

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

Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman
Emerson Delaney
William Tanke
Steve Davis
Roger Chiabai
Charles Agnew
George Carlson

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWArmstrong
Denis Buksa - Munster
Jomary Crary - 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 February 6, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from NAFSMA acknowledging our membership in their organization. We will now start receiving publications from them. We will pass onto Commissioners any pertinent publications staff thinks they would be interested in.

Mr. Gardner informed the Board that staff will be meeting tomorrow with town officials of Griffith, Richard Kortenhoven, COE, DNR and Lawson-Fisher in regards to the levee segment from Cline Ave. eastward to EJ&E RR. A private developer, R. Kortenhoven, plans to construct a portion of a levee in that vicinity. The town of Griffith will need to improve about 600' of existing levee. The levee will have to be built up to 100 year level with freeboard. It needs to be that elevation in order to obtain a DNR permit. A third segment of levee is unbuilt and uncommitted to at this time. Mr. Kortenhoven is ready to build but is lacking a permit. Efforts are ongoing to obtain that permit.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew referred to the COE letter in agenda packet accepting the Right-of-Entry for IV-2B without the vacation of streets, relying on the June 12, 1996 Street and Alley Agreement in lieu thereof.

Mr. Agnew also reported that all agreements are in place that allow us to sign the ROE for Recreation Phase 1. Mr. Gardner added that we will do some press releases and that the city of Hammond will plan a signing ceremony for OxBow Park.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman spoke on the flood warning and preparedness meeting held on February 25th at the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. It was very well attended by all five communities involved, COE, IDNR, SEMA, USGS, NIPSCO and others. Mr. Gardner added that, from the demonstration, he thinks everyone could really see, firsthand, how this tool will really be helpful to everyone.

Maintenance was also discussed. We need to develop a mechanism and funding source for maintenance - not only in flood times, but all the time. Mr. Pokrajac added that this meeting was an excellent opportunity to present to everyone how this will interact for their respective community. Some communities have not submitted emergency plans yet but will do so very soon. It was stressed that it is critical that emergency plans be in place before there is an emergency.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the news article in the agenda packet listing projects that were included in the state budget that was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee and will now be forwarded onto the Senate for approval. \$2 million was included for the Development Commission. Mr. Gardner added that \$2 million was also included for marina development in Portage. (This will allow Phase 2 additional slip development).

Mr. Gardner stated that as soon as the session is over and the State Budget Committee meets, it is imperative that we be on their agenda for drawdown of the '91 appropriated funds. We are at a all-time low of available monies to draw upon.

Mr. Carlson and Mr. Gardner both expressed gratitude to the legislators for their support.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the letter to John Hannon requesting the second bond payment from the city. That payments amounts to \$28,643.84. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the marina claim sheet listing the \$28,643.84 and another \$48.25 to NBD for year end analysis bank charge; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

He informed the Board that a new Request for Proposals has been developed by the city for Phase 2 marina development. If we were to assume that the \$2 million is secured for the LMMDC for Portage marina development, we should be able to start constructing about the end of the boating season this year.

Mr. Tanke referred to the Abonmarche letter regarding some of the wood pilings heaving. They have determined that it is not a defective installation by the contractor but rather the wood pilings have jacked because of the ice uplift from the winter season. They are currently seeking estimates for repair cost.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. He referred to a revised claim sheet distributed to the Board members where a claim for the City of Gary for the Burr Street pump station construction has been added. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for January and approve the claims for payment totaling \$452,067.39; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion approved unanimously.

He also stated that we have received the IDNR letter requesting the Commission's share of the yearly cost of operation and maintenance of several gaging stations that amounts to \$17,200.

Mr. Gardner added that the State Board of Accounts has just finished their '94 and '95 audit of the Commission. One item was noted in that we have the tax escrow fund line overdrawn in 1995. Mr. Gardner will respond in writing to that item giving reason why and how we will work to correct it.

Other Business - No other Commission business at this time.

Statements from the floor - Bob Frum from Lefty's Coho, inquired whether the City has realized a tax benefit from the marina construction. He understood that the public city marina was suppose to create tax dollars. Mr. Gardner explained how the process proceeded in that the breakwater construction was a 50/50 cost share between the Federal government and the Commission who used State dollars to account for our share. \$1.7 million of State tax dollars financed our portion of the breakwaters. The COE

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calculated a recreational/economic benefit which resulted in an obligation to the Commission to see constructed a ±200 slip public use marina.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 1997 in Portage.