

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION MEETING HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1983 IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION,
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tanke at 6:40 p.m. Nine members were present. A quorum was declared.

Development Commissioners Present:

William Tanke, Martin Behnke, John De Meo, Michael Doyne, Charles Agnew, Phillip Jaynes, Clyde Baughard, Doyle Niemeyer, and Jerry Pajac (representing Jack Costello).

Staff Present:

Dan Gardner, Executive Director; Mary Jane Lewis; Tom Dabertin; Sandy Mordus; and Louis Casale (Attorney).

Others Present:

John Zimmerman - Times Newspaper
Gregory Henneke - Indiana Dept. of Highway
Dick Wawrzyniak - Ind. Dept. of Natural Resources
Paul Garrett - City of Gary, Officer of the Mayor
Ernest Davis - LCRBC
Glen Briesacher - A.R.E.A.
William Henderson - Lake Co. Drainage Board
Don & Elinor Ewen - Property Owners
Ernie Hernandez - Post Tribune
Bob Farag - City of Gary
Taghi Arishami - Gary Planning Dept.
Nancy Christoph - Lake County Park & Rec. Dept.
Col. Dovas - Army Corp.
Dave Hunter - Army Corp.
Rep. Earline Rogers - State representative - Gary
Herbert Read - Izaak Walton League
Charlotte Read - Self
Terrence McCloskey - Izaak Walton League
Kathleen McClosky - Izaak Walton League
Charlie Brown - State Representative - Gary
Heidi Szrom - Lake County Parks Dept.

2. Approval of Minutes

Charles Agnew made a motion to approve the June 16 minutes as they appeared in the agenda packet. Mike Doyne seconded; motion carried.

3. Committee Reports

A. Finance/Policy Committee

Mr. John DeMeo made a motion for approval of expenditures/claims as presented for payment. Mr. Clyde Baughard seconded, motion carried. It was reported that the Commission is staying within the budget.

On the Current Financial Statement, the term Land Acquisition Income was changed to Land Acquisition Fund so as to avoid confusion.

B. Legislative Committee

Phillip Jaynes reported his committee met a few days ago and they will make a presentation at the next meeting.

C. Land Acquisition/Management Committee

Charles Agnew reported there would be four (4) closings on August 23 on Parcel 46, 47, 48, and 95. No action required.

Since the Lake County Parks Dept. has no use for the old WIND building located by Lake Etta, permission was requested to obtain 3 quotes from bidders for demolition (instead of boarding up the building). Charles Agnew made a motion for demolition; P. Jaynes seconded and motion carried.

Charles Agnew announced that the three (3) bids for the demolition of the Reding property were \$1500, \$1800, and \$3750. Charles Agnew made a motion to award the bid of \$1500 to Ernest Davis; Martin Behnke seconded; motion carried. The low bid would include demolition and removal. The contractor must show proof of insurance & obtain the necessary permits prior to commencement of work.

4. New Business

Preliminary statements by Dan Gardner preceding Col. Dovas's talk: Col. Dovas and his staff, with some of the staff from Washington, Dan Gardner, Mary Jane Lewis, and Tom Dabertin have been gathering information to make some determinations as to what the changes may be. They have come up with several options, all of which has certain cost factors associated with them. Col. Dovas will present the cost reduction plan and then solicit an opinion from the Development Commission, various other city entities and the general public. Plan has to be back to them by the middle of September. Comments on the Board's decision and approaches that need to be taken need to be sent to the Board of Rivers & Harbors September 2. The Col. will present a fact sheet with proposed changes. It was proposed we then mail this to our large mailing list (which includes public officials, state officials and elected officials). Relative to this, there is a public meeting at 7:30 on August 22 at the Black Oak Elementary School. The purpose of that meeting is to discuss moving families from flooded homes from Clark St., 30th Avenue, and the Little Calumet.

A meeting was held this last Tuesday (Aug. 16) of the Little Calumet River Basin Commission and discussion took place on the situation with the pending permit for the maintenance work of the Little Calumet River in which the Basin & Development Commissions are working with the Lake County Drainage Board. With the comment period over at the end of July, several objections and responses were received.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Illinois Attorney General's Office are the two most critical groups whose concerns need to be resolved. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's main concern is maintaining water levels in the wetland areas along the channel. The Ill. Attorney General's Office has two concerns - the concern over wetlands integrity in Indiana as result of project and the potential impact to Illinois. A meeting is scheduled for next Friday with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and the Attorney General's Office. Negotiation with the two hopefully will allow the permit to be issued as soon as possible.

A sheet on an update of some of the new cost sharing formulas before Congress was passed out.

Mr. Tanke commended the staff on the preparation of the Operation Policy Manual. A motion was made to adopt the manual by Charles Agnew, seconded by John De Meo; motion carried.

A. Presentation on Lake Etta plan - grant request

Heidi Szrom of the Lake County Parks Dept. gave a presentation on the Lake Etta park development. Slides were shown and the park master plan explained. Lake County Parks has to have committment from the LCRBDC before applying for the grant by the 1st of September. Charles Agnew made a motion to accept the park plan as presented and commit to matching \$50,000. The Commission will also enter into a joint venture with the Lake County Parks Dept. (also committing \$50,000) in order to obtain matching federal funds for a total of \$200,000. Doyle Niemeyer seconded; motion carried.

B. Presentation by Col. Dovas on the new nonstructural plan for flood control of the Little Calumet.

Packet handout explaining breakdown of presentation was given to all Commission members. The new 3B plan (versus the 3A plan) is less costly but still provides nonstructural relief to areas east of Cline. The new plan must be approved by the Board of River & Harbors and the Sec. of the Army before sending it to Congress for authorization. Federal government is obligated to pay 80% of non-structural measures.

Dave Hunter from the Army Corps. presented the new plan. It includes raising 65 structures in Black Oak to above flood level; constructing a levee near Burr Street; 4'-5' low berms would be constructed between Burr St. & Chase St. protecting 42 structures in the flood plain; evacuation of 44 structures bounded by Clark St. and Chase St; 16 structures would be floodproofed using closures; construction of a berm between Grant & Pierce; a low berm would lie along Pierce, Harrison & 33rd St.; a low berm would lie along the northern edge of Broadway to King Drive; a berm would be placed between Georgia St. & the Penn Central R.R.

It was recommended the Commission support the original plan (3A) with recognition given to the new 3B plan as a viable alternative. The motion to either accept or reject Plan 3B must be made before September 1.

After some discussion, it was decided that additional time would be given before a final decision would be made. Therefore, Mr. Tanke scheduled a meeting for 6:30 Monday August 29, 1983.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

/sjm

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1983 AT 6:30
P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION, 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chairman William Tanke. A quorum was declared with seven (7) members being present.

Development Commissioners Present:

William Tanke
Martin Behnke
John DeMeo
Michael Doyne
Charles Agnew
Clyde Baughard
Doyle Niemeyer

Staff Present:

Dan Gardner
Mary Jane Lewis
Sandy Mordus
Louis Casale (Attorney)

Others Present:

Timothy Ball (Hammond Times)
Ernest Davis (LCRBC)
Edward Lukowski Jr.
Barbara Waxman (Representing Congresswoman Hall)
T. Arshami (City of Gary)

2. Discussion of response to Board of Rivers/Harbors

DNR letter- Dan Gardner gave a summary of Indiana D.N.R. letter:

In essence the letter stressed five points:

1. Favoring 3A plan (feels project cannot be divided by Cline Ave.)
2. Non structural plan does not adequately take care of flood hazard area
3. Land acquisition must be part of project cost
4. Flood Emergency Management Agency reports that they would not certify that these areas would be outside the flood hazard area.
5. Oppose the leaving of I80/94 unprotected

Congressional Input - Dan Gardner reported that he has been in communication with Senators Lugar & Quayle's offices. They would support a joint letter for the Governor, Senators and Congresswoman Hall to sign that will support general consensus of the Commission. They do favor some cost cutting but still want a workable plan. Barbara Waxman says her office supports the project and Cong. Hall would co-sign a letter and they are willing to work with Dan and the Commission.

Municipal Comments - Has been in communication with various communities, mainly Gary (who favors 3A plan but will leave open cost cutting measures)

Citizen Input - Received no comments from individuals. Environmental groups would be commenting directly to the Board. Izaak Walton League favors 3B because of cost cutting measures.

3. Development Commission Response

Dan Gardner explains that Col. Dovas suggests we support the original 3A plan with consideration for the 3B plan which include the cost cutting.

Copies of Dan's letter to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors were passed out to Commission members. Discussion of letter followed.

Charles Agnew made a motion to accept the plan as presented, favoring the original 3A plan but allowing for the cost cutting measures as presented in 3B plan. Martin Behnke seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dan will relay vote to Col. Dovas.

It was suggested by Chairman Tanke that a draft letter be made to Congressional and Senate people advising them that the Commission is reluctantly accepting the 3B plan and that they are still in favor of the 3A plan but feels this is the only way to get it to Congress. The Commission does not want the study to begin all over again. Michael Doyne made the motion to draft a letter. Charles Agnew seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Arshami, representing the city of Gary, says that Gary would support 3B only if there is no other alternative. It was also suggested to him that he convey a message back to the City of Gary and get a representative appointed to the Commission that would represent Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago.

Clyde Baughard made a motion to ask Hammond, Gary and East Chicago to send a letter to the federal legislators stating that we strongly support 3A and ask them to do whatever they can to keep 3A implemental. Michael Doyne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested by Dan Gardner that a letter to the Corp. be drafted asking them to seriously study the Penn Central culverts.

4. Other Business

Dan Gardner announced that a meeting was held Friday, August 26 in regards to the permit for sediment removal. The major objectors were present and upon amending the proposal to the maintenance of water level in the wetlands, proper disposal of sediment material, they will withdraw objections. Bill Manuelson is amending proposal. Permit hopefully can be issued shortly.

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5. Adjournment

A meeting date of Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 was set for the ratification of the joint venture agreement on Lake Etta.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

/sjm