

Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc.
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 - Noon
Lisa's Market Street Grille
211 Market Street, Prairie Du Rocher, IL 62277

The regular meeting of the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. was held Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at Lisa's Market Street Grille, Prairie Du Rocher, IL.

Cindy Jones, LKSI President, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A sign-in sheet was available for attendees to sign.

Minutes

Minutes of the August 28, 2024 meeting were distributed at the meeting. A motion was made by Dave Krebel and seconded by Norma Hall to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Koenigstein presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2025. The checking account has a balance of \$4,128.48. The \$25,000 CD at North County Savings Bank matures April 2025. The funds broke out include Operating Fund \$12,903.65, Barge Trip \$8,620, Eagle Fest \$241.00 and the New Athens fund at \$7,362 totaling \$29,128.48. A motion was made by Susan Harbaugh and seconded by Ed Weilbacher to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Election of Officers and Appointment of Directors

Mike Reed made a motion to accept the names presented for election of directors and re-nominated officers. Ed Weilbacher seconded. Motion carried. The directors are: Joe Behnken, President; Anna Guebert, Secretary; Kevin Koenigstein, Treasurer. The officers whose term was up in 2024 will continue to serve on the Board for a two-year term ending in 2026.

Vice President & Directors Reports

Governmental – Susan Harbaugh reported that bids have been approved for the Red Bud Business Park.

Linda Tragesser provided a grant update on the state and federal funding programs. Linda reported that Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission is looking for an executive director.

Agencies – Ed Weilbacher

Ed Weilbacher reported that KRPD has three new board members, Joe Stukenberg, Lisa Hess and Kristine Fulford, all which are appointed by the Governor. The Phase I Pipeline Study at Fayetteville is nearly complete. No set backs were identified. Ed will soon start to work on an application for the next phase of the study. The new conveyor at KRPD #2 has been installed and will be operational soon. Gateway FS continues the new construction on the fertilizer building. KRPD will soon go out for bids for the entrance road and laydown yard at KPRD #2. Design plans will soon be submitted to IDOT and will go out for bids for the rail loop project at KRPD #1. Ed reported that KRPD was not successful in getting the grant for the south dock at KRPD #2. A debriefing meeting will be held with MARAD.

Organizations - Jerry Phillips – No Report

Business - Dave Krebel – Dave thanked Cindy Jones for her duties as President. Dave spoke on grain prices and market contracts.

At Large – Doug Sachtleben – No Report

Corps of Engineers – Travis Little – Travis reported updates on the awarded contracts. The dam and overhead crane repair contract is being worked on. The 50-year study is complete and is in Division for review. Travis is currently working on the 2027 budget. A dredging contract was to be awarded, but only had one bidder, so it was withdrawn. John Hartleb reported the Eagle Fest will be March 1. John requested a donation from LKSI for the Eagle Fest. Cindy Jones made a motion to sponsor the Eagle Fest at \$500. Member Karen Meyer suggested that the donation be higher due to the amount of work that is put into the Eagle Fest. Cindy accepted the amended motion from \$500 to \$1,000. Norma Hall seconded the amended motion.

IDNR Report - Mic Middleton – Mic reported that the fish cleaning station is nearly complete at Baldwin Lake and will be ready for spring. Red Dot Construction installed a shelter that has a grinder for anyone to clean fish. Interviews have taken place to hire two site technicians for the lakes. Baldwin Lake will be open until 2027 due to the delay in the closing of Vistra.

2024 Barge Trip – Anna Guebert reported a successful barge trip was had by all attendees. Shirts were sold for \$10 and gifts handed out included a 50th anniversary medallion and placemat. Anna thanked everyone that helped set up, serve food or tear down.

Program – Mark Wilson, Randolph County Economic Development Director

Mark Wilson replaced Chris Martin, who retired December 2024. Mark spoke of his past work experience and will soon resign as the Village President of Prairie du Rocher. Mark plans to attend all Board meetings in Randolph County and assist with improvement and development. Mark also plans to reorganize the Economic Development website.

New Business –

LKSI would like to hold a picnic in September. More information to follow.

Cindy Jones thanked all in attendance and appreciated all for coming and keeping LKSI as strong as what it is.

Mr. Behnken thanked Representative Charlie Meier for attending today's meeting. Rep. Meier reported that he continues to support this area. A productive meeting with Ed Weilbacher was held at the Edgar Lake pump station to look into redoing the station with state funds. Monthly updates are given to and from Springfield.

The next meeting will be on March 26, 2025 at the Bull Pen, New Athens, IL with a possible tour of KRPD #1 (weather permitting).

With no other business to come before the group, a motion was made by Ed Weilbacher and seconded by Cindy Jones to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
Adjourn at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Guebert, Secretary