



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Steve Eberly V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

March 4, 2020 1:00 pm

Please note this is one week earlier than usual

Turkey Run State Park Inn
8102 East Park Rd. Marshall, IN, 47859

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

Review and Approval of January 8, 2020 Minutes

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Retreat Review

DNR Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Treasurer Report (Bob Shepherd)

Committee Reports

- * River Road (Steve Eberly)

Old Business

- * River Curriculum
- * Sponsorship Guidelines
- * Previous Funding Requests
 - o 2020 Wabash Riverfest - Tippecanoe
 - o De-Trash the Wabash Event - Tippecanoe

New Business

- * New funding requests
 - o Wonderful Wabash – Posey County
 - o Peddle, Paddle, Play – Allen County

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

- * November WRHCC Meeting & Veteran's Day
- * Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc.
- * Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Next Meeting: May 13, 2020 at 1:00 pm.
 Vigo County

If you anticipate needing a reasonable modification under the ADA to participate or have questions concerning access at the meeting locations, please contact Ric Edwards, DNR ADA/Safety Director, at REdwards@dnr,IN.gov or 317-232-4145.



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Steve Eberly V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

January 8, 2020 1:00 pm
Fort Harrison State Park Inn
5830 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Allen County – Kyle Quandt
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County – Arin Shaver
Fountain County – Timothy Shumaker (alt)
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County – Dave Hacker
Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Parke County - Penny Cox
Posey County - Marianna Weinzapfel (proxy)
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrews
Vermillion County - Les Zimmerman (alt)
Vigo County - Brendan Kearns
Wabash County – Michael Beauchamp
Warren County - Steve Eberly
Wells County - Douglas Sundling
DNR – Dale Brier

Guests:

Allen Hurst - DNR Outdoor Recreation
Phil Cox - Parke County Alternate
Scott Chandler - INDOT
Stan Lambert - WREC
Vanessa Rainwater - Tippecanoe Co. Alt.

Counties not represented:

Adams County
Jay County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Steve Eberly called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Dale Brier welcomed all members to the meeting and stated that there were no new members appointed. He added that the only change was that the primary and alternate for Allen County had switched, with Kyle Quandt now the primary appointee. Marianna Weinzapfel was acting as proxy for Posey County. No changes were made to the agenda.

Review and Approval of November 13, 2019 Minutes

Phil Cox noted a small error on the minutes. The word Purdue showed up as a separate line at the end of a paragraph. Dave Hacker motioned to accept the minutes with the noted correction. Ken Einselen seconded. Motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests – No comments.

Finance Report

Brier handed out the current finance report (see attached). Brier stated that the Wabash revenue stream has normalized compared to the previous large revenue quarters. The current balance in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$207,341.

As had been discussed previously, Brendan Kearns asked if there was going to be a presentation on how the revenue works in the near future. Brier answered that he has reached out to the DNR Division of Oil & Gas and their director will present on the topic when a date and location makes it possible to do so.

Treasurer Report – No report.

Committee Reports

River Road- Rainwater reported that she and Eberly had a meeting with Tippecanoe County Tourism. The County is hopeful that it may be able to create, host, and maintain the River Road webpage content. The County is currently looking to see if they have the appropriate staff capability to manage it.

Eberly then gave a quick history on the project, noting that it was at a standstill due to having no one to create the page for them, as the state contract option would have been far too expensive. He added that to keep it manageable for Tippecanoe County, the plan is to start at a very high level with destinations and sites, and work downward in scope if able. Eberly noted that this would depend on the counties providing the data and information as needed.

Arin Shaver asked if Indiana Tourism would link to the River Road Project if it were created. Brier responded in the affirmative. Kearns asked would the River Road Project be on the Wabash Commission Page. Brier responded in the negative, stating that the state is unable due to private business advertisements and listings that would be present on the project.

Old Business

River Curriculum – Eberly reported that the commission has two templates for river curriculums, the 4-H program, and the program that Allen County utilizes which Quandt provided. Quandt noted the Allen County program is being updated to ensure state requirements are being met. Allen County is working with area schools and uses the curriculum for after school programs.

After verifying the curriculum as a retreat topic, Hacker asked Phil Cox if he had reached out to Rod Williams from Purdue. Phil Cox responded that he had, and read an email

from Williams expressing delight in attending and presenting on the Nature of Teaching and the potential of a river curriculum at the Wabash March retreat.

Phil Cox brought up the retreat schedule and asked when the presentation would be held. Shaver inquired who was running the curriculum meeting. Phil Cox answered that Williams was simply presenting and helping to brainstorm. Based on the help Williams would provide, Brier suggested scheduling the river curriculum topic for Wednesday morning. Shaver agreed adding that the presentation will set them up nicely for the meeting and Williams could join in at his leisure.

Hacker stated that, historically, the commission would pay for guest speakers lodging, and suggested the commission do the same for Williams. The commission was agreeable.

Eberly asked if this curriculum would be aimed for structured schools or 4-H curriculums. Shaver responded it should be for both. Eberly then asked if counties should invite county educators. The commission agreed it is too soon for those invitations.

2020 Appointments – Brier discussed the appointments during the introductions and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

2020 Retreat – Having already discussed the river curriculum topic, Hacker noted the sponsorship guideline topic should be discussed in the morning workshop.

Shaver stated they will need a presenter for Tuesday night, and asked about the Healthy River Initiative or the Aurora Bend presentation Kearns discussed at the previous meeting. Brier said he would reach out to Ben Miller to do a HRI presentation, and Kearns can be a backup if needed with the Aurora Bend presentation.

Indiana Ethics Refresher Compliance – Brier asked if any of the members had not yet taken the ethics refresher. Eberly and Gettinger responded that they had not. Brier reminded them to do it.

Previous Funding Requests

- Bluffton Health and Wellness Series- Event information had been presented at the last meeting, and the request was for \$1,000. Shaver motioned to sponsor to event, and Hacker seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

New Funding Requests

- **2020 Wabash Riverfest**- Stan Lambert presented the request, the event is scheduled for July 11, on behalf of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. The event has been ongoing since 2009, draws upwards of 10k -15k people, and involves both Lafayette and West Lafayette. There are many activities, races, educational booths and they get people out on the river. The request is for \$1,000 to help offset some costs.

- **De-Trash the Wabash-** Rainwater presented the request, scheduled for April 25, on behalf of Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality. Twice a year, Tippecanoe County brings together over 100 volunteers to gather trash out of the Wabash. The request is for \$1,000 to help pay for trash bags, gloves, and equipment used.

2020 Officer Elections – Brier noted that in previous election cycles a nominating committee, headed by Bob Shepherd, would reach out to potential officers. He asked Eberly and Hacker if Shepherd had reached out asking them if they would like to continue in their previous positions. Eberly noted that Shepherd had, and both officers were willing to serve again. Brier then opened it up asking if any other members would like to nominate anyone for the president or vice president positions. No one volunteered.

Douglas Sundling motioned to elect Eberly as president and Hacker as vice president. Jim Andrews seconded. Eberly and Hacker were unanimously re-elected as president and vice president respectively.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Marianna Weinzapfel confirmed that Posey County would host the commission on September 9, 2020 in New Harmonie.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Fish Kill- Kearns reported on a fish kill that had happened on October 28, 2019 in Terre Haute. When building a new wastewater station and digging up the ground, toxic materials were pushed into retention ponds. This led to the deaths of thousands of fish. Kearns noted the issue did not get the attention it deserved.

Kearns said he has been reaching out to IDEM to be kept in the loop on the fish kill, and is waiting to receive their report. He wanted to let the WHRCC know about the fish kill as it happened in waters near the Wabash. Kearns noted his disappointment with the handling of the fish kill. Les Zimmerman asked if the disappointment was due to IDEM or the Terre Haute administration. Kearns responded Terre Haute was the one who handled it poorly, noting he personally received many tips about the severity of the incident. One tip was that an employee sent out for cleanup had passed out from the toxic vapors present.

Kearns added that due to industry, not just present, but also historic industry, that many toxic materials may lay buried in land near the Wabash. He recalled a previous incident of tar seeping in the Wabash River, resulting in an EPA mitigation project. He warned that members should be cognizant of potential incidents when construction projects dig up these types of industrial locations.

Lastly, Kearns noted that the mayors' claims of only Asian Carp were killed was incorrect, and that many game fish were killed too. He reported dead fish filled thirty 55-

gallon barrels. There are currently three or four firms with quotes to come in and clean up the water.

Illegal Dumping- On the similar environmental topic, Michael Beauchamp shared an incident from Wabash County. He reported that he received a report of illegal dumping of chemical-filled 55-gallon barrels was occurring in their county. The incidents were ongoing during night when the river is flooded. Based on the report, Beauchamp reached out to NRCS for advice on who to contact, who informed him to call his local conservation officer to have it investigated.

They did not contact IDEM on this dumping, as from the initial report, IDEM was identified as being friendly to business, and there is no point in contacting them. Beauchamp heard that IDEM gives companies a heads up when a surprise inspection is going to take place. He noted that it is discouraging when the commission and groups are doing so much for the health and life of the river, to hear stories of illegal dumping and fish kills. He asked for suggestions on where else he should to take the reports of illegal dumping.

Montezuma Bridge Project- Zimmerman reported on the status of the Wabash Grant project in Vermillion County. He said that it is currently on hold due to the hopes they can also utilize Next Level Trails grant funding to increase the projects scope. They did not wish to duplicate regulatory inspection costs should they be successful in securing the NLT grant monies. He reported that the Vermillion Trails Alliance is working very hard on the project and plans to make the most of it, and are exploring all their options.

New and Potential Trails- Eberly announced that the Lily funded initiative, Heartland Innovation Network, has an opportunity to work towards a trail structure. There is also enthusiasm about a five county plan to have a trail near the Wabash River. Eberly noted that everything is preliminary, and counties are looking to garner more funds for more robust planning. Beauchamp asked if this five-county trail planned to cross private property, and if so, how they would deal with it. Eberly said that it would. Stan Lambert followed up answering they would need to buy the land or attain easements. Beauchamp relayed that Wabash County is having issues building a six-mile trail due to private landowners who refuse to sell or offer easements. Zimmerman responded that trails are a generational thing and may take a long time to complete. He recommended building the pieces you can right now, and in time they would come together.

Zimmerman reported that at a Vermillion Trails Alliance meeting, the group River Scape presented a long-term idea to have a loop trail through Vermillion, Parke, and Vigo counties.

Kearns noted that River Scape, of which he is a member, is breaking ground on the \$8.3 million project in the Wabashiki Wetlands. The project is a 10-foot wide boardwalk along US-40 in Terre Haute.

Retreat- Shaver asked Brier if he would send out details for getting a room for the retreat. Brier noted he is working on details and would inform the commission when they became known. He added that he is trying to get the entire lodging and food expenses onto one bill. Phil Cox asked if there would be a special state rate, and how it would work for the speaker Rod Williams. Brier said the state rate is likely, and that Williams could be covered if he gets all lodging on to one bill. Otherwise, the commission would have to use funds from its Historic Forks fund to pay for Williams.

Bridge Signs for Water Trail Users- Quandt asked the commission what type of bridge signs other counties use, noting that Allen County uses a green sign. These signs let water trail users know what street they are passing. Brier said he has many old WRHCC bridge signs he can give out for counties wanting them. Sundling said that he had reached out to the Wells Parks Department to contact Quandt to get an estimate for signs. Quandt reported that their office bought a sign printer, with the agreement they can use it for partner counties, and she can get the signs cheap. With the aforementioned WRHCC signs, it could be even cheaper. Brier offered to bring them to the retreat.

Beauchamp asked about the technicalities and permissions needed to display these signs on state bridges. Scott Chandler from INDOT said he would look into that and contact Brier with the answer, who in turn could inform the commission. Brier told the commission to get permission before putting up any sign on a bridge or along a road.

Quandt asked about the design and color of other counties, if they are the standard green similar to Allen County. Shaver answered that Cass County uses the WRHCC provided signs, which are white/yellow. Brier noted the WRHCC provided signs do not survive out in the sun very well. They fade fast, lasting maybe five years at most. Brier said he would reach out to the commission with a list of available signs and ask what signs they would like, and he will bring them to the retreat.

Adjournment

Eberly asked for a motion to adjourn. Tim Shumaker made a motion, and George Mears seconded. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 2:17pm.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2020 at 1:00pm (one week earlier than normal)
Turkey Run State Park

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY20 as of
12/31/2019

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 126,708.13
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 3,608.15	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 268.67	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COnter	\$ 108.24	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 404.09	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 394.20	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 5.38	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 19.10	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 3.06	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 0.72	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 46.39	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 24.95	
519722	HSA Health Savings Acct 2	\$ 41.13	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 43.35	
546002	Off-Office Supplies	\$ 259.70	
571010	Grants - Cities		
571100	Grants - Counties		
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 1,429.56	
595180	InState Travel - Board Member	\$ 2,368.66	
599036	AdmOp-PostageMeter/Potage	\$ 249.24	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 2,750.00	
750007	Approp Tfr - OUT		

Total FY20 Expense To Date: \$ 12,024.59

Fund Balance:	
7/1/2019	92,657
FY20 revenues	126,708
FY20 Expenses	12,025
balance as of 12/31/2019	207,341
DNR payroll	\$ 4,924.08
travel costs	\$ 3,798.22
sponsorships	\$ 2,750.00
operating	\$ 552.29
Grants	\$ -
Total	\$ 12,024.59