

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Vice Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized. (Chairman Bob Trelo came in late due to traffic congestion)

Development Commissioners:

Robert Trelo
Emerson Delaney
William Tanke
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
John DeMeo
Steve Davis
Robert Huffman

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Lou Casale

The minutes of the June 4, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Huffman; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner reported on the Commission retreat that was held on June 6th. Many topics were discussed and it gave a chance to discuss issues without a time constraint. A tour of the project area will be scheduled soon.

Mr. Gardner also referred to the resignation letter of Roger Chiabai (contained in packet). A letter will be sent to Roger thanking him for his service. Since Mr. Chiabai was the Commission's Secretary, staff indicated they would send something out to members to see who would like to fill that position.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the mitigation plan that has been sent to all Commissioners. He has talked to Col. Gerber about scheduling a meeting while he is still in office to discuss this issue. They will set a date and Board members will be notified. The plan calls for Hobart Marsh area to be used for mitigation; the Commission does not necessarily agree with that area.

The incoming Col. Rowan (and Col. Gerber) will be here on July 21st. All are invited.

Mr. Gardner reiterated that the PAC (post authorization change) letter from the Commission has been sent to the COE in Washington. Imad has indicated to us that it was received in Washington and an initial phone call has taken place between the Chicago COE and Washington COE offices. A conference call will be scheduled soon with the Washington COE. Mr. Gardner stated that he has told Imad that we reserve the right to go to Washington and present our case in person, if necessary. A written response is ultimately expected from them.

Mr. Gardner stated that a pumping operation took place on June 6 at the Hartsdale Pond in Schererville. About 50 million gallons were pumped out of the pond to allow for potential storage of stormwater. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Trelo were invited and would have liked to attend but the retreat date was already scheduled. He applauded the Surveyor's Office for their initiative in undertaking this project.

Land Acquisition Committee – Since Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew came in late due to traffic congestion, Mr. Huffman gave report and made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC107, DC487, DC512 and DC526; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

He further stated that the Land Acquisition committee met on June 29th. Discussion ensued on attorney Casale and Dan Gardner attending the Gary Park Board meeting tonight at 4:00 in order to obtain signatures on easements needed. There was a discrepancy in a legal description so staff will pursue a correction to that easement, if needed and get back with Gary Park Board.

Mr. Huffman referred to a letter received from IUN regarding the area between Broadway and Harrison on the south side of the levee they propose to develop as a prairie site, which will provide educational, ecological and visual reasons to pursue this plan. No action is needed at this time. IUN will be submitting a grant proposal for this development the end of June.

Discussion ensued on whether it would be wise for the Commission to accept operation and maintenance on two levee segments that are completely done and relatively simple areas for maintenance.

Project Engineering Committee – Engineering committee meeting was held on June 23rd. 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 is pursuing a list of qualified surveyors and engineers from which to contract professional services with based on a submittal from them. On jobs less than \$5,000, the staff

can select from this group on an as-needed basis and on jobs over \$5,000, staff will request proposals and award the job upon approval of Board. On public works projects under \$25,000, staff will solicit quotes from at least 3 firms, as per Statute. On projects over \$25,000, staff will bid out as per statute. On maintenance projects, staff will again develop a list of preferred maintenance work providers and staff will be allowed to procure services for maintenance from that list on all jobs \$3,500 and under. for maintenance jobs over \$3,500 staff will request proposals for the job and contract will be awarded at a Board meeting. Bob Huffman made a motion to accept the memo as stated; motion was seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman referred to a letter from the town of Griffith requesting assistance to fund the cost of soil borings along the east levee from Cline Ave. to the EJ&E RR to determine the soil conditions at an estimated cost of \$2500. Mr. Huffman made a motion to approve this funding (if borings are necessary); seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion authorizing Nimetz Trucking to grade and add slag to the parking lot at Chase Street Farm Stand (Commission-owned property) at a cost of \$1,625; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to ratify the work already performed by Dyer Construction in adding slag on the rutted roadway at the Ox-Bow/Carlson Park for a cost of \$500; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee – Mr. Gardner informed the Board members that the House Appropriations Committee has approved the full \$7.9 million for the COE for upcoming construction of the Little Calumet River flood control/recreation project. The COE was anxious because in the past they have not spent up to their capability; they are very happy they have received the full amount. Staff will write a letter to Congressman Visclosky thanking him for his support of the project. With the federal government receiving this much money, it puts the pressure on our Commission to be able to meet their schedule with our state funding. We should be receiving budget forms shortly and submitting our next biennial budget request. We anticipate needing between \$4-\$6 million to keep construction on schedule.

Considering that Mr. Chiabai was the Legislative Committee chairman, his resignation has left this chairmanship open. Mr. Tanke made a motion to authorize Arlene Colvin as legislative chairman; seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the update status report from Abonmarche that are contained in the agenda packet. He stated that the Marina

Committee had met on June 18th. He stated that the committee went and saw the new construction at the marina after the meeting. He wants a joint meeting with committee and the city; staff will schedule before the next Board meeting.

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 \$75,757.32 and approved the additional per diem and mileage claims as distributed; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew, motion passed unanimously.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney encouraged all Board members to go out and see some of the recreational features being built. He reported that at the OxBow/Carlson Park, paving is done beyond the boardwalk and parking lot is paved; striping will be done on lot very soon. Frontage road is now paved. Mr. Carlson stated that the tentative date for OxBow dedication is Sept. 18th. At Gleason Park, the striping is done, parking lot is done, and picnic shelter is done. Only 30th Avenue needs paving yet. At Lake Etta, up and over paving on trail to get to canoe launch is done. Regarding Chase St. trail, we are awaiting the signed agreement from the city of Gary to add the guardrails and maintenance onto the existing agreement as an addendum. Mr. Gardner added that the COE is now considering a bikeway underpass at Grant St. and are talking to INDOT about it. Mr. Huffman talked about his biking experience on the levee trail starting at Martin Luther King Drive in Gary and biking westward through Hammond.

Mr. Carlson wanted to go on record thanking his fellow Board members for their authorizing the development at OxBow earlier than we normally would have done. He thanked Mr. Agnew for making that original motion to get us going and thanked Executive Director Dan Gardner for all his hard work and dedication throughout this whole project.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Steve Davis stated that the committee met on June 25th. They discussed that they did not feel the COE was monitoring the project to a 40% minority participation goal and discussed ways of trying to monitor and better encourage/enforce effort. They would like to schedule a meeting with the COE to talk about this issue. It was agreed that a better effort needs to be made.

Other Business – Mr. Trelo stated the NAFSMA conference will be held Sept. 22-26, 1998 in Denver, Colorado this year.

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, August 6, 1998.**

4