advisory Committee recommends the Commission specifically budget for the herbicidal treatment of invasive plants species as part of its efforts to promote native grass growth within its jurisdiction.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 12/21/2022.
