

Sand solution

SCHERERVILLE, Ind. - This letter is sent regarding Bill Byrns' article on April 19 on the sand problem in the Kankakee River titled "Sand solutions may lie in Indiana."

To say this is obvious is an understatement. I think that Bill and all the powers that be in Illinois are being much too neighborly in dealing with the state of Indiana and their management of the Kankakee River.

"As to dredging the river in Indiana, it will be noticed that God never made a straight river, and I don't think man can improve on his general plans."

-Edwin Beardsley

Everyone that knows anything about that river knows that sand in the river and the tons to be deposited this year are from Indiana. You all seem to keep talking about the sand as if you hope Indiana will hear you and do what needs to be done just to be a good neighbor. Fat chance.

There has been unpermitted snagging on the Yellow River and with all the high water we have now, more tons of sand are heading your way. There are numerous "silt traps" in Indiana that are nothing more than a waste of tax dollars as they fill in within weeks or months. There are still people in Indiana calling for a complete dredging of the river all the way to the state line.

I am convinced that as long as the Kankakee River Basin Commission in Indiana can use stop-gap measures or request further studies, the status quo will prevail. This means more sand and flooding for Illinois.

The Kankakee River Partnership and the DNR in Illinois should take Indiana to court and force them into doing what has to be done, meaning, store high water upstream and re-meander the river. Until this happens, the Illinois part of the Kankakee will continue to deteriorate.

Leo Durocher said "nice guys finish last" and the river is paying the price.

Illinois should start playing hardball.

Jim Sweeney