

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1997
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Nine (9) 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
Emerson Delaney

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong
Denis Buksa - Munster
Ken Smith - IDNR, Div.of Water
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
R. L. Frum - Lefty's Coho

Staff:

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

The minutes of the December 5, 1996 meeting were approved by a motion from George Carlson; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Bill Tanke referred to Chuck Agnew, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Agnew stated that he and committee members John DeMeo and Arlene Colvin met and presented the following candidates for 1997 officers:

Secretary - Chuck Agnew made a motion that Emerson Delaney be elected as Secretary; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. There were no other nominees.

Treasurer - Arlene Colvin made a motion that Chuck Agnew be elected as Treasurer; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. There were no other nominees.

Vice Chairman - Chuck Agnew made a motion that Robert Trelo be elected as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. There were no other nominees.

Chairman - Chuck Agnew made a motion that Robert Huffman be elected as Chairman; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. There were no other nominees.

At this point, outgoing Chairman Bill Tanke passed the gavel to incoming Chairman, Bob Huffman. Mr. Huffman presented Mr. Tanke with a plaque recognizing his service as Chairman for 1996. Mr. Tanke gave a brief summary of his tenure as Chairman this last year citing some accomplishments such as the marina opening, opening communication with the new administration of Gary, O&M manual receipt, current Governor appointments to the Commission, and membership at NAFSMA, to name a few. He thanked the Board for their support and good attendance. Newly elected Chairman Bob Huffman now presided over the meeting. He thanked the Board for their confidence in him in electing him as Chairman.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board that he accompanied city of Gary officials Roland Elvambueno, Mike Cervay and Arnie Muzumdar to Indianapolis to meet with INDOT regarding the Burr Street interchange project. The Commission's involvement consists of support of the Burr Street corridor improvement and confirmation of the need for a 84" pipe capacity under the interchange to provide sufficient drainage as calculated by the COE for the Little Calumet River project. Current plans by INDOT call for smaller size pipe under the interchange (36"). INDOT will look at the figures, justify the 84" capacity pipe and will discuss further cost-sharing arrangements to accomplish the needed drainage.

Mr. Gardner informed the Board that staff met with city of Gary council members on December 30th where the COE gave a presentation to the Council. We will again schedule another time when more Council members can be present.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter in the agenda packet from the Lake County Surveyor's Office regarding potential sites for wetland mitigation. We will begin discussions with them to see if one of their sites would be sufficient for mitigation.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve an agreement extending the time frame with Lake County Parks Department for the Deep River borrow site; motion seconded by Bob Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew thanked Judy Vamos, on staff as Land Acquisition Agent, for the thorough and extensive year-end report given to Board members.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report and reported that currently, all hauling of clay for levee construction has stopped due to weather, although some clay is being pre-loaded in the pump station areas.

This also includes overburden material and topsoil for landscaping. The only ongoing construction is sheetpiling, concrete work, and installation of closure structures. Concrete work will be done for all four (4) pump stations in the east reach.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman Robert Trelo informed the Board that \$11 million has been approved in the Federal budget for FY97. The Commission is seeking \$4 million from the 97/99 State biennium to keep to the aggressive schedule of the COE. Mr. Trelo also reported that a mailing did go out to all legislators seeking support of the \$4 million request.

Mr. Trelo also stated that we understand that no budget committee meetings will be held until after the legislative session (end of April); this could create a cash flow problem for us because we cannot get any appropriated funds transferred for draw-down. It is critical that we be on their agenda for the next budget committee meeting as soon as it is scheduled.

Mr. Trelo also announced release of \$400,000 to the town of Highland that was appropriated in 1990 when Wicker Park Manor subdivision flooded. The town plans to use the money for some sewer and street improvements and upgrading some pump equipment.

Mr. Gardner referred to a newspaper article in which northwest Indiana legislators stated their priority projects, of which securing additional funds for Phase 2 boat slips for the Portage public marina and continuation of funding the levee construction project was mentioned.

Attorney Lou Casale stated that when the new 1997 Legislative Committee is formed, they need to meet to begin preliminary discussions on how the Commission can dispose of excess property once the project is in place.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke informed the Board members that a tentative date has been scheduled to meet with the Mayor regarding expansion of the marina boat slips along the south wall. There should be more to report at the next meeting.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer George Carlson gave the financial report. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the financial status statement for November and approve the claims for payment totaling \$64,082.35; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion approved unanimously.

LCRBDC Minutes
January 7, 1997
Page 4

Mr. Carlson also made a motion to approve and adopt the 1997 budget as presented to Board members. The administrative budget is \$191,000 and the land acquisition/project development budget is \$4,529,238.

Other Business - Committee membership will be formulated within this next month.

Statements from the floor - There was none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 1997 in Portage.