

Members

Rep. Robert Hoffman, Chair  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. Robert Bischoff  
Rep. Paul Robertson  
Sen. Thomas Weatherwax  
Sen. John Waterman  
Sen. James Lewis  
Sen. Richard Young



# NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the  
Committee  
Steve Wenning, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 2-5-5-1

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: September 13, 2005  
Meeting Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting Place: Potawatomi Inn  
Pokagon State Park  
Meeting City: Angola, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 3

**Members Present:** Rep. Robert Hoffman, Chair; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. Robert Bischoff; Rep. Paul Robertson; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Sen. James Lewis.

**Members Absent:** Sen. John Waterman; Sen. Richard Young.

**Call to Order.** Rep Hoffman, Chair of the Natural Resources Study Committee, called the meeting to order.

**Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.** Ron James, Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission Executive Director, explained that Indiana's resources are its waters, stating that we are a land of rivers. The Wabash River is 490 miles of flow. It is the longest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi. The Wabash touches 27 counties and could be the Appalachian Trail of the rivers. Mr. James distributed handouts pertaining to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Management Plan. (See Exhibits A, B, C, and D.) He explained that at rest stops and information centers brochures pertaining to the Corridor are second in popularity only to the state map. He noted that 59 projects were awarded \$7.9 million in grants with \$13.4 million spent from all sources. Volunteers and counties maintain the improvements. The only dam on the river is at Huntington, which is 450 miles from the Kentucky state line.

**Elimination of Advisory Councils.** DNR Director Hupfer stated that there are other advisory councils that can serve the functions and that the formality of the advisory councils was not needed.

---

<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Dick Mercier, Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable, noted that five groups spoke to retain the councils. There is a need for the councils. The councils are short members, but the executive can appoint members. Per diem is not much, but members would forgo the money. The Natural Resources Commission is limited on what they can do to amend preliminary rules. The councils do not need 24 members. The councils could get by with 12 members.

Karen Griggs, member of an advisory council, indicated that the councils need more input from citizens and need the expertise of many people. She cited an example of a 1980 draft rule that concerned piers, noting that the council improved a misleading drawing. The council also is important in finding and correcting language to be consistent with other rules. Per diem is a modest reimbursement that does not cover most costs. (See Exhibit E.)

Sen. Lewis requested a bill to streamline the councils into one council with 12 members. The Committee voted six ayes to zero nays to have such a bill drafted. Code cites affected would include IC 14-9-6 and IC 14-10-1-1.

**Lifetime License Fund.** Director Hupfer asked the Committee to consider changing IC 14-22-4 to add an additional purpose to the use of the Lifetime License Fund to acquire property for hunting and fishing (not in a state park). Currently, there is about \$8 million in the fund, of which, 2.5% can be used to run the point-of-sale system. The amount of land to acquire would probably be less than 2,000 to 3,000 acres. The DNR would obtain money from other sources first, such as the Heritage Trust Fund. Every \$1 of the Lifetime License Fund money could be used to leverage \$3 to \$4 dollars from other sources.

Mr. James indicated that he would like to see the money used to purchase land that can be used for fishing and hunting, but also water management. The land could be used for several purposes. Qualifying land would be filter strips, wetlands, etc.

Jodie Weldy, Trail Riders Association, stated that she was glad that the DNR has opened other sites for trail riders.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Committee would be on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Sagamore Resorts (Ainsley's Cafe).

**Adjournment.** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.