

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 HELD AT 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1987 AT THE COMMISSION  
 OFFICES 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA.

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The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chairman Michael Doyne. Seven Commissioners were present. Guests were recognized and quorum was declared.

Development Commissioners:

Don Duran  
 Michael Doyne  
 George Carlson  
 Arlene Colvin  
 Clyde Baughard  
 John DeMeo  
 Doyle Niemeyer

Visitors:

Elaine Chandler - Lake County  
 Park Department  
 Steve Walsh - Post Tribune

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
 Bruce Stouffer  
 Lou Casale  
 Sandy Mordus

Clyde Baughard made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28th meeting as presented; George Carlson seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Dan Gardner referred to a letter in the packet he sent to outgoing Col. Finch encouraging retaining Dave Hunter and the planning staff to continue the project management of the Little Calumet River Project. The continuity is necessary to a successful project design being agreed upon and Mr. Hunter's thorough understanding and knowledge is essential.

Mr. Gardner also announced that Robert Dawson, previously Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps (Civil Works), has been appointed to serve as associate director of the Office of Management & Budget for Natural Resources, Energy & Science. Replacing Mr. Dawson will be John Doyle. Mr. Doyle will be responsible for policy oversight and analysis of critical elements of the U.S. Army Corps' civil works program in water resources development.



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Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Doyle Niemeyer presented the current financial status report for June. Mr. Niemeyer made a motion to approve the June claims as presented; Clyde Baughard seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Reporting that a six month evaluation has been performed for Bruce Stouffer, Land Acquisition/Management Agent, the Finance Policy Committee is recommending an increase in payment for service from \$15 to \$16 per hour. Mr. Niemeyer made a motion to approve the \$1 increase; seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Niemeyer stated that a new contract will be drawn up for Lou Casale, Commission attorney. The new contract will address his retainer services and allow for an increase from \$50 to \$60 per hour for billable charges not included by retainer. The existing contract has lapsed; the new contract will be available for approval/ signature at the next Commission meeting.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson commented on the tour that was taken on June 13 which viewed the area of the proposed levee sites and the potential relocation of some homes in the Small Farms plat. He stated that actually viewing the area has been helpful in looking at the project from the Corp's point of view. Mr. Gardner announced that he and Dave Hunter of the Corps visited and hand delivered the questionnaire to homeowners in the area. He distributed a sheet breaking down homeowners' initial response to them. Overall, Homeowners were receptive and there were not any direct refusals to consider the proposal.

Mr. Gardner stated that Congressman Visclosky's office is still awaiting a letter from Washington Corps stating their position. A need to visit Washington and talk directly to Corps personnel still exists.

Mr. Gardner explained the proposed changes in levee design that the Corps is considering. Those levee changes include modification of the Black Oak levee between Burr St. and Chase St., the elimination of the embankment seal of Norfolk & Western R.R. from EJ&E to Burr St. and modification of the proposed levee south of river from Chase St. to Grant St., thus protecting development along 35th St. Commission and area input will be solicited before any decision is made.

Mr. Gardner referred to the Times article announcing the House Appropriations Committee approved nearly \$11 million for six northwest Indiana water projects, one item of which is \$250,000

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included to complete final engineering and design work for the Little Calumet River flood control project. Also approved was \$100,000 for final construction work at the Burns Harbor small boat harbor (requested by the Corps).

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - In Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew's absence, committee member Doyle Niemeyer gave the land acquisition report. He reported that four (4) bids were received for the remaining northern and western boundary fencing at Lake Etta. Mr. Niemeyer made a motion to award the fencing contract to Illiana Fence Corporation (low bidder) for a bid amount of \$5.035 for a base of 4274 l.f. (total price \$21,500) and privacy slatting for \$4.91/ft. for a base of 570 l.f. (total price \$2,800); motion was seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Niemeyer stated that a request for a dedication of either the fee of a permanent easement has been requested by city of Portage for a sanitary sewer lift station to the Portage marina property site. Mr. Niemeyer made a motion to approve the concept of a permanent easement relative to this site contingent upon: 1) staff and attorney working out details, 2) final wording of a permanent easement as to property being surplus and 3) directing Chairman to authorize signature of resolution. In the working out of details of the resolution, it should address the signage. Motion was seconded by Donald Duran; motion passed unanimously. Legal description of this property site declared part of these minutes and herein included as ATTACH A.

Doyle Niemeyer stated that conditions of an existing lease with Maurice Curran have not been met. He has been notified on several occasions that a copy of his liability insurance must be provided to the Commission. He has not complied with that request. Mr. Niemeyer made a motion authorizing attorney to take necessary action to make sure lessee abides by lease; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Interim Flood Control Planning Committee - Committee Chairman Arlene Colvin commented on the recent meeting held on June 23rd in which interim flood relief projects were discussed. Others participating in that meeting were Bill Henderson (Lake County Surveyor's Office), Ray Tappan (Lake County Highway Dept.), Dave Hunter and John Morgan (Corps); Herb Bromers (NIPSCO engineer) and Dan Gardner and Bruce Stouffer of the Development Commission. The main topic of the meeting were the Taft and Chase Street culverts. It was determined that the culvert at Taft St. could

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be removed because NIPSCO would still have access from the frontage road to their right-of-way property. It is the responsibility of the Lake County Highway Department to remove Taft Street culverts. Bridge reconstruction is needed at Chase Street. The initial step in that project is the design of that bridge. Since the Lake County Highway Dept. does not have sufficient funds to allow for a design, it was considered that the Lake County Council be approached to try to seek an appropriation earmarked specifically for that project, along with the Little Calumet River Basin Commission's participation in sharing that cost.

Mr. Gardner distributed an announcement from the Lake County Drainage Board that the annual budget forum to determine priorities and dollar amounts for all maintenance of regulated drains in 1988 was scheduled for June 30th. Mr. Gardner stated he was planning to attend to give a presentation to voice Commission support in behalf of the Little Calumet River projects. He stated that Ernie Niemeyer, Lake County Commissioner, has requested a list of the Federal projects and what the Commission is responsible for and how it interfaces with some of the Drainage Board projects.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - In Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He stated that the Gary Hobart Water Corp. resolution is in the process of finalization. A meeting also needs to be scheduled with Mayor Goin of Portage to pursue the telephone line relocation.

Mr. Gardner announced that the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission meeting is scheduled for June 30th. At that meeting, discussion will take place on the \$4 million that was allocated as grant, with approximately \$481,000 being earmarked for Portage. There is also a \$8 million loan program. Both monies would have to be accessed by the city of Portage.

Actual work on breakwaters and harbor dredging by contractors has been completed. The Corps has requested an additional \$100,000 for finalization.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter in the packet from Rep. Mary Kay Budak re. the failure of passage of the boat excise tax bill.

The next meeting was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 30, 1987. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

/sjm

