

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1994**  
**AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES**  
**6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD**  
**PORTAGE, INDIANA**

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Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson  
 Charles Agnew  
 Steve Davis  
 Robert Huffman  
 Robert Trelo  
 Arlene Colvin  
 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  
 Mark Harwood - Harwood Const.  
 Bruce Dixon - Landowner  
 Ron Schults - Abonmarche  
 Jeff Bartoszek - Abonmarche  
 Virgil Meier - Highland  
 Don Shapiro - Highland

The minutes of the April 7, 1994 meeting were approved by Chuck Agnew; seconded by Bob Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that the construction at Wicker Park Manor is progressing. He stated that Dyer Construction's contract is strictly for building the levee. Any additional work needs to be covered under a separate contract. Mr. Gardner referred to a letter he has sent to Col. Reed requesting the Corps commit to the second phase of the project which contains three aspects: (1) removal of the remaining excess spoilbank on property owners' side once the structural levee is completed; (2) creation and implementation of a grading and landscaping plan and (3) development and construction of interior drainage means that would convey standing water in the backyards away from the affected properties. Mr. Gardner emphasized that the old levee removal would not happen under this contract. Discussion was held on whether the residents were being informed enough as to the construction progress and whether our phone number was available to them.

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Mr. Gardner referred to the technical letters in the packet regarding minority participation in the project construction. Mr. Gardner announced that a press conference is tentatively scheduled for June 6 with the Congressman, the Corps and the Mayor of Gary in attendance. A letter has been received in which the Colonel announces a 40% minority participation in the Little Calumet River construction project. He announced four 8A businesses are now certified with the city of Gary.

Mr. Gardner announced Col. David Reed will be leaving his position in July after serving his two year term. A new Colonel will be appointed.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter he has sent to the Corps requesting the Corps to proceed with the required project data necessary for FEMA to revise the flood insurance maps for Wicker Park Manor. Once the construction is at 50% completion, it is anticipated that FEMA can change the maps to reflect the subdivision being removed from the floodplain maps; thus, they then would not have to pay flood insurance. This issue is very important to the town and the affected homeowners.

Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from the Corps stating that the Commission must own land in fee title if any recreation facility is to be developed on it by the Corps. This letter was sent in response to the request letter from the city of Hammond asking the Commission to develop the Oxbow area. A meeting needs to be held to discuss ways to see the Oxbow plan funded. Chairman Carlson expressed his strong support toward seeking funding for this project.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew had no report to make.

Project Engineering Committee - Mr. Huffman reported that the seeding and fencing is complete for Stage III. After May 27th, a walk-through inspection will be conducted by staff, the Corps and contractor.

Mr. Huffman asked when the trail system will be ready. Mr. Gardner stated that the trails will be a separate contract; he will try to get a schedule from the Corps for that section.

Mr. Huffman stated that some of the cover plates on the closure structures are going to be replaced.

An informal cost estimate to remove the <sup>guy</sup> bridge was given at \$25,000. The DNR permit application is processing.

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A letter was sent to the Corps supporting the realignment of the levee in Griffith-Highland area. Corps is reviewing it; we have not received a written response yet.

Utility meeting was held on April 8 with NIPSCO and Marathon to discuss the issue of encasing the pipelines. The Corps has asked each utility to perform a stress analysis and submit the findings to the Corps for review. The Corps has the final decision.

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 noted. One item is still outstanding. That item is an indemnification clause which NIPSCO has required in the lease. The Commission attorney and the city of Portage disagree with its inclusion. Once this item is addressed, the rest of the lease is satisfactory. It will have to come before the Board again for approval. A special meeting will be scheduled before the next regularly scheduled meeting if a time factor is involved. Once this issue is resolved, we can go to bidding for the next phase which is sheet piling installation for the boat basin. The city will receive bids - not the Commission, as the city has \$1 million appropriated from the Indiana General Assembly for it.

Ron Schults from Abonmarche presented a status report to the members of the Board. They have asked Superior for an update on the sandmining operations cost.

Finance/Policy Committee - In Treasurer John DeMeo's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report for March as well as the claim amount of \$31,921.90 for approval. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Other Business - There was none.

Statements from the floor - Emerson Delaney questioned the Corps policy on developing park property not owned by the Commission. Discussion ensued.

Bill Petrites inquired as to how far along the contractor was at Wicker Park Manor. Staff estimated maybe 5-7% based on construction reports submitted by the local Corps office.

Mark Harwood inquired about levee realignment in Griffith-Highland area. Mr. Gardner presented a map which outlined the realignment.

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Emerson Delaney asked about the procedure of declaring no flood insurance once the new levee is built at Wicker Park Manor. Mr. Gardner stated that once that portion of the project is at 50% construction completion, only then will FEMA accept a letter of request for removal. Staff will monitor construction.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 1994.

/sjm