

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1996
AT THE HIGHLAND TOWN HALL
3333 RIDGE ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
Eight (8) 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
Roger Chiabai
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
Arlene Colvin

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong
Herb Read - Izaak Walton
Denis Buksa - 15 River Dr, Munster
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak "

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Melissa Stefanovich
James Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the September 5, 1996 meeting were approved by a
motion from Charles Agnew; motion seconded by George Carlson;
motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board that
staff is continuing to work with Gary to obtain necessary lands
needed for the project area. We are attempting to obtain approval
for vacating certain streets needed. Staff received a letter from
Councilman Pratt requesting withdrawal of certain properties from
the street vacation request, mainly the Medical Center's lots. We
have complied to that request. We continue to support the City's
request to be able to develop as much land as possible outside the
levee system within the City.

Mr. Gardner also reported that he attended a meeting that the LMMDC
had with Detroit COE. Detroit COE is the permitting agency, not
the Chicago office. Focus was on Lake Michigan. Mr. Gardner gave
an overview of the Portage permitting status. The Detroit Colonel
did get a chance to view the marina and was very pleased. The
Mayor is seeking \$1.5 million from the legislature in this biennium
to develop Phase 2 of the marina. Further topics included
discussion on erosion, harbor dredging and permits re. wetlands.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to file condemnation on five properties: DC185, DC272, C 284, DC560 and DC562; motion seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew thanked staff for arranging the van tour of Commission owned properties that took place September 21st. The magnitude of the project construction going on since our last tour was overwhelming. We toured properties from Indianapolis Blvd. in Hammond/Highland to Martin Luther King Drive in Gary. Since several Commissioners could not participate in this tour, it was discussed that we would not wait so long before scheduling another tour.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report and reported on meetings held this last month. There was a meeting on 8/30 with Griffith to further discuss the levee construction proposal between Cline Avenue and Arbogast. On 9/10 a meeting was held with North Township (Wicker Park, Munster, Highland and Hammond as to their impact by V-2 construction and review of the 100% complete plans. Staff met with the Gary Common Council on 9/11 to re-review the request for street vacates. Our request has been assigned to committee for discussion and recommendation. We need to get this issued resolved. On 9/18 a meeting was held with those involved in the REC 1 final review for Lake County Parks (Lake Etta), City of Gary (Gleason Park) and Hammond (OxBow).

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman Robert Trelo referred to the COE request letter for \$800,000 for FY97 to be placed in the construction escrow account. Mr. Trelo then made a motion directing staff to request the next \$2 million of 1991/93 Build IN Funds be made available for drawdown so that it is in place to start using; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. ✓

Mr. Trelo reported that the Senate has just passed approval on the \$11 million Federal request for FY97. The House had previously approved it. The President is expected to sign the bill. Mr. Gardner added that Little Cal has the largest single item in the Federal budget listed to the State of Indiana. Mr. Huffman questioned what the line item of \$200,000 on Cady Marsh Ditch was and he was informed it is for engineering money to complete the study.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the Marina report. Mr. Tanke made a motion to pay the first interest installment due of \$14,387.30 to NBD from the Marina Sinking Account; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. He then made a motion to approve the payment of \$715 to Halm Building Specialties for the bronze plaque for the marina building; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke added that the city has put in a request to this legislative session for funding to do a Phase 2 of the marina site. At present, there is no money to expand any more slips at the marina. Also, another Detroit COE permit would be needed.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer George Carlson gave the financial report. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the financial status statement for August and approve the claims for payment totaling \$64,799.99; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion approved unanimously. Mr. Carlson referred to the COE letter requesting NBD Bank to release \$48,000 from the design escrow account and a second request letter for \$57,000 to be released from the construction account. These amounts now deplete the escrow accounts.

Other Business - Mr. Gardner added that we received a letter from State Representative Ralph Ayres acknowledging the Commission's letter request of \$4 million. Discussion took place on a presentation or briefing that can be scheduled to update the legislators on the project status. Mr. Huffman inquired as to what percentage the project is complete. Mr. Gardner replied he thought about 30% but we will ask the COE for that figure.

Statements from the floor - Herb Read from Izaak Walton League talked about the recent flood data that should have been available by now to show downstream impact from project. Mr. Gardner stated that this is the reason a remediation area is needed - to help alleviate impact. Mr. Read's concern is saving the existing floodplain that is now there. He does not like converting low lands from flood storage. He reminded the Commission that recreation should still take a high priority, as it did once before in the original study. Mr. Gardner informed him that the first recreation contract will be let this spring. It includes Gleason Park area, Lake Etta, OxBow area and trails, canoe launch, overlooks. Landscaping and plantings is going on right now on the finished levees. Discussion took place on the connecting trail system.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 1996 in Portage.

/sjm