



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

KRB-YRBDC Technical Advisory Committee

Friday, September 29, 2023

9:30 a.m. CDT/10:30 a.m. EDT

Starke County Commissioners Chamber

53 East Mound Street

Knox, IN 46534

Tony Hendricks, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CST.

Vince Urbano, Secretary, called the roll.

Members Present Physically or Electronically

Kevin Breitzke	Dan Gumz	Tony Hendricks	Vince Urbano
Beau Watkins			

Staff Present

Scott Pelath

Guests Present Physically or Electronically

Adam Bales	Angel Crawford	Aubrey Bunch	Cole Downhour
Courtney McFall	Adam Easter	Jose Diaz	Julie Morris
Ross St. Clair	Scott Lincoln	Siavash Beik	Jim Sweeney
Cara Pattullo	Kira Baltutis	Rich Mrozinski	Bill Crase
Bryan Boggs	Chelsey Minor	Tom Schauten	Dave Eichelburger

The chair announced the presence of a quorum.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CURRENT STATE FISCAL YEAR

Dan Gumz moved to re-elect the current officers for the State Fiscal Year 2024, including Tony Hendricks as chair, Kevin Breitzke as vice-chair, and Vince Urbano as Secretary.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Urbano – Aye
Watkins – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2023, MINUTES

Kevin Breitzke moved to approve the March 8, 2023, minutes. Mr. Gumz seconded the motion.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Urbano – Aye
Watkins – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Scott Pelath made a formal presentation to the Committee [ATTACHMENT 1].

OLD BUSINESS

Report on USACE flood response planning

Kira Baltutis and Cara Pattullo from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reviewed and summarized the Corps-led flood response planning efforts for the Kankakee River Basin [ATTACHMENT 2].

Future Committee role in flood response plan development and maintenance

The Committee discussed its leadership role in completing the flood response plan and considered the possibility of hosting online workshops.

The Committee received updates from Mr. Pelath and the Commission's retained technical consultants on the following Old Business agenda items:

Update on Kankakee FWA hydraulic study
New Yellow River gauge at Bremen
Jasper County FEMA project augmentation
Invasive species reduction and reseedling
Railroad bridge at Schneider and State Line Bridge
Channel maintenance

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Newton County bank reconstruction presentation

Mr. Pelath explained the potential value of repairing the section of Newton County bank that leads to the Norfolk Southern bridge downstream of I-65. He judges it to be among the most logjam-prone bridges on the Kankakee River.

Plans for Yellow River, Phase IV site selection **Yellow River islands**

Bill Crase suggested that removal of emergent islands on the Yellow River might make a useful Phase IV project. Mr. Pelath also suggested the "horseshoe bend" in Marshall County merits stabilization and improvement.

Mr. Pelath discussed the uncertain regulatory status of emergency islands. Tom Schauten noted an area upstream of Range Road in Starke County that he said was inundated with broken concrete intended to halt erosion.

Barge method of logjam removal

Mr. Pelath suggested that it could be cost-effective for the Commission to purchase its own barges for large-scale logjam removal projects. He said it would be easier to do smaller and more frequent logjam removal projects if contractors were relieved of costly barge rentals. He also mentioned other barge applications such as small bank repairs in areas without access.

Mr. Breitzke moved that the Committee recommend that Commission consider the purchase of barges and investment in offloading docks along the Kankakee River. Mr. Urbano seconded the motion.

Breitzke – Aye
Gumz – Aye
Hendricks – Aye
Urbano – Aye
Watkins – Aye

MOTION ADOPTED.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Boggs suggested that there might be outside funding to add needed public access

sites. **SELECTION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m. CDT.

ATTACHMENT 1

KANKAKEE RIVER REPORT

Technical Advisory Committee

September 28, 2023

KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN AND
YELLOW RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Scott D. Pelath, Executive Director

YELLOW RIVER UPSTREAM IMPROVEMENTS



MISSION

The Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission advances Northwest Indiana's safety, economic prosperity, and quality of its natural resources.

40% of sediment in the Kankakee originates in the Yellow River

YELLOW RIVER BANK RECONSTRUCTION

PHASE I – COMPLETED

PHASE II – COMPLETED

PHASE III – SCHEDULED FOR 2024

FORTY-YEAR WORK PLAN

Active Management Recommendation	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030	2032	2034	2036	2038	2040	2042	2044	2046	2048	2050	2052	2054	2056	2058	2060
Yellow River Upstream Improvements	★																				
Kankakee Bank Stabilization Improvements	★																				
Zone-Specific Access and Logjam Management	★																				
Large Wood Removal along Yellow River at Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area	★																				
Selective and Temporary Berm Maintenance	★																				
Strategic Berm Removal & Setback Berm Construction	★																				
Yellow River Downstream Improvements																					
Bridge Removal / Replacement																					
Storage Areas to Offset Increased Runoff	★																				
Update Stormwater Ord. and Tech. Standards																					
Education, Outreach, and Implementation Program Management																					
Develop Flood Response and Resilience Plans	★																				
Remove Infrastructure from Berm-Reliant Areas																					

PHASE I – MARSHALL COUNTY



PHASE I – STARKE COUNTY



500 East, Starke County – “Before”



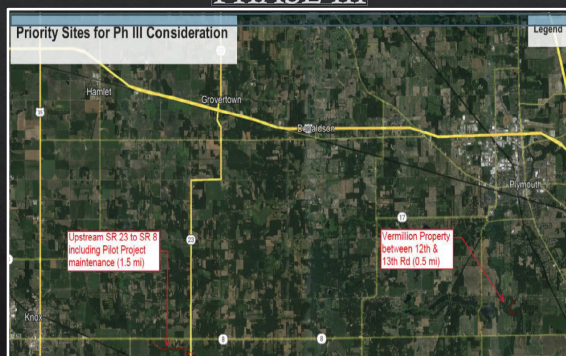
PHASE II



500 East, Starke County – “After”



PHASE III



500 East, Starke County – “Sky View”



1100 East, Starke County – Early Stages



1100 EAST – Section In-Progress



1100 EAST – Completed Section



Starke County M-Bend (January 2019)



1100 EAST – Completed Section



Starke County M-Bend (October 2022)



Starke County M-Bend (July 2023)



Facing West, September 17, 2021



MARSHALL COUNTY, DECEMBER 2020



Facing East, October 8, 2021



Facing West, December 2020



Starke County M-Bend (After)



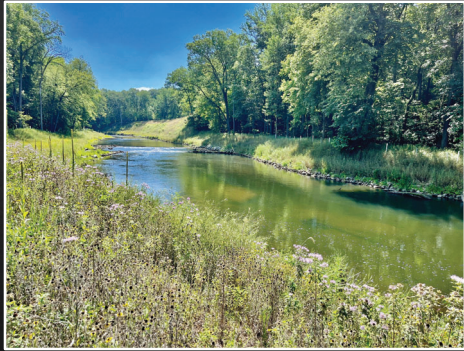
MARSHALL COUNTY, SPRING 2022



LAPORTE COUNTY BANK, JUNE 7



MARSHALL COUNTY, JULY 2023



LAPORTE COUNTY BANK, JULY 27



KANKAKEE BANK STABILIZATION



JASPER COUNTY BANK STABLIZATION, 2021



RAILROAD BRIDGE BY U.S. 41

JASPER COUNTY BANK STABLIZATION, SEPT. 2023



OUT-OF-SERVICE NORFOLK SOUTHERN BRIDGE



HYRDOSEEDING KANKAKEE RIVER (MAY 2023)



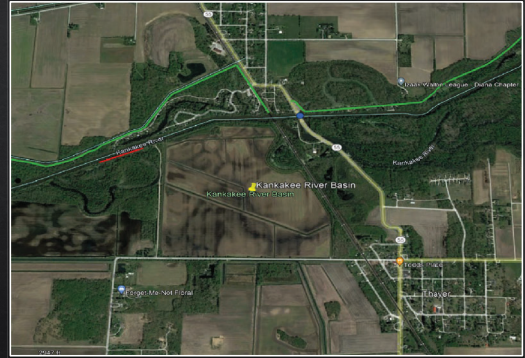
OUT-OF-SERVICE NORFOLK SOUTHERN BRIDGE



OUT-OF-SERVICE NORFOLK SOUTHERN BRIDGE



THAYER FARM



OUT-OF-SERVICE NORFOLK SOUTHERN BRIDGE



SPILLWAY SEPTEMBER 2022



MANAGED FLOODWATER STORAGE

FIRST FLOOD EVENT – MARCH 6, 2023



THAYER FARM – MARCH 6, 2023



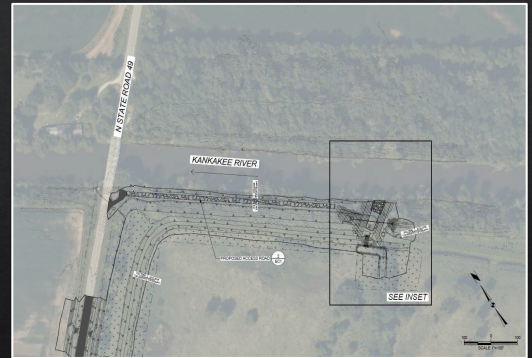
AUKIKI WETLAND CONSERVATION AREA



THAYER FARM – MARCH 30, 2023



AUKIKI WETLAND CONSERVATION AREA



THAYER FARM – MAY 16, 2023



New General Licenses

DNR, Division of Water

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Farm Bureau Drainage School, August 2023



DIVISION OF
WATER

Streambank Protection General License

A general license to place streambank protection in the floodway.

To qualify the proposed work must be located in a rural area and the total work must be less than 300'.

Note : A rural area is defined as an area the lies outside the corporate boundaries of a consolidated city or an incorporated city or town. This also includes any territorial authority of comprehensive planning for the city or town.

LAPORTE COUNTY BANK, JUNE 7



DIVISION OF
WATER

Streambank Protection General License

Conditions:

- Tree removal and brush clearing must be contained to the project area, for any tree that is removed the root ball must not be excavated.
- Work in the waterway between April 1 and June 30 must not exceed 2 days
- All work should conform to the existing bank to prevent flanking
- Stone may be used from the toe of the slope to the ordinary high water mark, bioengineered or vegetative material may be used above the ordinary high water mark
- Disturbed areas outside the streambank protection must be reseeded
- Best management practices must be used during and after construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation

LAPORTE COUNTY BANK, JULY 27



DIVISION OF
WATER

Streambank Protection General License

This general license requires prior notice to the Department, before the start of construction.

A form must be filled out and submitted to the Department, including the following information:

- waterway name and description of parcel or address where the work will be performed
- contact information for the applicant
- documentation showing the applicant is the property owner, our authorization that the owner has given permission
- current photos of the streambank

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Scott D. Pelath
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sdpelath@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT 2


KANKAKEE AND YELLOW RIVER FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Floodplain Management Services
Program Summary and Wrap-Up

Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin
Development Commission
Technical Advisory Committee
September 29, 2023
9:30 AM CDT







NEXT STEPS

Final Report


- Under internal review, will be handed over to Scott Pelath the week of October 2nd
- Contains a summary of the study and workshops, data gathered, and recommendations for next steps

Flood Preparedness Plan Development - Technical Advisory Committee

- Briefed counties and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi on consultation calls and encouraged participation
- Final report contains a recommended schedule and structured approach

Six-Month Follow-Up

- USACE will conduct a six-month follow-up with Scott Pelath on the status of recommendations provided in the report
- Discuss opportunities to leverage other USACE programs to implement recommendations





FLOOD PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Workshops

- Upper Kankakee River - June 28, 2023
- Lower Kankakee River - July 12, 2023
- Yellow River Workshop - July 19, 2023

Follow-Up Calls

- Starke County – August 23
- LaPorte County – August 23
- Jasper County – August 24
- Lake County – August 24
- Newton County – August 25
- Porter County – August 29
- Marshall County – August 31
- St. Joseph County – September 6
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi – September 7
- USGS – September 11

