

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1991  
 AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES  
 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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In Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Vice Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Eight (8) 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

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
 Lou Casale, Attorney  
 Bruce Stouffer  
 Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

Keith Nielson - WJOB  
 Pete & M.J.Zak-S. Shore Marina  
 George Bunce - Griffith Izaak  
 Walton League  
 Fredrick Szarka - Nat'l Park  
 Service - IDNR  
 Ed Wisinski-Izaak Walton  
 Richard Bundy - Salmon Unltd  
 Bob Huffman - Munster  
 Herb Read - Porter Cty. IWLA  
 Dick Wawrzyniak - DNR  
 Bill Leets - Hobart  
 Thomas Pappas - Portage Storm  
 Water Board  
 Ola Kennedy - L.C. Park Board  
 Adam Adams - Cong. Visclosky's  
 Office  
 Andrew Beckman - L. C. Parks

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the February 7th meeting; motion seconded by John DeMeo; 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 Dave Springman; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the sample letter contained in packet that was sent to all the northwest IN delegation strongly urging their support of the Commission's \$3 million biennium request from the State. Although there is concern that the Development Commission was not in the state budget, Mr. Gardner indicated he felt the state would come through with funding for the Commission. He felt confident the legislators and Budget Committee all knew the importance of the project and what it will mean to northwest Indiana.

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Copies of a draft letter going to the Senate Finance Committee were distributed to Commissioners. The letter also stressed the importance of continuity in funding and the critical need to stay on target with the construction schedule.

Attorney Casale referred to the addendum supplement to the Local Cooperation Agreement addressing levee protection for Burr Street. The decision to provide a more complete means of flood protection by constructing levees along Burr St. instead of flood proofing structures will cost the Commission about \$2 million of unmatched funds. Attorney Casale approved the addendum. Bill Tanke made a motion to approve the LCA addendum; Clyde Baughard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Interim Flood Control Committee - Attorney Casale reported that the contract for emergency levee at Tri State has been signed and has been mailed back to DNR in Indianapolis. Staff will meet with DNR and contractor on the site tomorrow at 10 a.m. Construction equipment is being moved in on site now. Expected to start this week.

Mr. Casale reported that a bidding package is being put together for Conrail culvert replacement/enlargement. The Commission had received the plans and specs from Tenney Pavoni at last months meeting. Permits are in place. Attorney Casale is assembling the front end documents to accompany the package and will forward them to Mike Kerr of TPA. Clyde Baughard made a motion to proceed with the bidding procedure; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - In Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew's absence, Mr. Gardner gave committee report. Clyde Baughard made a motion to authorize attorney to pay \$17,750 on a court order to clear up DC353; motion seconded by Nathaniel Leonard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner reported he and Arlene Colvin attended a meeting with the Lake County Park staff and selected Park Board members at the newly completed maintenance building at Lake Etta. They discussed the future plans for Lake Etta. There may be a request forthcoming for the Commission to pay for flooring for the building (concrete floor at present). The Park Dept. is planning to add a water slide to the Lake Etta park development. They are also pursuing having appraisals performed on properties on 29th St. If monies are in place for the Park Dept. to purchase those properties, they can expand the park to the north. they cannot expand to the east yet where the Development Commission now owns because there is still a private inholding there. Mr. Gardner stated that a canoe launch for the park site is included in the

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Corps recreation plan. Lake County Board member Ola Kennedy stated she was very pleased with the successful development of Lake Etta and thanked the Board for the good working relationship the Park Board/staff and Development Comm/staff has always shared.

Marina/Breakwaters Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the marina report. Discussion took place on the dredging situation on Burns Waterway. The Corps of Engineers will not dredge this year because the Commission has not met the obligation of building a public marina. Concern has been expressed by many that there may not be a boating season if dredging doesn't occur this year. Pete Zak of South Shore Marina stated that he took soundings of the water depth for the city and although there is a sand shoal at the mouth of the waterway entrance, there is still about 3-1/2' clearance and he does not think it is as critical a situation as the media suggests. He is monitoring it.

Mr. Gardner stated that even if the dredging situation is not critical, it still is important for the Corps to dredge and for the Commission to pursue public funds for building the marina, as the best option. He has met with the mayor of Portage and future meetings are planned.

Mr. Tanke made a motion for staff to advertise for bids for the sand to determine if a market exists at present for the sand; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. There are several road projects now going on that the sand may be needed. The only way the Commission will know if there is a market is by putting out bids. Before any sandmining would be done, permits would have to be secured.

Mr. Gardner added that the Commission is still committed to finding sand for beach mitigation. There is still an effort being pursued in trying to secure federal dollars through the IN Port Commission for mitigation.

Mr. Tanke made a motion authorizing attorney to pursue vacating Crisman Road from north of NIPSCO right-of-way to the intersection of U.S. 12; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanke asked a question relative to the status of the regulated drain authority along the river in Lake County. He stated that one meeting was held with Bill Henderson of the Lake County Surveyor's Office to discuss which powers and authorities were transferred once the State DNR approved the project. He felt the meeting left many questions unanswered. Mr. Gardner

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responded that DNR's interpretation is that the only authority that remained of the Drainage Board authority is the 75' easement for access, construction and maintenance of drainage/flood control improvements. No permitting or regulatory authority was transferred but lapsed with the extinguishing of the County Drainage Board's powers. Attorney Casale was directed to investigate and report at the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner introduced Tom Pappas from the Portage Storm Water Management Board. Mr. Pappas wanted to meet the Commission members and extend to them his assistance and cooperation if needed at any time in the future.

Mr. Gardner referred to the letter in the packet that he wrote to DNR opposing the proposed rule for a higher permit fee schedule for floodway construction activities.

Statements from the floor - Richard Bundy, Salmon Unlimited, suggested the possibility of a fish hatchery being placed on the property and lake near Lake Etta. That fishing lake was previously being leased as Bob's Fish-A-While Lake (old Ensweller lake).

Herb Read, IWLA, encouraged the Commission to use every means possible to them to get the marina site sand on the beach. He stated he felt the quality of the sand would be fine for beach mitigation. He supports any testing of the sand that can be done to determine quality.

George Bunce calculated there were at least 11 government agencies that have some kind of authority to deal with various aspects of a flood control project. He felt that if each agency did just a little, we would not have the buck passing and futile effort in getting anything done. He felt disappointed that no one stops the ongoing development in flood plain areas where construction takes place at the same elevation of the river.

Ola Kennedy, Lake County Park Board, was informed that a request from the Lake County Park Dept. for flooring would have to come before the Committee and then the Commission Board for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for April 4, 1991.

/sjm

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