

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN COMM.
MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1981 AT 6:30
P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN
INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew - Chairman, William Tanke, Doyle
Niemeyer, Mike Doyne, Martin Behnke, Phil Jaynes,
John DeMeo, and Clyde Baughard.

BASIN COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lyle Lovell

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Casale, Attorney and Dan Gardner, Staff Exec.
Director

VISITORS PRESENT:

Ernie Davis

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:35 P.M. welcoming the commissioners present and recognizing the visitor.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the Development Commission meeting of December 18, 1980 were presented and it was moved by Commissioner Niemeyer for approval as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Doyne and was passed unanimously.

3. Under Correspondence, Dan Gardner presented letters from Congressman Benjamin to the State Budget Agency supporting the release of the \$1.7 million appropriated for the Little Calumet Project. Also presented was the Corps of Engineers mailout concerning the public meetings on the final plan selection.

Mr. Gardner reported that the two meetings held to date were fairly well attended; that the general feeling was the project was sorely needed; that the earliest construction start as possible should be pursued; and that certain aspects of the plan currently need to be eliminated - namely the State line flood wall, the raising of the bridges between the State line and Cline Avenue, and the need to remove the culverts in the Gary stretch of the river.

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4. Chairman's Report

Under Chairman's report, the first order of business was the election of officers. Mr. Agnew turned the meeting over to Commissioner Bill Tanke, Chairman of the nominating committee. Mr. Tanke then presented the recommendations and rationale of the committee for the year 1981 officers. He asked that attorney Louis Casale present the resolution for the adoption of a position of chair-elect, in addition to the other four officers. It was also recommended that the chairmanship rotate between Lake and Porter Counties on a 1-1 ratio, based on residency. This resolution was made by Commissioner Tanke, and seconded by Commissioner DeMeo. After discussion and clarification the motion was defeated 5 against - 2 for. The recommendation was then discussed for any amendments, but none were agreed upon.

Nominations were then opened for the four officers positions. The following slate of officers was properly nominated, closing nominations made, and were approved unanimously:

Chairman	- Charles Agnew
Vice Chairman	- Bill Tanke
Treasurer	- Clyde Baughard
Secretary	- Doyle Niemeyer

Chairman Agnew also reported on the status of appointments to the Basin Commission, stating that staff was in contact with the appointing authorities, both local and state, and was trying to move these appointments as quickly as possible. This would enable the Basin Commission to again meet and officially conduct business.

5. Ex. Director's Report

Staff director Dan Gardner reported on the current status of the release of the \$1.7 million to the Development Commission. He stated that contacts were being made with the other agencies drawing from the Cigarette Tax fund to determine the relative priorities of the requests. The current situation is that this fund is depleted. No money can be released until additional revenues are collected. The other major question relative to funding is the priority listing of the yet unfunded items.

Mr. Gardner reported that Sen. Bushemi was working to get the Little Calumet Project listed as the top priority, thus enabling the Development Commission to draw from the next money to the cigarette tax fund. He also reported that the Development Commission would present testimony to joint House Ways and Means-Senate Finance Committee meeting, now tentatively scheduled for February 12.

Also under the Director's report, Mr. Gardner reported on the testimony to the Corps of Engineers plan selection process. Mr. Gardner summarized the two meetings already held and proposed that Development Commission comments should be held back until all public input could be heard. He proposed that he would draft comments, which could be mailed with the next agenda material. These could then be reviewed or acted on the next board meeting before being formally submitted to the Corps. This was discussed and approved by the board.

6. Committee Reports.

Under Committee reports, Treasurer Clyde Baughard reported that the Finance/Policies Committee had met and briefly discussed procedures and approaches for handling any funds released to the Development Commission. He also stated that the Committee would pursue a meeting with Norman Tufford, Ex. Director of NIRPC to explore options for administrative and staff services. This would be set up through staff.

Mr. Baughard also recommended that all checks or financial documents signed by the Development Commission should have two officers signatures. One signature should be his, the Treasurer and then either the Chairman or Vice Chairman should be required to sign. He made a motion to this effect, it was seconded by Commissioner Jaynes and was passed unanimously.

Also under committee reports, Commissioners Jaynes and Behnke reported on the meeting of the Legislative Committee, and how the main thrust of their efforts were being spent on obtaining state funding to meet the federal schedule and obligations for the project sponsor agency. They also reported that periodic mailings to the state legislators and trips to Indianapolis would be made to follow through in seeking funding. A report would be made at the next Development Commission meeting of funding status.

7. Under new business, the board discussed staffing arrangements for the new calendar year 1981. It was moved by Commissioner Tanke and seconded by Commissioner Doyne that existing staff be reappointed for CY 1981. The motion passed unanimously.
8. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M., with the next meeting set for February 26, 1981 at 6:30 P.M.