

# LET'S DIVE IN:

NEW LAW TARGETS LOCAL FLOODING,  
DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY ISSUES

State Rep. Mike Aylesworth

House Enrolled Act 1639, author  
House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, chair  
House Environmental Affairs Committee, member

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# OUR GOALS

Encourage neighboring communities to form a local watershed development commission to identify and tackle problems, including local flooding, drainage and water quality issues

Utilize the successful model of the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

# Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Commission

## MULTI-COUNTY PARTICIPATION

- NEWTON
- PORTER
- ST. JOSEPH
- STARKE
- JASPER
- LAKE
- LAPORTE
- MARSHALL

## MISSION

Tackle a wide range of water resource planning and development issues like bank stabilization, tree removal and channel reconstruction

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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## WHAT'S NEW?

As of July 1, counties sharing a watershed can form their own development commission with approval from the Natural Resources Commission

**HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1639**

**1**

Newly formed commissions would develop a flood damage reduction and drainage plan

**2**

Groups can receive authority to perform drainage and flood damage reduction activities, and create water -quality improvement plans with state approval

**3**

Commissions can partner with local cities and towns to boost efforts and funding support

# Oversight Structure

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The advisory committee consists of a member of the soil and water conservation district for each county that is a member of the commission.

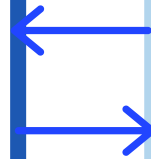
## **NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION**

The NRC decides whether to recognize a proposed watershed development commission

## **WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BOARD**

The board is the governing body over the watershed development commission and is responsible for establishing maximum assessment levels and can reduce the special assessment

## **WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**



# Board Representation Overview

## DNR

The director of the Department of Natural Resources or the director's designee

## SURVEYOR

The county surveyor from each of the commission member counties

## COUNTY

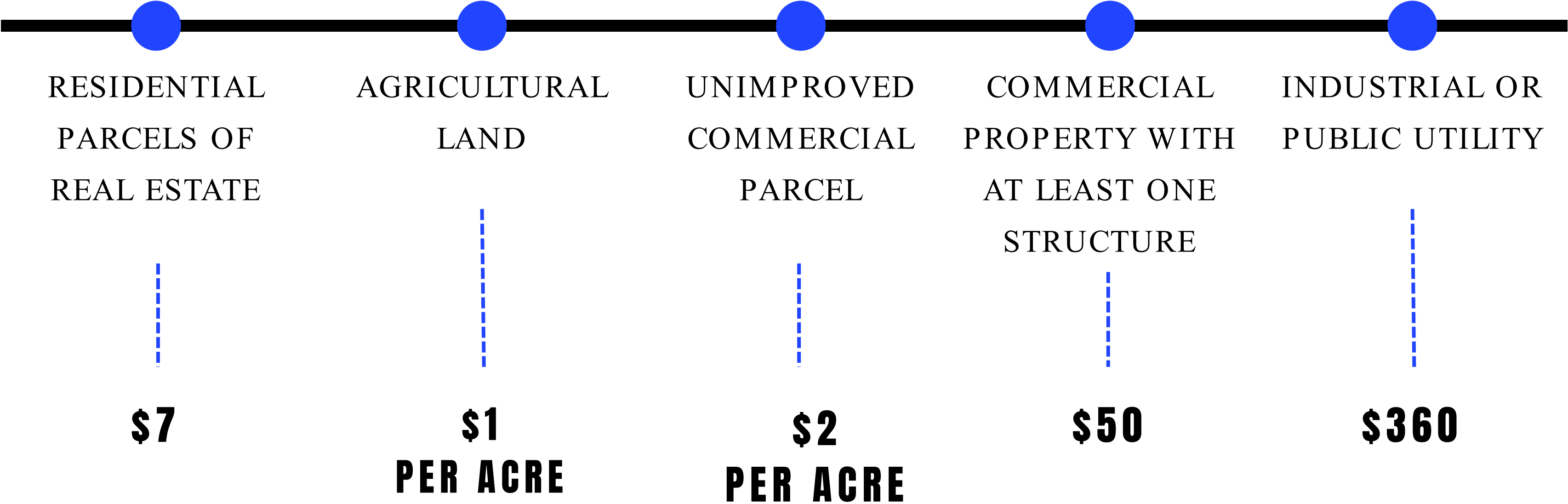
A representative of each member county

## CITY

An individual representing each second class city in each member county or, if there is no second class city, the most populous municipality in the member county

# LOCAL FUNDING SUPPORT

The Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission's funding comes from the landowners encompassed in the watershed:



Under the new law, a commission can impose an annual special assessment against each taxable parcel of real property located in a member county and within the designated watershed

# BENEFITS OF NEW LAW

**1**

WATERSHED COMMISSIONS GIVE COMMUNITIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS

**3**

LOCALS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF WATER FOR DRINKING, RECREATION, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

**2**

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES CAN MORE EASILY AND QUICKLY JOIN FORCES WITH AN EXISTING WATERSHED COMMISSION

**4**

COMMUNITIES CAN BETTER WORK TOGETHER AS KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT AND REVITALIZATION OF AN AREA



# QUESTIONS?

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SCAN  
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