

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

Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
 Charles Agnew
 Steve Davis
 Robert Huffman
 Robert Trelo
 William Tanke
 Nathaniel Leonard
 Arlene Colvin

Staff:

Dan Gardner
 Lou Casale
 Sandy Mordus
 Jim Pokrajac

Visitors:

Melanie Ellison - IDNR
 Bill Petrites - Highland
 Ruth Mores - Hammond Resident
 Emerson Delaney - Hammond
 Jim Flora - R.W. Armstrong
 Mike Vander Heyden - Dyer
 Construction
 Ray Young - Contract & Community
 Services
 Pete Zak - South Shore Marina

The minutes of the May 11, 1994 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Huffman after a correction to the last paragraph on page 2 (the word 'Erie' was inserted before the word 'bridge'); motion was seconded by Bob Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to the agenda packet containing the letter that was sent to the State Budget Committee requesting to be on their next agenda to seek access to the next \$2 million for availability for drawdown. We do not know yet whether we are on the agenda. Mr. Gardner will be calling Dave Patterson, Deputy Budget Director, to confirm.

Mr. Gardner announced that on June 6 a press conference will be held at the Congressman's Office (not Gary City Hall, as originally planned). They will discuss and announce the minority commitment policy that the Corps of Engineers will adopt.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter that Mayor Barnes from Gary has written to the Secretary of the Army commending Lt. Col. David Reed on his outstanding effort to ensure minority participation. The Commission has also received a letter from the Congressman thanking Mr. Gardner for his efforts in the same regard.

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Mr. Gardner announced an upcoming date of June 7 in which he, along with the Corps technical staff, will meet with the Dept. of Natural Resources to give an update and presentation of the current status of the project relative to submitting a permit application for the remaining east reach. Mr. Gardner will bring along the conceptual plan for project lands and development. The original plan was actually developed by DNR in 1975.

Mr. Gardner announced that Lt. Col. David Reed will be leaving the Chicago District command in early July. There will be a Change of Command Ceremony in which the new colonel will be installed. Mr. Gardner read a letter he has drafted to be sent to the District commending Col. Reed. Mr. Tanke made a motion to send the letter of commendation; Bob Huffman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew reported that the Georgia Street road raising permit has been approved by the city of Gary at their Public Works meeting.

Staff will also be sending a letter to Lake Ridge School informing them of the 4" force main on Colfax which must be relocated and that the Commission will bear the cost.

Project Engineering Committee - Mr. Huffman reported that the Wicker Park Manor construction progress is at about 12% complete. The retention pond on the west side of Indianapolis Blvd. is about 50% complete. Some wood pilings were found in the retention area and had to be removed.

Mr. Huffman also reported that seeding and fencing on Stage III are now completed. A walk-through inspection is tentatively scheduled for June 29th.

He also reported that a utility meeting is scheduled for June 3rd with NIPSCO, Wolverine, Gary Sanitary and Ameritech at the Commission office. Mr. Flora is coordinating and presiding over the meeting.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the marina report. He referred back to the last Commission meeting in which approval was given to sign the NIPSCO lease only if there were minor changes to it as approved by staff and attorney. Since then, several changes were made, one being an indemnification clause removal. Because of that change, the acceptance of the NIPSCO lease requires further approval. With that, Mr. Tanke made

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a motion that the proposed lease agreement between the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, the City of Portage and NIPSCO be approved in its present form and entered into, and that the Chairman of the Commission be authorized and directed to execute the lease agreement on the Commission's behalf; motion seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanke announced that the sheet piling bidding documents are on the street. Bids will be received up to 3 p.m. June 27th at the Portage City Hall with award being the responsibility of the Portage Board of Works.

Abonmarche has sent a letter to the contractor informing him of blowing sand conditions at the marina site.

Mr. Tanke also announced that Mayor Maletta has requested the marina monies due Portage through the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission to be released so that once bids are received and a contractor is selected, we can proceed.

There was a discussion on the Natural Area deed restriction agreement. This agreement is requested by the Detroit Corps as one of the stipulation of the marina permit. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - In Treasurer John DeMeo's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report for April as well as the claim amount of \$27,959.63 for approval. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve paying the pending claims; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Other Business - There was none.

Statements from the floor - Ray Young commended the Board and particularly Dan Gardner for their continuing support and expended efforts in ensuring a greater level of minority participation in the construction project. It is as a result of everyone's effort, that the press conference at the Congressman's office came to fruition. Mr. Gardner responded by saying just as much credit is due Mr. Young himself.

Mike Vander Heyden, contractor from Dyer Construction doing the levee construction at Wicker Park Manor in Highland, questioned the possibility of dredging the river for clay use. Mr. Gardner stated that it is a viable alternative and would be next to impossible to obtain permits anyway.

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Ruth Mores from Southmoor Street in Hammond inquired about the levee system along this stretch of the river. She expressed concern about the trees and what would become of them. Mr. Gardner informed her that the foremost concern is flood protection itself. They would be gaining a 200-year level of flood protection, which is greater than they now have. With the new levee system, whether it is earth levees or floodwalls, any existing trees in the levee line will be removed. After the levee construction, there will be a landscaping plan in place and new plantings will go in. The Corps is very specific about what type of plants/bushes/shrubs will be allowed.

Emerson Delaney who also lives on Southmoor in Hammond reiterated her concern. He indicated that the map seems to portray a wide area and was concerned that all the trees may have to be removed. He felt the residents are concerned because some of those trees are hardwoods and over 100 years old. Mr. Gardner stated only trees in levee line would be removed; everyone will want to keep as many trees as possible.

They discussed setting up a meeting to discuss this issue with the Corps.

Mr. Gardner thanked Mr. Delaney for his interest in the project and for attending the meetings. Mr. Delaney has expressed his interest and willingness to serve on the Board. There is a Governor's appointment currently vacant and Mr. Delaney is pursuing it through the Mayor of Hammond.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commission that the Indiana State Legislators were invited to northwest Indiana for a 2-day visit. He will be touring on one of the buses with them and one item of interest to them will be the levee system already in place along I-80/94. Mr. Gardner has also prepared a status report for them.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 1994.

/sjm