

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 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  
John DeMeo  
William Tanke  
Steve Davis  
Arlene Colvin  
Charles Agnew  
George Carlson  
Roger Chiabai

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWArmstrong  
Jomary Crary - IDNR, Div. Water  
Denis Buksa - Munster, IN  
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
Lou Casale  
James Pokrajac  
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the July 3, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman informed the Board members that he and Executive Director Dan Gardner were on John Davies WJOB program "What's Right with the Region" for a half hour discussion of the Little Calumet River project.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to the copy of IDNR permit for recreation contained in the packet. The recreation contract #1 is for specifically four areas: OxBow Park area in Hammond, Gleason Park in Gary, Lake Etta Park in Gary and trails along Chase Street. Construction may begin as early as next week. OxBow area will be constructed first. The COE will coordinate some the construction items with Hammond's contractor (the COE's contractor is Dyer Construction). Mr. Carlson expressed concern about how wet the area is there.

Mr. Gardner reported on a mitigation project planning meeting held July 25. In attendance were the COE, IDNR, IDEM, USF&W, and our

Commission. The mitigation plan is critical to conditions of the project and all entities have to be in agreement with identified mitigated areas. The COE has hired a person who is a wetlands specialist. Several other entities have asked us to supply them with mitigated lands but we first need to identify the lands for the Corps project. We have committed to helping them with identifying mitigated areas. About 7-9 acres are needed by other sources, such a INDOT, town of Griffith, town of Highland and Lake County for the burr Street bridge.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion authorizing the increase of offers on DC529 to \$1,000 and DC534 to \$1,400; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

WHITECO has contacted us for permission to cut away some tree branches on our property to allow for better visibility of a Whiteco sign. Mr. Agnew made a motion granting permission for them to cut away some of the foliage to allow better visibility adding that they remove whatthey have cut off the premises and leave the area clean; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin. Mr. Tanke added that we should know exactly what they are going to cut beforehand. Mr. Tanke made a motion amending the previous one to include that staff supervise the cutting and be present at that time; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; both motions passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew then made a motion to extend the Deep River borrow site agreement to allow Rausch Construction time to complete the contract until the end of 1997 construction season; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. This has been agreed to by Lake County Park & Recreation Dept.

Mr. Agnew made a motion in regard to the additional work proposed for Deep River that we review Rausch's proposed change order and authorize up to our cap of \$150,800 to extend the road and add this to the existing COE contract; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew announced that the Gary Parks & Recreation Dept. had a dedication ceremony for the new greenhouse on July 24. A plaque is displayed with Commissioners' names as well as the Gary Parks & Rec names. Fencing is now up around the greenhouse. Some lights have also been put up. For security reasons, police are patrolling the area now.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that at last meeting we voted to accept the low bid that came in for soil borings that needed to be taken from Cline to Arbogast. Mr. Carlson made a motion ratifying the low bid of \$7,767.50 to K&S Testing; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson inquired about the pump station going in at Cline - he was informed that it is the town of Griffith's project as part of the INDOT Cline Avenue project and not ours. It was stated that there are approximately 17-19 pumping stations in total. Mr. Huffman asked staff to provide a list of the stations and their capacity.

Mr. Huffman also reported that the technical review meeting with the COE that was scheduled for August 5 has been postponed to a later date.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter in the packet from the town of Griffith regarding the proposed levee from Cline to the EJ&E RR. It stated that the town of Griffith will accept ownership and assume public maintenance of the levee.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson reported that the State Budget Committee will be meeting here in northwest Indiana on August 20. They will meet at the Portage Public Marina site on the 19th and a presentation will be made to them relative to Phase II marina construction. Members are invited to attend if they would like.

Mr. Carlson also stated that \$5.3 million of Federal money is all that is being allocated for the 1998 Federal budget. \$11 million of Federal funds was secured for this 1997 budget year.

Marina Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the letter we sent to the Mayor and their response letter back to us relative to the signage at the marina site.

Mr. Tanke stated that the Marina Committee met with Portage and Abonmarche. They are proceeding with Phase II design with monies they are receiving through the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for June and approve the claims for payment totaling \$69,625.53; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion approved unanimously.

Other Business - Mr. Gardner referred back to last meeting's conversation on minority construction status that was provided to us by the COE. What we received the COE is satisfied with but Mr. Gardner would like to see more detail to it. Mr. Chiabai made a motion to write a letter to the Colonel to be signed by the Chairman requesting more information; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Once we receive something from the COE, there is an ad-hoc committee consisting of Arlene Colvin, Bob Huffman and Marion Williams, that will meet with the COE for discussion.

Mr. Tanke referred back to an old motion that had been made several months back to authorize the flyover of the river to make a video. The video was never made because the foliage was too full. He would like a committee appointed to reconsider the proposal we received from the video company. That committee will consist of himself, Arlene Colvin, Chuck Agnew, Bob Huffman and Marion Williams.

Statements from the floor - There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 4, 1997.