

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1997  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman  
Robert Trelo  
William Tanke  
Steve Davis  
Roger Chiabai  
Charles Agnew  
George Carlson  
Arlene Colvin

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong  
Denis Buksa - Munster  
Mike Bush - WJOB  
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina  
R. L. Frum - Lefty's Coho  
Chris Baas - Lake County Parks

Staff:

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

The minutes of the March 6, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman announced the receipt of a Certificate of Appointment from the Lake County Commissioners office appointing Mr. Marion Williams to fill out the remaining term until December 31, 1997 now held by Nathaniel Leonard. Staff will contact Mr. Williams.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board members of the May 7th meeting with the town of Griffith and Richard Kortenhoven, private developer who wishes to develop the area in Griffith and is trying to secure a permit from IDNR to build a portion of the levee in that area. A continuous line of protection is desired and there still remains a gap in the levee that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Gardner informed the Board of a meeting on March 27th with the COE to discuss the betterment levee. He referred to a COE letter stating that levee construction of the Burr Street levee will be in the summer of 1998. It is critical that lands be made available by that time. Borings will be taken soon. We do not want to run the risk of adversely impacting residents downstream.

The COE letter also asked that an additional \$50,000 be placed in the escrow account for the Burr Street levee COE in-house review process, the appraisal review and additional work to complete the FDM. Mr. Tanke questioned if the COE office gives us a breakdown of how they spend the escrow money. Staff will request such a breakdown from the COE.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to increase the offer price to \$2500 on DC530 in order to avoid condemnation; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC133, DC137 and DC164; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew informed the Board members that staff met with the COE at the monthly real estate meeting on March 21st.

Mr. Agnew announced that a new party would be taking over the rental of the Chase Street Produce. A new lease will be worked out; it should be available by the next Board meeting.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve and sign the R/E for the pump station location in Stage II Phase 4; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman informed the Board that our share of the pump station cost of \$384,399 has been paid to the city of Gary (transmittal letter in packet). It is the Commission's position that this amount will cover our share of the cost and they have concurred this is correct.

Mr. Huffman stated that a pre-construction meeting regarding the Burr St. pump station was held by Gary Sanitary District in which staff attended. The successful low bidder is Atlas Construction. It is anticipated that this project would be completed by October.

Jim Pokrajac talked about his meeting with the COE and city engineer Roland Elvambuena regarding haul routes and temporary road closings needed for the construction project this 1997

construction period. Haul routes were identified for full and empty trucks. Roland will have those routes approved for the COE at their next Board of Public Works meeting. There will be a 15 days notification given to the city before roads are temporarily closed.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the construction chart contained in the packet outlining the various phases of construction for the next five years with construction dates identified.

Mr. Carlson stated that, although the House passed \$2 million identified for the construction project, it still needs to be approved by the Senate. (There is still \$4 million appropriated for the Commission but not yet allocated).

Maintenance is still an issue which will eventually have to be addressed. We are attempting to get some fairly accurate figures from the COE identifying maintenance costs. Operation of this project is a non-federal obligation.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to Mr. Gardner for the status of the RFP for future marina development. Mr. Gardner reported that the RFP is not out on the street yet. It is prepared and ready to go but not released yet. He stated further that the City has taken the position that they should not have to pay for the repair work that needs to be done on the pilings. They feel it is up to the contractor or engineering firm to accept that cost.

Mr. Gardner met with John Hannon, Jeff Bartoszek and Ron Schults regarding Phase 2 of the marina development. Once the weather really breaks, they will be able to determine set forward to what needs to be replanted to stay in compliance with the permit. Staff will stay in contact.

Mr. Tanke will contact the sign company that built the marina sign to have them re-secure it.

Discussion took place regarding NIPSCO high tower lines. Mr. Tanke's concern is that the signs we have posted to alert drivers of the NIPSCO lines are adequate and satisfactory to NIPSCO. Attorney Casale stated that there is nothing in the lease which addresses this issue. Staff will check into.

Mr. Gardner reported that the launch lanes are already busy.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. He referred to a revised claim sheet distributed to the Board members. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for February and approve the claims for payment totaling \$114,182.01; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that \$50,000 has been placed into the design escrow account.

Mr. Tanke questioned why there was a budget line for DNR/Shoreline sand fund when the account is "0". Staff will remove that line from the budget.

Mr. Gardner stated that 2 claims for approval are from Chester Inc. who is billing us as work is performed on the greenhouse at M. C. Bennett Park in Gary.

Other Business - No other Commission business at this time.

Statements from the floor - Denis Buksa from Munster inquired about maintenance of the project and how was it possible to maintain if there are endangered species, such as the Bald Eagle, perhaps nesting there. Discussion took place. IDNR member Steve Davis offered to Mr. Buksa the name and number of a DNR person who would be contacted if we ever found the situation one that we could not handle.

Mr. Buksa inquired about what insurance coverage the marina has. Attorney Casale informed him that they are privately insured.

Bob Frum from Lefty's Coho asked why a study or survey isn't being done to determine whether there is enough demand at present to warrant a Phase 2 of the public marina site. Mr. Gardner informed him of the Commission's obligation to the Corps of Engineers to build a 200 public boat slip marina. The COE is still enforcing that commitment. He further emphasized that there has been no supervision at the site and boaters are launching boats when no one is there; the bathrooms in the boathouse are not opened yet; people are walking all over the grass. Mr. Tanke thanked him for bringing this to our attention. Staff will look into it.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1, 1997 in Portage. Meeting dates were also scheduled for June 3 and July 3.