

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1996
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.
Ten (10) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was
recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman
William Tanke
Robert Trelo
Steve Davis
Nathaniel Leonard
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
Arlene Colvin
John DeMeo
Emerson Delaney
Roger Chiabai

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong
Denis Buksa - Munster
Ken Smith - IDNR
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak " " "
Mara Candelaria - Congressman
Visclosky's Office
Herb Read - Izaak Walton
R. L. Frum Jr. - Lefty's
Victoria Candelaria - Munster

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Melissa Stefanovich
James Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the July 2, 1996 meeting were corrected to reflect that Arlene Colvin was present at that meeting (she had been indicated as not attending). With that correction, the minutes were approved by a motion from George Carlson; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman William Tanke informed the Board that he and Dan Gardner had attended the Change of Command Ceremony on July 22nd acknowledging outgoing Col. Slockbower and the incoming Colonel Roger L. Gerber.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board that staff has met with Mayor King and discussed the options of development in the remediation area at I65 and I80/94. He would like about three months of time allotted to access the options

of this site. Jim Flora, the Commission's project engineer from R. W. Armstrong, will put some conceptual engineering/design costs together for this area so an approximate amount of money can be estimated as to how much it would cost to develop.

Mr. Gardner spoke on the Grant Street interchange reconstruction project. There was a field meeting with INDOT at Grant St. and after that meeting, personnel met with Gas City, whose business will be affected by the construction. Gary would like some additional lanes on Grant but INDOT is not planning to incorporate additional lanes into this project; however, there will be some provision made to add in the future. Mr. Gardner also reported that construction is moving along at Indianapolis Blvd. and the river. The INDOT culvert work at Georgia & I80/94 is nearly complete.

Mr. Gardner referred to a COE letter on real estate credit policy. The Commission's goal is to obtain about 25% of total project cost in credits. A commitment letter is on file from Federal Highway Administration stating that 80% of the Federal highway construction dollars can be used for state credit.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to authorize an increased offer on DC562 to \$1,000 purchase price to avoid condemnation; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion to authorize condemnation of DC561 flowage easement; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion to authorize payment of \$7,000 plus back taxes on DC66 in order to clear title; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew informed the Board that on Saturday, September 21st, we will have a tour of Commission properties. Anyone interested in going, please inform staff.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that several meetings have taken place this month. On July 3 a meeting was held with Woodmar Country Club to review final plans on 100% BCO's; on July 5 a field meeting with INDOT and Superior was held regarding Georgia and I80/94 culvert installation which is nearing completion.

On July 10 a meeting with Northwest Engineering re: Burr St. drainage took place. The pumps at Burr Street have been enlarged in order to meet the Commission's needs. Therefore, we are participating in about 25% of the capital costs up to a maximum of \$384,399 provided Gary Sanitary District operate and maintain the

facility and equipment in perpetuity; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

There also was a meeting on 7/16 with Griffith re: Cady Marsh ditch and a meeting on 7/24 with the COE regarding engineering technical issues. On 7/30 staff met with INDOT and Gas City relative to the Grant Street interchange construction.

Mr. Huffman announced that plans and specs were being developed by staff and Greg Jenkins, Architect for the greenhouse in Gary. A notice to bidders will be going out and bid due date will be September 3. At the Sept. 5th Board meeting, a bid award will be made.

Discussion took place on the recent heavy rains the area incurred. It was estimated that at least 7 - 8" of rain fell in a day's time. There was no major damage done as a result of the waters. Several area roads were closed for a short period of time in fear of the river overflowing but overall, the area fared quite well. Some pumping stations incurred some minor problems. Several areas were sandbagged along the river and Hart Ditch. The O'Brien locks were opened in Chicago to let floodwaters out so that may account for some of reason that Indiana fared so well. The Lake County Emergency Management office responded very well to the situation and monitored rainfall at a steady pace, as did the area local communities. There are several floodwater monitoring computer systems in the Lake County Emergency Management office as well as one in the Hammond Civil Defense office. Commissioner Emerson Delaney monitored the rising river water first hand since the river is behind him. He has pictures he will share with Board members. Staff will attempt to obtain flood reports from various communities; they may prove helpful in the future.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman Robert Trelo reported that the request for 97/99 biennial state funds must be at the State Budget Agency by August 19th. The Legislative Committee has met and it was a consensus that the Commission would request \$4 million this biennium. Mr. Gardner referred to a map showing the stages with costs of construction. Several big areas anticipated for construction start this biennium is the east reach remediation area (about \$1.4 million), Stage IV-2B, and the betterment levee. Commissioner Bob Trelo made a motion authorizing the submittal of a \$4 million budget request for this 97/99 biennium; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the Marina report. He reported that the marina opening dedication was very successful. Commissioners received copies of the program

that was available that day. Chairman Tanke read a congratulations letter from Pat Ralston, Director of IDNR.

Mr. Gardner reported that we should be receiving as-built drawings from Abonmarche very soon. Construction is complete at the marina. We also need to receive some financial accounting of monies received and expenditures thus far. Staff will follow through.

Abonmarche has submitted an additional proposal amending the contract with them to allow for increased costs incurred for Task #13 "Construction Administration of Phase I of the Project" for a total amount of \$6,150 (to be shared with the city). Mr. Tanke tabled the proposal request until we have received requested information from Abonmarche. Mr. Tanke also deferred their latest billing until as-built drawings are received.

Regarding NIPSCO's request letter for \$6,300 for payment of the ground lease, it has been forwarded to NIPSCO by the city.

Mr. Gardner added that the \$220,000 IDNR grant reimbursement has been deposited into the city's marina account.

Commissioner Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve the final claim for the amount of \$65,872.10 in payment of the floating dockage; motion seconded by Bob Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer George Carlson gave the financial report. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the financial status statement for June and approve the claims for payment totaling \$72,433.45 less the Abonmarche claim for \$4,591.08; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson informed the Board that the Finance Committee met recently and discussed the budget request. To date, the Commission has received over \$22 million which over the years, average out to about \$1 million per year. Considering the magnitude of this project, he felt that it was a relatively small amount. He indicated that about 35% levee construction is complete; unfortunately, inflation plays a big role. Mr. Carlson reiterated his support for a \$4 million budget request.

Other Business - None.

Statements from the floor - Denis Buksa from River Drive in Hammond stated he was happy to see the project moving along; he would not like to see a delay in construction. He is one of the 4 houses west of Hohman Avenue along the river. He would like to know one

way or the other if we are going to buy them out. Mr. Gardner answered him by saying that the COE does not feel it is

economically feasible to protect those particular 4 homes. He stated he will set a meeting with the COE to address this particular issue. They need to definitely decide and then not change their mind.

Herb Read from Izaak Walton League spoke on the recent rains we just received and how the COE should look at those rainfalls as a warning. Although major flooding did not occur, it could have. He stated that the Izaak Walton League has always felt the COE plan would not be sufficient for downstream. He reiterated that vacant land should be kept vacant. It does not make sense to buy houses out of the floodplain and then turn around and build in the flood plain. He ask that we please go back to the COE and rethink some of their ideas.

Mr. Gardner offered to ask the COE to attend one of our meetings to describe and explain their modeling procedure that was used.

Bob Frum from Lefty's Coho inquired about rumors heard regarding the removal of dockage in the Burns Waterway. Mr. Gardner stated he has not heard anything like that lately; our dockage is confined to our facility only - not in the waterway. The Commission has no control over the waterway.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 1996. This meeting will be held at the Highland Town Hall.

/sjm