

Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.
Wednesday, July 23, 2025 - Noon
KRPD #2, Gateway FS Facility
10349 Riverview Lane, Red Bud, IL 62278

The regular meeting of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. was held Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at KRPD #2, Gateway FS Facility, Red Bud, IL.

Joe Behnken, LKSI President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A sign-in sheet was available for attendees to sign.

Minutes

Minutes of the May 28, 2025 meeting were distributed at the meeting. A motion was made by Norma Hall and seconded by Jerry Phillips to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Koenigstein presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2025. The checking account has a balance of \$7,991.39. The \$25,000 CD at North County Savings Bank matured April 2025. The CD at North County Savings Bank has an amount of \$25,656.58, which will mature May 2026. The funds broke out include Operating Fund \$15,336.14, Barge Trip \$8,620.99, Eagle Fest \$2,328 and the New Athens fund at \$7,362.84 totaling \$33,647.97. A motion was made by Norma Hall and seconded by Dave Holder to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Vice President & Directors Reports

Governmental – Dave Holder

Dave Holder reported that Ryan McClellan is the new Regional Superintendent of Schools, who replaced retiring superintendent Kelton Davis. IDOT has begun the PEL (Planning, Engineering and Linkage) study on the four-lane highway. This is the first step of the project, and is set to be completed by December of 2026. The Chester Bridge is coming along, and is scheduled to open to traffic in July/August 2026. Monroe Randolph County Enterprise Zone will be considering map amendment changes for the zone over the next few months. Public hearings will take place early 2026. Work is in progress on the Randolph County Care Center. The Care Center has a new director, Tammy VonYeast.

Agencies – Ed Weilbacher

Ron Kaempfe, KRPD Board Member reported for Ed Weilbacher. Ron reported KRPD hired Mr. Brent Donovan as Assistant General Manager to replace Ed Weilbacher, who is set to retire December 31, 2025. Mr. Donovan will begin August 15, 2025. Renovations are taking place on the New Athens home that KRPD purchased, where Mr. Donovan will reside for the time being.

Legislative efforts are underway to expand the KRPD boundaries. The proposal will be to expand in St. Clair Co., up the Mississippi River to Madison Co. With the new territory added, there will be changes to the board composition, and to take in Southwest Regional Port District. The bill did not pass in May, but will be brought up in October.

Baxmeyer Construction has been awarded the contract for the construction of the new entrance road and two laydown yards at KRPD #2. Renovations are taking place at Hank and Lilly's

Water Street in Evansville, and should be complete by September. KRPD was awarded a \$7,421,504 grant with IEPA for the Clean Ports Project. This is for two battery electric locomotives, one battery electric forklift, and three electrical vehicle chargers. KRPD recently had election of officers, which are Terry Liefer, Chairman; Ron Kaempfe, Vice-Chairman; Bob Myerscough, Treasurer.

Organizations - Jerry Phillips – Jerry Phillips spoke of a sinking boat incident while boating with friends and how safety was of top priority.

Business - Dave Krebel – No Report

At Large – Doug Sachtleben – Doug Sachtleben reported that KRPD purchased four lots on the west side of the Bowlin Road, Red Bud. A 2 bedroom, 1 bath mobile home in good condition will be for sale this fall.

Corps of Engineers – Travis Little – Travis Little reported a recent weekend closure for the service base to install valves on the culvert valve cylinders which will speed things up for when the cylinders are replaced. The lock and dam will be closed August 1, for a 60-day closure to repair the miter gates. The dewater will take place the first week of August and engineers will investigate the pintle. Industry Day will take place August 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam. Onsite engineers will explain the repair process and will report a closure timeline. Travis happily reported that the Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam recently moved from a Level II to a Level I in Operations, due to significant commercial tonnage going through the lock. 1,000 commercial lockage's have taken place the past two years. The lock and dam will operate a 24 hour/day, 7 day/week operation. More information to come on Industry Day.

Courtney Wilson reported on Carlyle Lake. A notice of availability is out for the prior Fish House restaurant on Dam East. The deadline for proposals is August 4, 2025. The minimum requirements include that it be some sort of restaurant; doesn't have to be a full dining facility, have a recreation component, and have electric bicycle rentals. If interested, please contact Courtney Wilson.

IDNR Report - Mic Middleton – Jesse Walter, site superintendent for IDNR. He supervises all of the historic sites. A new superintendent, Noah Walls, has been hired for the shooting complex. Jesse reported that Fort de Chartres was the #1 most traveled historic site this year in southern Illinois and updated the members of ongoing projects. The June Rendevous was a big success, and the Fall Rendevous will be on November 1-2.

2025 Summer Picnic – Anna Guebert reported that the summer picnic is canceled due to ongoing renovations at Hank and Lilly's Water Street, Evansville, IL.

Program – Carl Tebbe, Gateway FS, provided an overview and tour of the recently installed conveyor and fertilizer facility. When first built, the fertilizer facility was 140' wide x 300' long, with concrete floors and a fabric cover. With the growth of the fertilizer market, the facility had to be expanded. With the help of KRPD, the facility expanded 200' to the south, which includes

four fertilizer bays and will allow for more flexibility and speed. This is the biggest facility of Gateway FS's locations.

Old Business – Joe Behnen reported that the LKSI trailer is still for sale. The trailer's dimensions are 5' x14'. Red Becker suggested to take the LKSI trailer to the Reichmann Auction in Okawville to sell. Doug Sachteleben offered to take care of getting the trailer to Okawville.

New Business –

Linda Tragessor announced her retirement from SIMAPC and introduced Wendy Pfeil, the Executive Director for SIMAPC.

LKSI has a new email address which is lowerkaskaskiastakeholdersinc@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be on August 27, 2025 at the Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam for a tour of the recently closed lock due to renovations.

With no other business to come before the group, a motion was made by Dave Holder and seconded by Carl Tebbe to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Guebert, Secretary