

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 21 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew, Chairman; Earline Rogers; Phil Jaynes; Clyde Baughard; Doyle Niemeyer; Mike Doyne; Jerry Pajac for Jack Costello.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Gardner, Executive Director; Louis Casale, attorney

VISITORS PRESENT:

Phyllis Grunwald, Save the Dunes Council
 David Hunger, Corps of Engineers
 Albert J. Nahas, Corps of Engineers
 Paul Mohrhart, Corps of Engineers
 H.J. Steiner, Porter County Chapter, IWLA
 Helen K. Bieker, Great Lakes Basin Commission
 Ed Langel, Salmon Unlimited
 Sue Krajewski, Post-Tribune
 Rex Million, Salmon Unlimited
 Barbara Waxman, Adam Benjamin's Office
 Joe R. Paunicka, Salmon Unlimited
 Mark Potok, Hammond Times
 J. Hahn, Sportsmen of Northern Indiana
 Clarence Shedrow, Sportsmen of Northern Indiana
 Albert R. Massena, Salmon Unlimited
 Joe Foley, Hoosier Coho Club
 Otho Lyles, Lesles & Sons

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:40 p.m., and visitors were recognized.
2. Approval of Meeting Summary
 The Commission reviewed the summary presented of the dinner/committees meeting of April 23, 1981. After some discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Baughard for acceptance of the summary as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Rogers and was passed unanimously.
3. Communications
 Staff presented communications received and sent during May. The request for a resolution supporting continued funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund was requested for Commission consideration by the Save the Dunes Council. A draft resolution was presented and discussed backing continued Federal funding. It was moved by Commissioner Baughard, and seconded by Commissioner Niemeyer for approval of this resolution (81-2). The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Agnew reported that Commissioner John De Meo had been re-appointed to the Development Commission for a four year term.

Mr. Agnew also reported that the discussion of the Burns' Waterway improvements would be discussed at the end of the meeting after all old business was handled. At this time anyone wishing to, could address the Commission.

Mr. Agnew finished his report by announcing that letters to area business leaders asking for their participation on a select business advisory committee will be sent by staff. The intent of this committee is: 1) to achieve better communication and information on the project with the private sector; 2) to seek legislative lobbying by the industries for the project; and 3) to seek private sector funding for certain recreation aspects of the Little Calumet Project.

5. Executive Director's Report

Staff director Dan Gardner reported that the State Budget Committee had released \$700,000 to the Development Commission at a meeting held that afternoon. At the present time no date could be given for our receipt of the money. Mr. Gardner states that he would seek a definite date and inform all the Commissioners when he found out.

Mr. Gardner also reported on mapping of a "priority acquisition plan" needed to authorize project construction. He stated he was in contact with the Corps of Engineers personnel and that the needed data would be available by early July.

Mr. Gardner also reported on meetings he attended on the planning for the work schedule for the Little Calumet Cleanup Project in Gary and Hammond. A June 15 start time is anticipated.

6. Attorney's Report

Attorney Lou Casale reported that he was in the process of preparing a draft contract with NIRPC and investigating the legal situation with obtaining insurance coverage for the properties to be transferred to the Development Commission by the State D.N.R.

7. Committee Reports

The committee reports were summarized in the meeting summary discussed at the beginning of the meeting, and no additional reports were given.

8. Public Statements

Under public statements, the status of the Section 107 proposal for improvements was discussed by the Commission and interested people in the audience. Mayor Al Nahas of the Corps of Engineers distributed fact sheets on the proposed improvements schedule and requirements of the local sponsors in the project. He stated that a resolution of intent was needed by the Corps by August 1981 to expedite this part of the project.

Additional statements were made by members of Salmon Unlimited for the need to address this situation; stating removal of the existing dangerous piling, channel clearing by dredging and a east-west breakwall in front of the mouth entrance was needed.

There was considerable discussion of the issues, timetables and needed local dollar commitments for the project. Chairman Agnew stated that additional information was being sought and that the issues would be discussed by a joint Finance/Legislative Committee meeting. Action was deferred to obtain this information, but the Commission's interest and concern in the project was reaffirmed.

The next meeting date was set for June 18 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.