

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1991
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Chairperson Arlene Colvin called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Ten (10) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

William Tanke
Clyde Baughard
Dave Springman
Nathaniel Leonard
William Critser
George Carlson
Steve Davis
John DeMeo
Arlene Colvin
Chuck Agnew

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale, Attorney
Bruce Stouffer
Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

Phil Wieland - The TIMES
Pete & M.J.Zak-S. Shore Marina
George Bunce - Griffith Izaak
Walton League
Courtney Van Lopik -
Portage Journal
Joseph Conn - Post Tribune
Mike VanderHeyden - Dyer
Construction
Ernie Niemeyer - Lake County
Commissioner
Herb Read - Porter Cty. IWLA
Dick Wawrzyniak - DNR
Bob Huffman - Munster

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the March 7th meeting; motion seconded by Bill Crister; motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Lou Casale spoke on the addendum to the Local Cooperation Agreement. He informed the Board members that the addendum did not change the LCA in substance - only in form. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the addendum dated March 19, 1991; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

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

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Mr. Baughard informed the Board members that the account that the Little Calumet River Basin Commission had has been closed out in their name and transferred to the Development Commission.

Calumet National Bank holds the 30 day CD note for \$211,786.43. These monies have been earmarked for the ConRail culvert project that the Basin Commission spearheaded before their sunset.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the newspaper articles contained in the agenda packet. He stated that Congressman Visclosky had appeared before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development in Washington, seeking \$8.7 million for northwest Indiana - \$6.5 million going toward the construction of the Little Calumet River flood control project.

Mr. Carlson also informed the Board that \$2 million has been recommended for the Development Commission in the Senate Bill for this biennium. That bill has not, however, been approved, nor is any money recommended in the House version. With the State budget constraints existing, there is reason to be concerned. Staff has written several letters addressing the Commission's concern and reiterating the critical need for \$3 million this biennium in order to stay on schedule with the Corps schedule. Construction is slated for this spring. Mr. Gardner stated he has just recently returned from Indianapolis where he had a few brief minutes with several legislators. He felt there was a lot of uncertainty this biennium; the big issue seems to be on education. He urged Commissioners to contact their area legislators for their support. Even if the Commission could live with less than the requested amount, no funding this biennium would be a serious setback. That would not send a good message to Washington of the State's contribution toward the project. With the Federal budget passing Committee and construction coming, a critical need exists.

Mr. Gardner reported that the Corps has requested an additional \$149,000 for the cash contribution to be placed in escrow. John DeMeo made a motion to draw down the requested \$149,000 and place in the escrow account; motion seconded by William Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Interim Flood Control Committee - Mr. Baughard reported that a Notice to Bidders was sent out for the ConRail culvert replacement project. Bid opening will be April 29th.

Mr. Casale reported that the flood wall at Tri State is in place and complete. At Tri State's request and expense, a fence was also added.

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Mr. Gardner informed the Commission that a low spot in the levee in an area east of Indianapolis Blvd. by the pumping station exists. The town of Highland is attempting to get a waiver from DNR to add dirt to bring it up to grade of the levee on either side.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew informed the Commission that Pete Zak traveled the river by boat from Grant St. to Clark Road to check obstructions. He submitted a report and video to staff of what areas he observed that needed cleaning.

Mr. Agnew also informed the Board that a letter of request was received by Dyer Construction asking permission to do mining of clay on Commission-owned properties between Cline and Grant. After Committee discussion, it was decided that it was not advantageous to the Commission to allow clay mining and the proposal did not enhance the project purposes of the Commission. Mr. Agnew made a motion to deny clay mining; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner introduced Ernie Niemeyer, Lake County Commissioner, to the Board. Mr. Niemeyer came to the meeting to personally grant a Commissioners' Deed to the Board for requested property (4 lots) needed for the project area. Staff had earlier forwarded this request to the Board of Commissioners for them to deed these lots to the Development Commission. Mr. Agnew made a motion to accept the resolution and transferred lots from the Lake County Commissioners; motion seconded by Nathaniel Leonard; motion passed unanimously. Bruce Stouffer added that there has been a total of 72 lots now deeded to the Commission in the project area from the County. Mr. Gardner took the opportunity to personally thank Mr. Niemeyer for his many years of dedicated support to the Little Calumet River project - not only in his role as Lake County Commissioner but in his role as State Senator.

Mr. Gardner referred to the Corps memo in the agenda packet regarding the construction schedule for the east reach levee construction. Right-of-way drawings and project construction sequence is still needed by the Corps. The current Corps schedule as of March 20 is:

- (Stage I is non-structural work)
- Stage II: Grant St. to Martin Luther King Drive:
 - Phase 1 - Harrison to Broadway (North)
 - Phase 2 - Grant to Harrison (North)
 - Phase 3 - Grant to Martin Luther King Drive (South)
 - Phase 4 - Broadway to Martin Luther King Drive (North)
- Stage III: Chase to Grant (North and South)
- Stage IV: Cline to Chase

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Mr. Gardner reported that there has been two meetings at the Urban League in Gary with interested area contractors. The Corps will handle the Federal Bidding process. They will notice us and we will provide information to general public. There is great interest from area contractors.

Marina/Breakwaters Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the marina report. Discussion took place on the strategic plan put together by staff to allow a partnership between the city of Portage and the Development Commission to build a public marina with funds from the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission (Portage funds) and revenue bonding (the Development Commission). Mr. Tanke made a motion at this time to endorse the plan; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. There has been several meetings already involving the Corps, the city, DNR, the Commission and the Congressman. Future meetings are planned. By the end of April, there must be a game plan in place or a level of commitment to build the public marina. A commitment to dredge is needed from the Corps. As soon as an agreement is formed and a formalized plan is in place, staff will make it available to Commission.

Staff will proceed with procuring bids for sand removal and vacation of Crisman Road from north of NIPSCO right-of-way to the intersection of U.S. 12.

Statements from the floor - Commissioner Niemeyer informed the Commission that a Storm Water Management Board has been formed to meet regularly to address consistent drainage problems. We will notified of those meetings.

Mr. Vander Heyden from Dyer Construction pressed the Board for explanation of the mining denied. He was informed that the Corps is setting the technical specifications that is needed for the project. Land will be used for recreational purposes. If a hole were to be dug, it would create a liability. Until actual construction begins, it is not known what the Corps will still need from the Commission. The land is being purchased with State money and belongs to the State; therefore, it is not felt that we could allow outside interests to mine from it.

Herb Read, IWLA, supported the Commission on its decision not to allow mining on the lands. He stated he will talk to legislators and encourage support of our \$3 million budget request.

George Bunce stated he supported our budget request and also agreed with the Commission's decision to not allow any mining. He questioned the Commission's wisdom on requesting bids for sand removal and then perhaps, having to turn around later on and buy sand for beach nourishment.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for May 2, 1991.

/sjm

