

WABASH COUNTY AUDITOR

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WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

will meet on **Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Wabash County Courthouse meeting room, second floor, to conduct regular county business.**

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Call to Order – Chairman Barry J. Eppley

Review of minutes from 11/04/2019

New Business:

Lana Beregszazi, BCS Management

Mindy Mayes & Josh Winrotte, Purdue Extension – Progress report

Departmental Reports:

Cole Wyatt, County Highway Superintendent

Ryan Baker, Wabash County Sheriff

Keith Walters, County EMA Director

Steve Downs, County Attorney

Jim Dils, County Coordinator/HR Director

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor:

Payroll claims and allowances for docket ending 11/02/2019

Old Business:

Public comments regarding non-agenda items

Review Items:

IDEM Notice: SRT Investments – Office of Air Quality - Application

IDEM Notice: Metal Source – Office of Air Quality – Approved

IDEM Notice: City of Wabash – Office of Water Quality – Application

Strauss Veal Feeds, Inc. - Air permit for New Construction - Application

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission – Agenda 11/13/2019 and Minutes 09/11/2019

Reminder:

**1:30 p.m. Wabash County Solid Waste Management District board meeting
1101 Manchester Avenue, Wabash**

NOTE: (Following approval). Minutes of the Wabash County Commissioner meetings are posted on the county website: www.wabashcounty.IN.gov / County Commissioners/ Minutes



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

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

November 13, 2019 1:00 pm
DNR Conference Room
202 6th Street, Geneva, IN
(pre-meeting activities on second page)

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

- * Introductions
- * Announce Proxies
- * Open Agenda

Review and Approval of September 11, 2019 Minutes

Comments from Visitors or Guests

- * Rainbow Bend Presentation (Curt Burnette)

DNR Finance Report (Dale Brier)

Treasurer Report (Bob Shepherd)

Committee Reports

- * River Road (Steve Eberly)

Old Business

- * River Curriculum (Steve Eberly)
- * Sponsorship Guideline Discussion
- * 2020 Appointments
- * Year-end report

New Business

- * New funding requests
- * Indiana Ethics Refresher
- * 2020 Officer Elections
- * 2020 Retreat
- * 2020 Meeting Locations

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

- * Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates, etc.
- * Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Next Meeting: January 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm.
 Indianapolis – The Garrison at Fort Harrison.

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.

Pre-meeting activities:

10:00 am Limberlost State Historic Cabin Home Tour
 \$7.00/Adult, \$6.00/Senior - \$1 off per person.
 200 6th St, Geneva, IN 46740

 Tour Wabash River Rainbow Bend Park

11:45 am Lunch
 Berne Dinning Restaurant
 1005 US Hwy 27, Berne, IN 46711

1:00 pm Regular Meeting
 DNR Conference Room
 202 6th Street, Geneva, IN 46740



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

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

September 11, 2019 1:00 pm
Wells County Arts, Commerce & Visitors Centre
211 W. Water Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County – Sandy Voglewede
Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County – Arin Shaver
Fountain County – Robert Shepherd
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County – Dave Hacker
Knox County – Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Vanessa Rainwater (alt)
Wabash County – Keith Poole (alt)
Warren County – Steve Eberly
Wells County - Douglas Sundling
DNR – Dale Brier

Guests:

Allen Hurst - DNR Outdoor Recreation
Dan McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal Assn.
Don Mathias - Huntington Co. Alt.
Kyle Quandt - Allen Co. Alt.
Laurie Baumgartner - Bluffton Parks Dept.
Mercedes Brugh – Cass Co. Deputy Mayor
R Scott Elzey - Wells Co. Historical Society

Counties not represented:

Jay County
Parke County
Vermillion County
Vigo County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

Lunch ran late so President Steve Eberly called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced himself or herself. Dale Brier announced that Parke County gave their vote to Bob Shepherd and that Vermillion and Vigo counties would not be present. No additions were added to the agenda.

Review and Approval of June 10, 2019 Minutes

Eberly asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Shepherd so moved and Ken Einselen seconded. Motion to approve the minutes passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Laurie Baumgartner from the Bluffton Parks Department thanked the Wabash Commission for sponsorships of Bluffton Parks Department events. The sponsorships allowed Bluffton to get more people out to the river and allowed them to keep costs low for their events. She offered members extra shirts from past Bluffton events.

Brier shared a letter from Carrie Parmenter of Posey Count Soil & Water, which thanked the commission for sponsoring the Wonderful Wabash event.

Kyle Quandt thanked the commission for sponsoring the Peddle, Paddle, Play event in Allen County. Funds raised from the event this year helped pay for signs for the water trails in the Northeast region. She described the sign template, which is available for others in the Wabash River corridor to use. There is room on the template to plug in unique information of a given section on the water trail. If interested, Quandt said to let her know what information to put on the sign and she would be happy to print those out for a low cost. Furthermore, for sections in the Northeast Region, they can fully fund the materials and printing of the water trail signs.

Finance Report

Brier handed out the current finance report (see attached). Brier announced the finance report is out of the ordinary. He pointed out that last year the total revenue was around \$100,000, but within the first two months of fiscal year 2020, the revenue is already over \$80,000. He theorizes some monies from last fiscal year were not accounted for until the new fiscal year, which is also why last year's revenue was low. Brier notes not to expect \$40,000 a month moving forward. Shepherd adds that he compared this figure to the previous five years, and it is an abnormal amount. Lastly, Brier notes he did double check with the DNR budget analyst. The current balance in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$168,807.

Treasurer Report

Shepherd handed out the treasurer report and announced that the report is based on the DNR finance report. He notes that the commission cannot count on and plan for revenue of \$80,000 every two months. Brier adds the oddity of the \$80,000 may make it difficult for Shepherd to predict how much revenue will be made for the fiscal year.

Committee Reports

Membership – No report. The membership committee chair has moved on and the committee has not met. Brier asked if the membership report should be removed from future agendas. The commission agreed to remove it.

River Road – Eberly updated the commission on the River Road Project. The private contract estimate given for completing the project came in at \$500,000. An abridged version of the project was estimated at \$100,000. Eberly noted both figures were too expensive for the commission. He added that in order for the project to continue, it would be on each county to put something together for themselves, which would then be stitched together. Multi county partnerships were also discussed. Brier weighed in noting the costs and labor have grown too much for this volunteer organization to take on. While a good idea, he continued, the project keeps running into ongoing hurdles.

Shepherd inquired if the DNR would be able to take it on. Brier replied that is not possible for two reasons. First off, it does not have the labor available to put it together. Secondly, even if they did get it put it together, they would not be able to host the website due to the business tie-ins. Shaver recommended partnering with Purdue, schools or similar groups. Brier said you could do that but to make sure that an organization is willing to host the content before moving forward. Finding an organization to host the website should be the first concern. Without that, there is no project and no reason to move forward. Sandy Voglewede asked if Indiana.gov could link to the River Road content to which Brier said that yes, the DNR could link to and promote it, just not host it. Quandt asked if tourism could host it. Eberly said he has reached out with that question and has yet to hear back. Hacker noted the original idea was to bring the content to Indiana Tourism who would put it together and host it. Brier said that was the original intention but the director and direction of the tourism agency has shifted entirely since the early ideation of the River Road Project. There was some discussion of what Warren County was doing, the technical aspects of making webpages, and how it could be maintained. Quandt asked if there any grants that could fund the project to which Brier replied there are not any he is aware of. Eberly ended the report encouraging anyone with ideas to bring them to his attention.

News and Media – No report. Similar to the membership report, it was agreed to remove the news and media committee report from future agendas.

Old Business

River Curriculum – Gettinger brought up the former Sullivan 4-H project program, displaying the 2004 4-H manual document he brought to the meeting. He gave a brief overview of it, the focus is youth education. Eberly said the project manual would need updating and offered to reach out to the 19 different counties extension offices to hear about their respective 4-H programs. Gettinger shared his vision for the program, the goal of getting students out on the river over two to three days with various events. Once the program is developed, they could share that program with other groups.

On the topic of curriculum for school teachers, Quandt shared that the St. Joseph Watershed Initiative developed a manual on how to teach kids about watersheds and water quality called, *Where my River Runs*. She notes it would be easy to change it to fit any particular river. St. Joseph Watershed Initiative just received a 319 grant to get that info on a flash drive and she can share that with Eberly. Quandt also adds that Friends of the River in Fort Wayne have developed a river curriculum for different grade levels that could present further ideas to incorporate.

Previous Funding Requests

Wonders of the Wabash – Tippecanoe County

Vanessa Rainwater summarized that the event is for 6th grade students to get on and learn about the Wabash River. The event started September 11, has future dates, and the request was for \$1,000. Shepherd motioned to fund this event, Gettinger seconded. Motion to sponsor the event passed.

Delphi Historic Bridge Registry – Carroll County

Eberly noted that this sponsorship does not meet the guidelines set forth in the Wabash sponsorship policies the WRHCC set in 2015. He then summarized the request, which was asking for \$1,000 to pay expenses to apply to get a historic bridge, located near the Wabash River in Carroll County, into the National Registry of Historic Places. Before going to any vote, the requester of the sponsorship, Dan McCain, gave more details on the project, noting increased tourism to the area. He handed out a brochure highlighting the other historic bridges in Carroll County and stressed the local importance and draw the bridges have. He ended his presentation with a reading of the WHRCC mission statement, placing emphasis on the historic aspect.

Gettinger inquired if they would be able to pull \$1,000 from their non-state funds, to fund the request. Eberly replied since there are no guidelines in place for using those monies it would set a bad precedent. Shaver asked what the process would be to make an amendment to the guideline policies. Brier responded it would need to be discussed among the commission, and then brought to a vote, which would take a minimum of two meetings.

Eberly notes to the commission that there are many historic bridges in the area, and the commission would not be able to fund them all if requested. Poole, who was absent last meeting during the original request, wanted some clarification on the bridge and the guidelines. McCain answered specifics, mostly pertaining to age of the bridge. Poole noted that this project does have historical merits. Brier agreed with the historic aspect, but also gave a brief history of the policy, and why it came into existence. Procedure, dollar amounts, and what they would be handed out for, all of which came from the commission itself. Keith Poole asked about the art project in Terre Haute, which the commission had funded previously. Zartman noted that instance was specifically mentioned in the policy guidelines. Brier added that the project was an art object put in a park right on the Wabash, whereas the bridge is on a tributary of the Wabash. Dave Hacker noted the discussion of the bridge should come to an end as it does not qualify within the commissions current policy. The conversation should move to whether or not the commission wants to review the policy. If so, Shepherd recommended the upcoming retreat as an opportune time to review the guidelines. The commission agreed that it would not vote on the project due to it being outside the guidelines. Furthermore, they agreed they would vote on whether or not to review the policy at the next meeting.

New Business

No new business brought forth.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Brier announced that he cleared out old Wabash files at DNR Outdoor Recreation office. He offered the documents to the members and encouraged them to take anything they would like, or find interesting, and anything left behind would be recycled.

Shepherd passed around brochures highlighting sculptures placed around Attica.

Gettinger announced the 8th grade river expedition would be taking place later in September. He then reported that the mural in Merom had been completed. Lastly, he reported progress is ongoing for the campsite project on the Wabash in Merom, which was a recipient of a Wabash Corridor Fund grant.

George Mears announced that there is a fish shoot at the Miami County Fairgrounds on September 13.

Brier, on behalf of Vigo Co. representative Brendan Kearns, announced that the Discovery Channel aired the show "Aaron Needs a Job" this past week, which filmed on the Wabash River in Terre Haute.

Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests

Membership Appointments

Brier reminded the commission next year is an appointment year and that everyone's current appointment expires at the end of this year. He will send out to emails and letters to county commissioners to start the process of appointments. If interested to serve again, Brier told county representatives to reach out to their county commissioners.

Brier then polled the commission if they are interested in a short report describing the accomplishments of the WRHCC from the previous two years. The commission expressed interest. Brier, Eberly, and Hacker agreed they would put together the report. Sobhami offered to look it over afterward.

Lastly, Brier quickly discussed book-keeping aspects of travel vouchers.

Adjournment

Eberly called the meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Nov 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm.
Adams County