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Meeting introduction

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Kankakee River Basin Partnership

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YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE SHORTENED FORMAT OF THE MEETING AND THEREFORE I ASK THAT YOU TAKE TIME DURING THE LUNCH BREAK TO LOOK AT OUR DISPLAYS AND VIEW THE VIDEO WHICH WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP.

Provided you with A Packet To Give some insight to our Partnership.

I WILL BE BRIEF IN MY COMMENTS AND FOCUS ON OUR MAJOR CONCERNS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

WE BECAME AN OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP IN 1994 WHEN WE WERE SANCTIONED BY THE IDNR AND THE GOVERNOR EDGAR ADMINISTRATION. PRIOR TO THAT TIME, MANY OF US HAVE LABORED FOR OVER 30 YEARS TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE KANKAKEE RIVER. GROUPS SUCH AS THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS ANGLERS AND THE ALLIANCE TO RESTORE THE KANKAKEE WERE THE FORE-RUNNERS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP.

WE DEVELOPED A BROAD BASED PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING ALL OF THE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN THE KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN. OUR PARTNERSHIP INCLUDES CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURE, BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, LABOR, GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND CITIZEN GROUPS WITHIN THE BASIN. ONE OF OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS TO DEVELOP A STEWARDSHIP PLAN WHICH YOU ALL HAVE A COPY OF IN YOUR PACKET. THIS WAS DEVELOPED BY USING THE THREE COUNTY EQUIP PLANS ALONG WITH OUR PARTNERSHIP PLAN, HOLDING PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS AND MERGING THESE PLANS INTO THE FINAL PRODUCT. WE FOLLOW THAT PLAN TODAY.

OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS THE SAND AND SEDIMENT LOADS IN THE KANKAKEE RIVER. A GREAT DEAL OF THIS PROBLEM STEMS FROM THE DRAINING OF THE GRAND MARSH BETWEEN THE YEARS OF 1850 AND 1917. THE 500,000 ACER MARSH WAS DRAINED AND THE KANKAKEE RIVER IN INDIANA WAS CHANGED FROM A 250 MILE MEANDERING STREAM TO A 90 MILE CHANNELIZED DITCH. THE ILLINOIS PORTION OF THE KANKAKEE REMAINS THE SAME AS A MEANDERING STREAM. (ILLUSTRATION)

THE PROBLEM OF SAND BED LOAD CAN BE SEEN IN THESE PHOTOS **** AND PRIMARILY ENTERS THE KANKAKEE FROM INDIANA ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN ILLINOIS.

Ripples spaces filling

THE SEDIMENT LOAD CAN BE SEEN IN THIS PHOTO **** AND PRIMARILY ENTERS THE RIVER FROM THE IROQUOIS RIVER.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE DESTROYING OUR HABITAT, FILLING OUR RIVER AND ROBBING IT'S STORAGE CAPACITY MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO DRAIN FARMS, KEEP POTABLE WATER SUPPLY INTAKES OPEN AND TO NAVIGATE THE RIVER.

OUR RIVER CONTRIBUTES ONE MILLION TONS OF SAND AND SEDIMENT ANNUALLY TO THE ILLINOIS RIVER SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, WE KNOW THERE IS 150,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SAND SITTING IN THE STATE LINE AREA AS WE SPEAK. WE ARE

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ARMY CORPS TO REMOVE THIS SLUG IN A HYDROLOGICALLY SENSITIVE MANNER. OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO STOP THE SAND FROM ENTERING THE ILLINOIS PORTION OF THE KANKAKEE BY COLLECTING THE SAND AND REMOVING IT PRIOR TO IT'S MOVEMENT DOWN STREAM. TO PUT IT IN UNDERSTANDABLE TERMS, THIS SLUG ALONE WILL FILL APPROXIMATELY 8500 SEMI TRUCK LOADS WITH SAND.

we do not want to bridge the entire river but to help the river use its natural force to clear itself.

OUR PARTNERSHIP IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH SEVERAL PARTNERS TO ADDRESS OUR CONCERNS.

THE ARMY CORPS OF CHICAGO IS IN THE FEASIBILITY STAGE OF AN ENTIRE BASIN WIDE STUDY OF THE KANKAKEE.

THE ARMY CORPS OF ROCK ISLAND IS AT THE APPROVAL POINT FOR A PILOT PROJECT AT THE STATE LINE.

THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A REFUGE ON A PORTION OF THE KANKAKEE.

AT THE STATE LEVEL, THE IDNR AND IDA ARE WORKING WITH STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO AID IN OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE BASIN. WITH THEIR HELP AND THE PROGRAMS THEY ADMINISTER AND OUR C-2000 FUNDS, WE HAVE PLACED OVER 8000 ACERS IN IROQUOIS UNDER PROTECTION AS RIPARIAN BUFFER AND FILTER STRIPS. THIS HELPS THE AG COMMUNITY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE EROSION AND THE SEDIMENT LOAD IN THE RIVER SYSTEM.

IN THE MOMENCE WETLANDS OUR PARTNERSHIP AND THE IDNR HAVE PURCHASED OVER 400 ACERS WITH C-2000 FUNDS AND IDNR FUNDS. THESE PROPERTIES ARE TITLED TO THE KANKAKEE RIVER CONSERVANCY AND THE IDNR RESPECTIVELY. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING AN ADDITIONAL 1000 ACERS WITH A 1 1/2 MILLION DOLLAR APPROPRIATION PROVIDED THE PARTNERSHIP DURING THE EDGAR ADMINISTRATION. AN ADDITIONAL 100 ACERS AS A BUFFER IN IROQUOIS COUNTY ALONG LANGHAN CREEK WHICH IS AN A STREAM WILL BE INCLUDED IN THESE PURCHASES. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL 500 TO 700 ACERS STILL AVAILABLE FROM WILLING SELLERS THAT WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ACQUIRE.

THESE EFFORTS PLUS THE MANY BANK STABILIZATION, EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS, REQUIRED STUDIES, AG EROSION PROJECTS, MODEL STREAM PROJECTS AND WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECTS IS KEEPING OUR PARTNERSHIP BUSY AND ON TARGET WITH THEIR MISSION

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO VIEW OUR DISPLAYS AND ASK QUESTIONS DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR AFTER THE TOUR. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING OUR PARTNERSHIP TO MAKE THIS PRESENTATION TO YOUR PRESTEGIOUS COUNCIL. WE WANT WHAT YOU WANT, AND THAT IS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THIS GREAT STATE.