

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1990
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman Doyle Niemeyer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Doyle Niemeyer
Clyde Baughard
Charles Agnew
Dave Springman
Steve Davis
William Tanke
Arlene Colvin
Nathaniel Leonard

Visitors:

Edward Wisinski - Isaak Walton
Richard Bundy - Salmon Unltd.
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak - " "
Tim Bult - Hebron, IN
Mike Vander Heyden - Dyer
Construction
Dick Wawrzyniak - DNR, Div.
of Water
Bob Huffman - Basin Commission
Joe Novosel - Lake Co. Fish &
Game

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale, Attorney
Sandy Mordus
Bruce Stouffer

Chairman Doyle Niemeyer introduced Nathaniel Leonard as the new Commissioner appointed by the Lake County Commissioners. Mr. Leonard is replacing Rudy Clay (whose last month's appointment was deemed as a conflict).

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the March 1st meeting; seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Clyde Baughard presented the financial status report for February as well as the claims. Mr. Baughard made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

LCRBDC Minutes
April 5, 1990
Page 2

Legislative Committee - Mr. Gardner gave report. He informed the Commission that the Corps just recently met with staff to discuss some important issues that need addressing (Schererville borrow site, Tri State parking lot expansion, Mansards floodproofing, auto junk yard levee clarification, etc.) Corps is still planning to give quarterly reports to Commission when project begins. Signing ceremony has been pushed back to June or July.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commission that the rental space near the Commission office that the Corps had considered for their Indiana base for the project is no longer available. It has already been rented out. The Corps has been delayed in selecting an office site because they had to determine that there was no space available in any Federal building.

Mr. Gardner spoke about the Commission assuming the 75' drainage easement from the Lake County Drainage Board. The Commission must appear before Natural Resources Commission of the DNR for project approval. Mr. Wawrzyniak stated it was too late to get on the April agenda; the next meeting would be in May.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported eight closings this month: DC223, DC228, DC268, DC271, DC274, DC278, DC317 and DC331. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the appraisals received on DC260, DC287, DC290, DC303, DC316 and DC325.

Discussion on replacement housing that is allowed to relocatees took place at the committee meeting. As an end result of that discussion, Mr. Agnew made a motion to allow up to maximum federal allowance for owners and tenants that must be relocated according to Gary Redevelopment Commission. The maximum allowance for a tenant is \$5,250 and the maximum allowance for a homeowner is \$22,500. Specials exceptions could apply if deemed necessary and approved by staff and Commission. Motion was seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to ratify the contract approval for Tim and Ed Bult to lease farm land property the Commission owns for a bid of \$20,187 per year; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to grant an easement on property owned by the Development Commission to the city of Hammond. The easement is east of Cline Avenue. The city plans to construct a metering basin to meter sewage pumped to Hammond from Griffith and asked for a 30' easement to cover a force main already in place and install meter basin. This easement will replace an existing

LCRBDC Minutes
April 5, 1990
Page 3

easement without dimensions; the old easement will be released. Motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Dan Gardner stated that he has met several times with Gary Park Board and staff relative to Gary lands needed for the project. We are requesting conveyance of access and use of lands owned by the Gary Park Board that are designated as needed for the purpose of survey, construction and maintenance of flood control levees, utility and bridge improvements and related flood control support facilities. The Park Dept. has asked the Commission for several things, i.e. relocate the existing greenhouse structure to the protected side of the levee and floodproof an existing park building. The Development Commission has also hired a consultant to work with the Park Dept. and city to develop a comprehensive recreation concept plan for additional park features. It was stated that Gary is the single largest benefactor of the project.

A member of the audience, Joe Novosel, speaking on behalf of several groups, spoke on his desire to see a rifle shooting range in the recreation plan. He stated there was no area designated for practice shooting. Mr. Novosel stated there is grant money available to develop such a recreation area for hunters. Mr. Gardner stated that the Development Commission has hired a consultant to develop a recreation plan and suggested that he work with the consultant. He also stated that the City's position relative to a range within city boundaries would be a key factor to Commission endorsement.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter received from IDEM providing us with a waiver of water quality certification for the Little Calumet River flood control project.

Interim Flood Control Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard reported that ownership of the Erie RR bridge has been transferred to the Development Commission. Hopefully, money can soon be identified to pay for the cost of pulling out several piers.

A member of the audience, Bob Huffman who is Chairman of the Basin Commission, informed the Commission that Conrail approval has been received in regard to enlarging the culverts at Martin Luther King Drive in Gary. It is anticipated that the Basin Commission can go out for bidding shortly.

The Basin Commission and the Development Commission will be scheduling a joint meeting shortly to discuss implementation of recent sunset legislation.

LCRBDC Minutes
April 5, 1990
Page 4

Mr. Gardner expressed his concern on the expansion of the Tri State parking lot. It appears the contractor has cut into the levee and there is concern that it poses a serious problem if we had a flood. At the very least, the contractor has violated the 75' easement. Staff has notified Highland town officials. A meeting will be held with all parties affected to develop a plan to correct the situation.

Mr. Tanke made a motion for staff to write a letter (or attend the meeting) to the Planning Commissions in each town/city affected by the project and explain in detail the overall flood control/recreation plan so that each city/town knows what repairs or changes they can make in their own community so as to not cause any problems to the project. Motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - Committee Chairman William Tanke and Mr. Gardner spoke on the status of the sand removal. Mr. Gardner displayed a map depicting the route that a truck must travel to deposit sand on the beaches. Mr. Gardner, Steve Davis and Mayor Maletta recently met with the unions to discuss their approval of the Marine Corps removing the sand. The Union has stated they would not oppose the project but they would not commit to writing a letter of waiver. Chairman Niemeyer supported the idea of Mr. Gardner getting on the agenda for the next Union Board meeting and presenting the project and verbally asking for a waiver. Mr. Gardner also stated that Mike Vander Hayden has requested approx. 40-50,000 yards of sand to use in a NIPSCO environmental project.

Bill Tanke made a motion for staff to see whether the city has an existing sandmining permit, to explore our ability to work with contractor who has sand interest, continue to pursue with the Union their approval and seek the Governor's aid in resolving this issue. Motion was seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the agreement between the Commission and the DNR in which the DNR appropriates \$44,000 for soil borings to be taken to determine the suitability of the sand at the Portage marina site.

Mr. Gardner announced that a hearing was held in Crown Point regarding the marina developers' permits. The Development Commission is now named as a co-intervener. The City of Portage is proceeding to hire a consulting firm to do a traffic study.

LCRBDC Minutes
April 5, 1990
Page 5

Mr. Gardner also informed the Commission that we have received a request from the city of Portage for an easement to allow for the establishment of a sewer line.

Statements from the floor - Richard Bundy, Salmon Unlimited, stated he opposes the Tri State parking lot because he sees it as a real flooding problem to Indianapolis Blvd. if it is not corrected. He requested that the Commission follow through with getting the problem resolved. He inquired about what permits the owners obtained. Staff will pursue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for May 3, 1990.

/sjm