

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 18 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew, Chairman; Earline Rogers; Clyde Baughard; Doyle Niemeyer;  
Mike Doyne; Jack Costello; Bill Tanke

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Gardner, Executive Director; Louis Casale, Attorney

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:35 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes as presented in the agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Tanke and seconded by Commissioner Rogers for approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Communications

Staff reviewed communications received and sent during the month of June. Included were thank you letters to area legislators concerning the state appropriation of \$1 million to the Commission; and invitation letter sent to nine key industry, utility and financial institution executives requesting their participation on a select business advisory committee to plan and coordinate public and private funding of the Little Calumet River Project. Staff commented that it was hoped that this committee could be functioning by mid August.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Agnew reported on the recent flooding experienced along the Little Calumet River this past Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He reported the Governor had declared Lake County a disaster area, which will enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency to investigate the extent of the damages to determine if federal loan and grant emergency programs should be triggered. This study would take several weeks.

Mr. Agnew also presented Resolution 81-3 for consideration by the Commission. This resolution was to authorize a letter of intent to be sent to the Corps of Engineers indicating that the Development Commission will tentatively act as local sponsor agency for the Little Calumet Project. After discussion and clarification of the legal nature of the resolution it was moved by Commissioner Baughard for passage of the resolution. Commissioner Doyne seconded the motion and the resolution was passed unanimously 7-0.

Executive Director's Report

Staff director Dan Gardner reported on the June 5 briefing of Senator Lugar's and Quayle's staff relative to the current status and details of the Little Calumet Project. The intent of this meeting was to update information relative to budget requests for the project in upcoming federal appropriation

bills. Presentations were made by Col. Dovas of the Corps of Engineers and Dan Gardner. Comments were offered by Barb Waxman from Congressman Benjamin's office. Chairman Agnew of the Development Commission and several other Development Commissioners present.

Mr. Gardner reported that the results of the meeting would be forwarded to the two Senators and Gov. Orr for analysis.

## 5. Committee Reports

### Finance/Policy Committee

Members of the finance/policy committee reported on a meeting held June 9 with the legislative committee for the purpose of recommending policies for the investment of the initial \$700,000. Resolution 81-4 was presented for adoption which set that the entire \$700,000 would be invested at the Mercantile Bank, after contacting two other institutions for comparison of rates, for an initial period of 30 days. After that time the committee would evaluate future procedures.

The resolution, after considerable discussion, was moved for adoption by Commissioner Tanke, seconded by Commissioner De Meo, but was defeated by 4-3 negative vote.

Mr. Tanke then offered as resolution which would split the initial investment equally between Lake and Porter County financial institutions. The procedure would be to contact three institutions in each county to determine best investment rates prior to making the decision. Mr. Tanke moved for adoption of this resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Costello and after discussion was passed unanimously.

6. Under other business Mr. Agnew stated that the Commission was still obtaining information relative to the improvement project at the mouth of Burns Waterway. Provided tonight was a construction sequence of the Little Calumet project aspects. Additionally, some time schedules will be provided by the Corps of Engineers and a meeting with Congressman Benjamin was being scheduled to aid in the decision making process. Mr. Agnew stated that he hoped that formal action could be taken by August.
7. Several Hammond residents made public statements relative to the recent flooding. Mr. Ernie Davis of Gary also offered suggestions and expressed concerns about the pressing need for protection for the Black Oak section of Gary. Culvert removal was identified as necessary to relieve backup of floodwaters in the Gary area. Chairman Agnew commented on the current status of overall project and prospects for some remedial actions, such as the culvert removal. He said these would be pursued with the Federal Highway officials and Congressman Benjamin's office.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with the next meeting set for July 16th at 6:30 p.m.