

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Chairman Bob Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Trelo
Emerson Delaney
Bill Tanke
Marion Williams
Chuck Agnew
George Carlson
Arlene Colvin
Steve Davis
Bob Huffman

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.
Jomary Crary – Div. of Water, IDNR
RaeAnn Rockhill – The Times

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Lou Casale

The minutes of the May 6, 1998 meeting were approved after a correction was made on page 1 replacing Bob Huffman's name with Bob Trelo's name under Chairman's Report. With this correction, motion was made by Bob Huffman; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bob Trelo reminded the board members of the upcoming retreat meeting on Saturday, June 6th. Let Sandy know if you can attend. Topics needing discussion has been set by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and we will try to limit each topic to about 20 minutes.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner informed the Board that the PAC 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. Mr. Gardner stated that he has told Imad that we reserve the right to go to Washington to answer any questions if necessary. A written response is ultimately expected from them.

Mr. Gardner referred to the response letter to Councilman Cleo Wesson (contained in packet). We will continue to stay in touch with INDOT and the Gary Health Dept.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew stated that a committee meeting had been held on May 20 and that is why there was no committee meeting prior to the Board meeting tonight. Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC487 and DC526; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that a meeting was held on May 19 with the Gary Park Board to resolve the pump issue. Mr. Agnew proceeded with reading Resolution 98-1 (attached hereto and made part of the minutes). He then made a motion to approve Resolution 98-1; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin. Mr. Tanke opposed the wording in Point #5 where he wanted to replace the word “cooperate” with the words “will transfer”. After discussion, it was determined to leave in the word “cooperate”. Motion passed with 8 approving and 1 opposing (Mr. Tanke).

Mr. Agnew informed the Board that a surplus property consultant is handling the upcoming Lake County Commissioners tax sale. We understand the cost for us to acquire would include the assessed value of the property as a purchase price and a \$500 processing fee for each property coming to a total of \$40,335. Since there are so many individual properties, the committee feels that we will not pursue this but we will go ahead with regular property acquisition and just condemn the property as needed.

Mr. Agnew stated that the COE has sent the proposed mitigation plan to the Commission on June 1. Review process is going on now. Mr. Agnew made a motion to re-activate a contract with J. F. New & Associates to review this plan and comment. A cost is not known at this time, although staff feels previous work performed should minimize costs. Motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that staff met with the COE to discuss crediting. Since this is such a big ticket item, additional help may be needed. Cost figures from INDOT have been received for Indianapolis Blvd. (\$2,306,601.46) and Georgia Street bridges (\$6,206,231.32). Mr. Gardner will be writing a letter to the COE asking for this credit. Mr. Gardner added that we have on file a letter from the FHA approving the bridge replacement dollar amounts as credit to the project. At that time, project manager Dave Hunter agreed to this approach. Since then, the COE seems to disagree. Mr. Gardner is still optimistic in getting it approved.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that the attorney will prepare an agreement with INDOT to allow us to re-install the 2 pumps west of Grant Street; and to assume responsibility to relocate these pumps at our expense in the event INDOT ever needs to construct in that area. When agreement is drafted, we will make a motion at that time to approve.

Mr. Huffman distributed a draft policy of proposed public works/construction dollars for engineering and surveying services as well as maintenance services. It will be voted on at the next meeting.

Mr. Huffman also reported that Environmental Inc. has not yet removed the levee material because it has been too wet. It is expected to be removed by next week.

Mr. Huffman also stated we received a letter from Griffith on May 5 indicating that their Council approved the building of the unfinished levee portions at an elevation of 602.2.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to approve Triad Construction (lowest bidder) for a cost of \$27,600 to install approximately 2,400 feet of guardrail along the east side of Chase Street in Gary; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to approve a right-of-entry to allow the COE contractor to conduct soil borings on our property (Stage IV Phase 1); motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee – In Committee Chairman Roger Chiabai's absence, Mr. Gardner reported that we should be getting budget request forms very soon. With increased construction contracts anticipated, we would like to be able to secure more dollars (minimum \$4 million) than we have in the past. It is imperative that we finish up Gary so we can move westward into Hammond, Highland, and Munster. We also have the betterment levee, which is not cost shared with the COE. We also need to start talking with area legislators on how we can secure operation and maintenance dollars.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the update status reports from Abonmarche that are contained in the agenda packet. He stated that the west parking lot is paved now and they are moving along near completion. He, Steve Davis, Dan and Lou met with Rich Carlson and Paul Morhardt of the COE on May 20 to talk about how we can meet our federal obligation to the COE relative to the number of public slips they require. Committee will be meeting shortly.

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 \$56,970.13; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson informed the board members that the Directors and Officers liability policy has been renewed until 3/31/99. Staff was directed to see what the increased cost would be to raise the liability limit from \$1 million to \$5 million and also see why we received the renewal several months after renewal date.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney viewed the recreation areas with Jim Pokrajac last week and was impressed with all the features being put in. He encouraged fellow Commissioners to visit the recreational sites.

Mr. Delaney referred to a letter received from the Hammond Parks & Rec Dept. asking the Commission to consider funding two additional items as part of the recreational development at Carlson (OxBow) Park at a cost of \$105,000. Budgetary constraints prevent the Park Dept. from funding this portion at this time. After discussion, it was decided that the Commission not favor their request at this time (because we do not have “discretionary” money for recreation development right now and because we do not own the property). Mr. Carlson added that the reason the Park Dept. came to the Commission with this request in the first place was because they had reason to believe and were under the impression that the Commission would be in a position to help them. Nevertheless, it was decided not to fund the additional development by the Board. Staff was directed to write a letter to Hammond Parks & Rec stating such.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams stated that this committee has not been very active and he would like to see it take a more pronounced role. He will be scheduling a committee meeting very soon; they will meet to discuss issues; they will report back at next meeting.

Other Business – Mr. Gardner informed the Board members that Lt. Col. Roger Gerber will be leaving the Chicago District COE office next month. Lt. Col. Rowan will be replacing him.

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, July 2, 1998.**

/sjm