RESOLUTION NO. 2015-007

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE PARTICIPATION OF Vermillion **COUNTY IN THE WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, I.C. 14-13-6 establishes the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, and pursuant to said statute Vermillion County is an eligible county to participate in said commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Vermillion believe that the development of the Wabash River has been and will be beneficial to all citizens of the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission can assist and act as a mechanism to develop the Wabash River Corridor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the county of Vermillion hereby appoint/reappoint Larry Southard to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission as its appointed member and Penney Barton as an alternate member.

This resolution shall be effective for a two-year term beginning the first day of January, 2016 and will expire on the thirty-first day of December, 2017.

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Vermillion County Commissioners

ATTEST: Phyllis Orman

Vermillion County Auditor

DATED: 12/29/2015

Mailed 12/30/15

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Michael R. Pence, Governor
Cameron F. Clark, Director

Executive Office
402 W. Washington Street W256
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
317-232-4020
www.IN.gov/dnr

November 2, 2015

Vermillion County Board of Commissioners
County Courthouse
255 S. Main street
P.O. Box 190
Newport, IN 47966-0190

Re: Appointment to Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Dear Board of Commissioners:

I am writing to request your continued involvement in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC). The time has come to appoint a new member or reappoint your current representative(s) to serve on the commission. According to Indiana Code 14-13-6, Vermillion County is one of 19 counties eligible to participate on the commission. Larry Southard currently serves as your appointed member and Penney Barton serves as the alternate.

A suggested resolution to appoint your representative(s) is included with this letter. When making your appointment, please set the term from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017 as indicated on the enclosed form. Please complete the enclosed information sheet so that we may notify your representative(s) of upcoming meetings. Enclosed is an attendance sheet so you can see how often your county was represented over the last 2 years.

Please appoint members who will attend the WRHCC meetings and who will take an active role with the corridor. Appointments who do not attend meetings make it difficult to have a quorum and conduct business. You are not required to make an appointment, but your involvement is strongly encouraged. The grant managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) awarded $300,000 in grant funds to projects along the Wabash River in 2014. Not only are the members helping determine how funds are spent, their attendance is part of the scoring system. The Commission also awarded $11,000 in local sponsorships over the last two years for projects that enhanced the Wabash River.

The meetings of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission are on the second Wednesday of odd numbered months. Meetings are usually held in one of the nineteen corridor counties. Commission members are reimbursed for travel at the rate of $0.40/mile and can be reimbursed for overnight travel to meetings or other official WRHCC business.

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The Wabash River is Indiana's official State River and the longest free flowing river in the state. The Department of Natural Resources is pleased to be working with you to promote the conservation and development of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor as detailed on the following website: www.in.gov/wrhcc. Your county's involvement is important. Please contact Dale Brier with the Division of Outdoor Recreation at (317) 232-4072 for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Cameron F. Clark, Director

CFC/dlb

Enclosures: Suggested resolution form
Blank information sheet
Attendance record
WRHCC summery

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Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
402 West Washington St. W271
Indianapolis IN. 46204

2014 – 2015 Summary of the WRHCC

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WRHCC) has had a great 2014 and 2015. With many years of excellent leadership by Jack (John) Gettinger of Sullivan County, the commission was in position to move ahead with programs and policies to promote the Wabash River and fulfill its goals and mission.

The success of the WRHCC is due in no small part to the dedication and commitment of the individuals who have been appointed to the River Commission by their local county commissioners. With a represented area of over 450 river miles, it is a sign of commitment that there has always been a quorum at each meeting with an average attendance of 75 percent. It is this dedication that has allowed the WRHCC to be able to function and provide the communities and organizations along the Wabash River with financial support for many activities throughout the year.
One of the major initiatives of the WRHCC has been to develop a "river road" which extends from the Ohio/Indiana state line in Jay County in the North to the Ohio River in Posey County in the South. As of September 2015 the WRHCC has fully charted this route. Through the substantial efforts of Ken Einselen of Miami County the road within each county has been designated. Each of the individual river commissioners has worked with their local county commissioners and city governments to make this route possible. Additionally, Ken has worked with the Indiana Department of Transportation to develop signage that meets its standards.

The second major accomplishment of the WRHCC in 2015 has been the development of a Strategic Plan. At each of the meetings during 2014 and the first 3 meetings of 2015, Kara Kish, of Vigo County, guided the commission as it worked through the development of the plan. The plan will be used to guide the commission's activities and functions. In July the commission approved the strategic plan.

A major function of the WRHCC has been the development of a grant program for larger projects along the Wabash River. The commission provided over $300,000 in grants in 2014. During 2015, the WRHCC also provided $250,000 in matching funds to help secure a $1.2 million grant from the Federal Government for riverside trail in Prophetstown State Park. The WRHCC grant committee conducted several meetings with the grants team from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources during 2015 to develop the grant criteria for the upcoming grant round.

The WRHCC holds 6 meetings each year in locations from Posey County in the South to Allen County in the North. Meeting locations vary throughout the corridor with counties taking turns hosting the meetings.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the President of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission during the 2015 year.

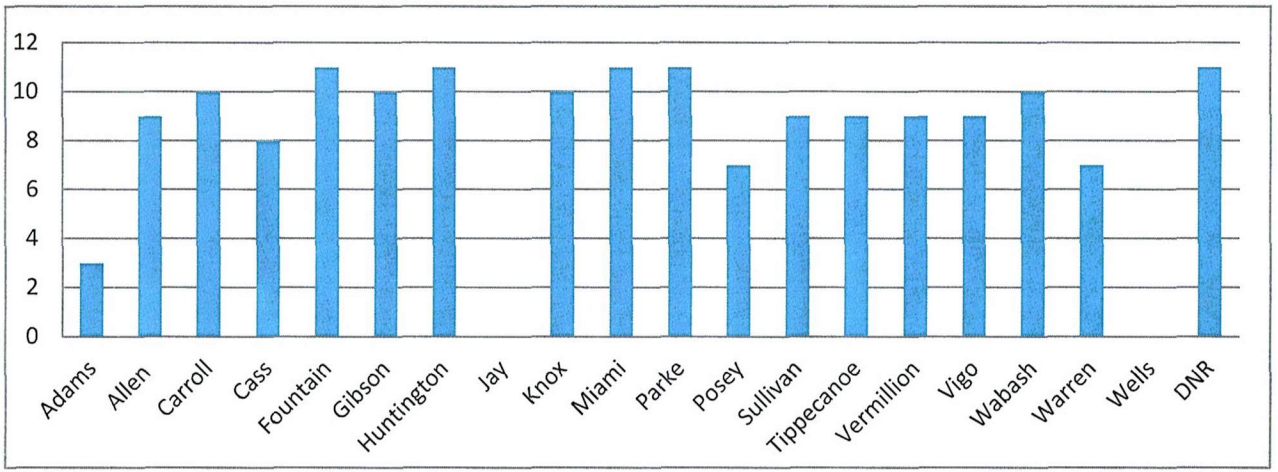
Respectfully Submitted,

David F. Hacker, President
Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commissions

2014 -2015 WRHCC attendance

	Jan-14	Mar-14	May-14	Jul-14	Sep-14	Nov-14	Jan-15	Mar-15	May-15	Jul-15	Sep-15	Nov-15		**county total**	county average
Adams	1			1		1								**3**	27%
Allen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1				**9**	82%
Carroll	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			**10**	91%
Cass	1	1	1	1		1	1			1	1			**8**	73%
Fountain	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**11**	100%
Gibson		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**10**	91%
Huntington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**11**	100%
Jay														**0**	0%
Knox	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			**10**	91%
Miami	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**11**	100%
Parke	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**11**	100%
Posey		1	1	1	1		1	1	1					**7**	64%
Sullivan		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			**9**	82%
Tippecanoe	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1			**9**	82%
Vermillion	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1			**9**	82%
Vigo	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1			**9**	82%
Wabash	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				**10**	91%
Warren	1	1			1			1	1	1	1			**7**	64%
Wells														**0**	0%
DNR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			**11**	100%
													ave		
Meeting total	**15**	**16**	**15**	**17**	**14**	**15**	**14**	**14**	**16**	**15**	**14**	**0**	**15.0**		

no appointment for Jan



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
402 West Washington St. W271
Indianapolis IN, 46204

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
County Representative Information Sheet 2016

Commission Member

Name: Larry Southard

Address: P.O. Box 27

City: Hillsdale, IN Zip Code: 47854

Phone: 765-245-2120

Email: larrysouthard@att.net

Alternate Commission Member

Name: Penney Barton

Address: 6773 N. Vermillion Dr.

City: Cayuga, IN Zip Code: 47928

Phone: 765-492-5340

Email: penney.barton@vermillioncounty.in.gov

Please complete and return this information sheet and official appointment resolution to the following address:

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
c/o DNR – Division of Outdoor Recreation
Dale Brier
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W271
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-232-4072
dbrier@dnr.IN.gov