

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
 HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1988
 AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES
 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman John DeMeo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were nine Commissioners present. Guests were recognized and quorum was declared.

Development Commissioners:

Arlene Colvin
 George Carlson
 Charles Agnew
 Jack Swike
 Clyde Baughard
 Doyle Niemeyer
 John DeMeo
 Jerry Pagac
 David Springman

Staff:

Dan Gardner
 Bruce Stouffer
 Lou Casale
 Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

Robin Biesen - Post Tribune
 Ricky Austin - PAHLS
 Bob Frum - Lefty's Coho
 George Gossard - The Times
 Cutty Turnbull - Marquette
 Yacht Club
 Richard Bundy - Salmon Unltd.
 Harold Mauger - Gary
 Stephen Davis - IN. DNR
 Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
 Mary Jane Zak - " "

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the August 4th meeting; seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Arlene Colvin presented the financial report for July as well as the claims. Arlene Colvin made a motion to approve the claims as presented; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

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Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson reported on the meeting held August 10-11 hosted by Congressman Visclosky in Washington in which he, Arlene Colvin, Deputy Mayor Richard Comer and Dan Gardner attended along with the Army Corps of Engineers to voice support for full levee protection in Gary. Col. Franco gave a very successful presentation to the Washington Corps. A decision by the Corps should be forthcoming shortly. Distributed to the Board was the "Position Statement of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission regarding Little Calumet River Project Construction" (herein attached to these minutes as Attach. A). Staff was directed to write a thank you letter to the Col. for his excellent presentation regarding Chicago Corps support.

Mr. Carlson stated that the budget request for \$3 million was mailed out to Ken Kobe, State Budget Agency Director. Support backup material accompanied the letter. Mr. Gardner stated he has asked Col. Franco to attend the budget hearing in Indianapolis on the 29th of Sept. A representative of the Congressman's Office and Senators Lugar & Quayle's Office will also be advised of and invited to the hearing.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew announced that 120 Permission to Appraise forms were mailed to property owners of the Tolleston Club properties. As of today, 44 signed forms have been returned to the office. He also reported that of the original 220 parcels that DNR and the Development Commission authorized to acquire between Cline and Grant, 38 will be condemnation; 14 are still active acquisitions; 13 will be tax sale.

Mr. Agnew stated that the Lake County Park Department has deferred until October the proposal on additional buildings at Lake Etta.

Farm leases will expire at the end of the year. Ewen & Evers leases have to be advertised. Mr. Agnew made a motion to advertise for bids on re-leasing these 2 properties for one year with an option for a second year renewal; motion was seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that the house on the Foster property now owned by the Commission is constantly being broken into. Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to have someone board up the house; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. At this time, it is not known what the Commission wants to do with the house but it is structurally sound so it will be boarded up temporarily until a decision is made as to its future use.

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Mr. Agnew made a motion to establish the procedure of staff automatically securing structures as we purchase property in the future, thus eliminating the time waiting for a board meeting for approval of such; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to allow the attorney to collect and cancel the existing lease we have with Maurice Curran and furthermore, require him to clean up the property after his departure; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Curran is currently 4 months behind on his rent and he has been non-responsive to our good faith attempts to work with him. He has always been continually late and staff has had to call several times before lease money has been received in the past.

Interim Flood Control Planning Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard reported that the sediment removal project from Indianapolis to Kennedy is still awaiting permit modification and should be approved shortly.

Mr. Baughard also reported that the Northcote Bridge replacement bids will be considered on September 12 and a contract awarded on September 19.

Mr. Baughard also stated that the application for permit approval on the Penn Central RR culvert replacement is on-going. The Detroit Corps has determined that the existing temporary low flow control structure must be made a non-regulatory permanent structure. In order to do this, 2 parties need to concur with replacement. Those 2 entities (Il. Attorney General's Office and Village of Lansing Flood Committee) previously sent letters of interest. Staff has mailed a letter and project description to them requesting their support so the permit can be obtained to enable the project to move on.

Mr. Gardner added that Jerry Pagac forwarded information on Erie RR bridge area quiet title action. That information has been forwarded on to the Highland Park Superintendent for his use.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - In Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence, Dan Gardner updated the Commission on the resolicitation for the development of a marina. Proper advertisement has been done. Due date on bid proposals is November 1.

Mr. Gardner stated that the remaining monies to be paid to the Corps have not been paid yet. There is a problem with a Tract 12 easement which the Commission did not previously obtain title.

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The attorney is currently looking into this Tract 12 easement to see what steps must be taken to acquire ownership. Clyde Baughard made a motion to issue the check for \$3,885 to the Corps to close out the contract; motion seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously. It was determined that Midwest has no objection to the Development Commission closing the contract.

Mr. Agnew made a motion for easements to be granted to GTE for their use; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner stated that the legal descriptions are now being prepared. It has been proposed that the cost incurred on relocating the telephone line be shared equally between the city of Portage, the Development Commission and GTE.

Mr. Gardner reported that through the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission, the city of Portage is submitting a budget request of \$4 million to the State Budget Agency. That amount will be used for infrastructure in the Portage marina "zone".

Mr. Gardner referred to the National Steel letter contained in packet stating that the existing pipe bridge could be removed if National Steel were able to connect to a sewer line on the east side of Burns Waterway. The city of Portage is currently earmarking monies to bring the sewer extension line to the edge of National Steel property so they can connect. Also, an engineering study is currently underway to determine the feasibility of a connecting line west of Burns Waterway. This would allow removal of the RR bridge which limits boat clearance.

Jerry Pagac made a motion to appoint Dan Gardner as a representative of the Development Commission to serve on a newly formed advisory member committee for the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission; motion seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner reported that a working committee has been revising a new boat excise tax proposed bill. The newly revised workable bill will be introduced in the next legislative session.

Mr. Baughard took the opportunity to thank George Carlson, Arlene Colvin, Richard Comer and especially Dan Gardner for the fine representation in Washington.

Statements from the floor - Harold Mauger relayed to the Board that cleanup work on the river at Grant St. still had not been done. Mr. Mauger was informed that he needs to contact the Lake County Drainage Board about that situation.

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Ricky Austin, member of PAHLS (People Against Hazardous Landfills) complained to the Board about the inadequate job the IDEM and EPA were doing for this area.

Richard Bundy, Salmon Unlimited, questioned whether a low flow control structure would be put at Deep River to keep fish from migrating.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman DeMeo apologized to the audience that this Commission cannot assume all the roles they wish it to assume. He explained that, although the Commission's hands were tied in certain areas, that did not mean the Commission doesn't care. There are certain agencies formed for specific jobs to do and the Development Commission does not and cannot perform jobs it is not mandated to do. It is a frustrating experience to feel no one is doing anything about legitimate concerns, i.e. hazardous landfills, cleaning debris from river, etc. The Commission sympathizes but does not have legal authority to perform all tasks.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 1988.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

/sjm