

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 HELD AT 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1994  
 AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES  
 6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
 PORTAGE, INDIANA

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Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Six (6) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson  
 Charles Agnew  
 Steve Davis  
 Robert Huffman  
 Robert Trelo  
 William Tanke

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
 Lou Casale  
 Sandy Mordus  
 Jim Pokrajac

Visitors:

Rick Markley - The Times  
 Bill Petrites - Highland  
 Kenneth Smith - DNR  
 Emerson Delaney - Hammond  
 Jim Flora - R.W. Armstrong  
 David Hendrix - Highland News  
 Herald News Group  
 Mike Vander Heyden - Dyer  
 Construction

The minutes of the January 12, 1994 meeting were approved by Chuck Agnew; seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that some preliminary survey work has been done by Dyer Construction for the Wicker Park Manor levee project. The centerline of the levee was established.

The Commission has received an acknowledgement notice from DNR relative to the permit application filing for the removal of the abandoned Erie R.R. bridge. The application is in the process of approval.

Mr. Gardner reported the a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with Gas City relative to the land needed for the levee project at Grant Street. The reconstruction of Grant St. bridge is estimated to happen in 1997. There is no written commitment or project schedule as yet.



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Mr. Gardner also stated there was a verbal agreement by the Corps for a 40% minority participation in construction projects for the levee construction. A letter to that commitment is forthcoming but not received yet. The Corps was supposed to have met today to discuss the issue.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion authorizing staff to proceed with condemnations for DC222, 232, 235, 247, 291, 293, 302, 303, 319, 320, 322, 326, 327, 328, and 333; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Mr. Huffman stated that a meeting had been held relative to the flood warning system. Questionnaires were again distributed for the cities to fill out and return to us and the Corps.

He also reported that clearing and grubbing for the levee construction in Wicker Park Manor (Stage V) will probably not begin until May.

An on-site meeting was held in Griffith relative to a levee section being built by a private contractor. No decision has been made yet if the Commission will ask the Corps for a realignment of the federal levee in that particular area. Staff will pursue with the town of Griffith officials as to their position.

A meeting with WHITECO will be held February 9, 1994.

Mr. Huffman reported that the road closure materials are still being stored at the Lake County Civil Defense center. Staff is still hopeful in working out an agreement with Gary Civil Defense to store the materials in their headquarters instead.

Mr. Gardner introduced Ken Smith the IDNR who has been named as the DNR contact person who will be attending the Commission meetings. Mr. Smith came up early today to meet with the Corps to discuss the DNR permit process for the rest of the east reach and the upcoming west reach. Mr. Smith stressed the need to get the application in as soon as possible; it usually takes 3 - 6 months for processing. Staff will hire additional temporary help to get the application out.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke reported that we have received the Detroit Corps permit for the marina. The Detroit Corps and the Chicago Corps have reconciled differences and are in agreement for the required slip quota.

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There is still no agreement finalized with NIPSCO. The Mayor of Portage will be meeting with NIPSCO and it is hoped that a satisfactory agreement can be reached.

Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the two invoices received from Abonmarche. They were \$3,768,61 for additional services for Task 7 and \$901.88 for Task 4 & 10 (amounts are for 1/2 of total - other 1/2 to be billed to the city) contingent upon clarification by Ron Schults and approval by Committee Chairman, Executive Director and attorney; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - In Treasurer John DeMeo's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report for November as well as the claims for approval. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner stated that staff is working on an annual report.

Other Business - Attorney Casale reported that, at Bill Tanke's request from the last meeting, he has reviewed the Commission insurance and has found that the existing insurance coverage and amount is adequate; it covers both the liability on the Commission lands and insurance on the directors and officers of the Commission. The policies will be renewed upon their expiration dates.

Statements from the floor - Mike Vander Heyden stated to the Board that, in his opinion, if the Erie R.R. bridge was removed, the debris would just flow downstream to the Indpls. Blvd. bridge and catch there. Reconstruction of that bridge is hoped to begin in late 1994. Mr. Gardner stated that once the permit is in hand, we will assess the situation against the cost and see if it is a viable solution to remove it. Mr. Smith from DNR said that if the debris was discarded from property owners along the river, perhaps DNR could help. Mr. Gardner replied that most of the debris was trees and branches and felt there was no intentional discarding of debris into the river.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 1994.

/sjm