

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Ruth Mores – Hammond
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Jayson Reeves – Gary
Keith Halper – Griffith IWLA
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. of Indiana
Rick Konopasek – Town of Griffith
Jerry Tippy – Lake Cnty Board Commissioners
Joseph Svetanoff – Kopa, Pinkus, Dolin
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond
Peter Yackanivch – Hammond
Eric Sprenne – NWIPA
T. Ahearn – Hammond
Tim Ferguson – Griffith IWLA
Dakota Halper – Griffith IWLA

Election of Officers –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to elect the following slate of officers for 2017: William Baker for Chairman, Tom Wichlinski for Vice-Chairman, Tom Gozdecki for Treasurer and Levon Whittaker for Secretary; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the January 11, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman’s Report –

Chairman Baker thanked the Commissioners for re-electing him as Chairman. He reminded everyone of the recent history we have with flooding, referencing the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event. 2008 should serve as a reminder of what can happen when you do not take care of a man-made structure. This \$275 million man-made flood control project requires continued maintenance. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire watershed. Through our partnership with the USACE, the flood control project goes through an inspection process. Without the inspection, we would be unable to remove as many properties as we have from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. We have put over \$4 million dollars back into the economy by removing the requirement for mandatory flood insurance. The

Commission continues to meet with local communities within the watershed to ensure that we are all prepared in case of a heavy rain event.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the January claims in the amount of \$263,469.27. Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with payments to Rieth-Riley totaling \$101,773.43. These payment represent the final close-out of the Hammond & Highland Levee Paving Project. This project was completed approximately \$22,621.00 under the contract amount. \$19,337.33 was paid to Walsh & Kelly for final work on the Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project. Austgen Electric submitted a claim for \$22,500.00 representing continued work on the installation of the back-up generator at the Burr Street North Pump Station. Just a few punch list items remain for this project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Executive Director's Report –

- The Gary South Levee Paving Project will be advertised on February 15th and 22nd, with bid opening at the March meeting. This project will pave the levee tops from Chase Street to Martin Luther King Drive on the south side of the levee.
- A permit is still pending for the Hammond Levee Paving Project, once received, this project will be ready to advertise.
- The Chase Manhole Extension Project should be ready to bid out in late spring or early summer.
- The 35th & Chase Overpass Project is also slated to bid out in late spring or early summer.
- Mr. Repay and Commissioner McAhron attending meetings in Indianapolis with officials from INDOT, IDEM and DNR to discuss future projects and the permitting process.
- A meeting was held with representatives of NICTD to discuss the West Lake Corridor Project. The proposed track crosses the river between Lyman and Manor.
- A meeting with USGS was held to discuss additional monitors along the system. Currently, there are no monitors south of Lake George in Deep River. We would like to see additional monitors along Burns Ditch, in Deep River and at either Broadway or Grant Street where our pump stations are located.
- The Grant Street West Pump Station that was recently taken over from The Gary Sanitary District is undergoing needed repairs. Currently 1 of the 3 main pumps and a sump pump at the station is operating. We are reviewing the electrical to make sure it is in good order. The pump stations is anticipated to be up and running for Inspections this spring.
- USACE Inspections will take place in May for the Hammond, Highland and Munster sections. Gary and INDOT sections will be inspected in June.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for clarification on the status of the Grant Street West Pump Station repairs. Mr. Repay stated that the sump pump was removed and it was determined that the best option was to replace that pump. Two other pumps are being repaired and a ROX system added.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked for an update on the 36 inch sewer crossing contract and the design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Mr. Repay stated the proposed contract with StructurePoint for the sewer crossing is currently under review. The design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge has started and is still on track for 2018 construction.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Patrick Engineering for design of the G&W-CFE Railroad Bridge Replacement over Deep River in Hobart, in an amount not to exceed \$418,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that he believes this is one of the largest and most effective projects this board will approve. This project was implemented from the Deep River Study that was completed by S.E.H. of Indiana. A discussion was held regarding DNR permits and in-project mitigation. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-01 and Interlocal Agreement with the Hammond Sanitary District for their Watershed Funding Application in the amount of \$150,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-03 and Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Highway Department for their Bridge 260 Watershed Funding Application in the amount of \$50,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any question and called for a roll call vote. The motion 5-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-04 and Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Highway Department for their Bridge 264 Watershed Funding Application in the amount of \$50,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. The motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-02 and Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield for their 117th Avenue Drainage Watershed Funding Application in the amount of \$60,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. The motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills of the USACE reported that the State Line Tie-Back Project is currently in pre-construction and the contractor is on track to mobilize to the site in March.

The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project contractor has already begun with site clearing work. This is a 5 year contract for the project.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked about schedule updates from the contractors. Ms. Mills stated that the contractors are required to submit an updated schedule with each pay estimate and the updated schedules will be provided to the Commission.

Statements from the Floor –

Jayson Reeves, Gary, discussed the possibility of establishing a Conservancy District for the area around the river.

Tim Ferguson and Keith Halper, Izaak Walton League, discussed their Little Calumet River Clean-up Project to be held March 25th and looked forward to the support of the Commission for the project.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that she was happy that clearing work has already begun on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project.

Eric Sprenne, NWPA, announced that May 20th is the date of this year's Little Calumet River Fest.

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of the Commission's radio show at 9am the 2nd Monday of every month on WLTH AM 1370 Radio. Additionally, he made a report to the Lake County Commissioners regarding current and upcoming projects.

Commissioner Gozdecki commended Garcia Consulting Engineers for the work they do with project budgets and preventing cost overruns.

Chairman Baker stated that the Commission has monthly radio programming on 2 local stations, WJOB and WLTH. These shows give the public an opportunity to learn about our projects as well as serve as a point of contact during emergencies. The WJOB broadcast is the 1st Tuesday of every month at 8am, and the WLTH broadcast is the 2nd Monday of every month at 9am.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 8th at the Munster Town Hall.