

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Chairman Robert Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Ten (10) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Trelo
Emerson Delaney
William Tanke
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
John DeMeo
Steve Davis
Robert Huffman
Arlene Colvin
Marion Williams

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak - “ “
Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.
Jomary Crary – IDNR, Div. Water

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the July 2, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from Chuck Agnew; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bob Trelo asked for nominations from the floor to fill the position of Commission Secretary (due to resignation of Roger Chiabai who was Secretary). Mr. Agnew made a motion to elect Arlene Colvin as Secretary to fill the remaining term; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner reiterated that the PAC (post authorization change) letter from the Commission has been sent to the COE in Washington. We are still awaiting a formal response from Washington that it has been accepted in the form we presented to them. Indications of approval from Chicago District appear to be favorable. Mr. Gardner stated that the new Lt. Col. Peter Rowan met with staff and a few of the Commissioners on July 21st.

A report for exclusion of Wicker Park Manor from floodplain designation that has been in limbo all this time has finally been sent to Virginia for approval. IDNR has submitted all information to them asking for removal of this portion (Wicker Park Manor subdivision) from the regulatory floodplain. All documentation has been sent July 17th. Residents there are continuing to pay flood insurance, although the new Federal levee is in place and the Indianapolis Blvd. bridge has been raised.

Mr. Gardner reported on a meeting held on July 15th with Lt. Col. Gerber and COE staff to address mitigation. There are a lot of issues with using the Hobart Marsh area. The Colonel stated that the COE is proposing to pursue this area which consists of about 260 acres for enhancement and restoration. The Colonel also stated that he would sign a document releasing us from the responsibility for the purchase of the property and that the COE would be responsible to contract with an outside entity to purchase. Attorney Casale has legal concerns and has developed a series of questions for the COE to answer. There will be a conference call tomorrow to address those questions. Lou said that although the COE is focusing on this area, they have not thought about the procedures to set this in place and they cannot answer direct questions put to them yet.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC818; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew announced that a public meeting for the Burr Street betterment levee has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, 4500 Calhoun Street, Gary.

He also informed Board members that a workshop for local appraisers will be held in our office tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Frank Palmer from the COE will address it.

Mr. Agnew then made a motion to contract with C&H Mowing for a cost of \$2000 to mow sections of the levee; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to the memorandum regarding professional services and public works projects developed as a guideline to follow in securing services. Staff has assembled a list of qualified firms to be selected for jobs needed. Mr. Tanke added Krull & Sons to the Surveyor's list. With that addition, Mr. Huffman made a motion to accept the list and authorize staff to choose from it at staff's discretion following the procedure outlined; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman stated that we are still exploring how to improve drainage in the area west of Grant Street. A contractor has been hired to investigate and develop a plan.

Mr. Huffman referred to a meeting that has been scheduled with the pipeline companies in order to secure elevations of their pipelines between the EJ&E RR and Burr Street. Gary Sanitary District has set a date for us to meet with them to address a funding issue of whose responsibility it is for pump testing east of Burr. Staff does not feel it is our responsibility.

Staff gauges will be installed on bridges/railroads between Harrison and Hohman. The communities will then be able to monitor level elevations during flood events.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin referred to the House Appropriations Committee approval of the \$7.95 million for the COE for upcoming construction of the Little Calumet River flood control/recreation project. We are in the process of filling out the State forms for this biennium's request. In order to maximize the federal dollars as much as we can and in order to keep up with an aggressive schedule with the COE, Mr. Gardner estimates our request should be \$6 million for this biennium. He referred to the COE budget figures stating that \$3.59 million of non-federal share and \$1.65 million in land costs are estimated. Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to request \$6 million from the State Budget Agency (forms due in by August 21st); motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the financial report for the Portage Public Marina showing a profit of monies yielded from the marina. He also referred to an Abonmarche report itemizing cost to complete the marina, approximately \$1.5 million. We understand that the city of Portage will seek these funds through the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission with their budget request. Mr. Tanke made a motion to support their request for the \$1.5 million for the city of Portage; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Staff will write a letter of support.

Attorney Casale referred to the Addendum #2 to the Inter-Local Agreement between the city and the Commission. It extends the agreement for financing and construction through the year December 2000. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve and accept the Addendum #2; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanke made a motion to accept the sign proposal from SIGN WRITE Company to construct a new larger sign at a cost of \$10,130.15 for the Portage Public Marina; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. This money will come out of the marina construction bond funding we still have. Eventually, monies paid out by this Commission for marina development will be paid back to us when the marina is completed.

Mr. Tanke reported that staff is working on the video production of the river.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the financial status report and claim approval list. He made a motion to accept the financial report and approve claims totaling \$48,092.69; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson also made a motion to approve the withdrawal of escrow monies by the COE (\$50,000 out of the construction fund and \$70,000 out of the design fund); motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney reported the preliminary inspection on all four recreation segments was completed by the COE on July 31st.

OxBow/Carlson Park – Striping was completed; bumpers were installed; 179th Street was paved; fencing installed.

Gleason Park – Bike racks and exhibit shelter installed; barbecue grills to be installed shortly; paving of 30th Avenue completed from Harrison to Broadway.

Lake Etta – Access ramp over levee is paved; security fencing almost completed; vandalized boards on pier were replaced.

Chase Street Trail – Gate at north end of parking lot will be installed this week; contractor selected to put in guardrails along trail.

Mr. Delaney reiterated the date of September 18th for a dedication of the OxBow/Carlson Park. The City is finishing up their portion of the work they contracted out. Once the dedication date is confirmed, we will let everyone know. This will be a “really big deal” for us because it will be the first formal recognition of recreational features the Commission is doing as part of the flood control project and, most of all, the park will be renamed in honor of our Commission member, George Carlson, who was the pushing force behind this project. Mr. Carlson passed on the credit to Mayor Dedelow, who really took the initiative and pursued this project. Without his support, this portion of the recreation features probably would not have happened at this time.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams stated that his main course of action now is to put together some goals and objectives to pursue to get the COE to seriously enforce their 40% minority participation goal they originally supported. Mr. Williams that he has some concern about the monitoring of the project. He will be scheduling another committee meeting in order to move ahead and direct themselves toward specifics on what they wish to accomplish and how to accomplish it.

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Other Business – Mr. Gardner stated that the COE has been pressing us for our comments and revisions to the Operation & Maintenance Manual. We owe them a response quickly. We will be getting something up to them under the Executive Director's signature.

Land Acquisition Agent Judy Vamos publicly thanked Commissioner Steve Davis for his idea on a workshop meeting for appraisers to come and meet with the COE and hear firsthand what the COE expects in an appraiser. After scheduling the date, Judy contacted appraisers and she has 9 appraisers coming.

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 3, 1998.**