

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

Chairman Bob Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:10 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
Roger Chiabai
Chuck Agnew
George Carlson
Arlene Colvin
Steve Davis
Bob Huffman

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Jim Flora – R.W. Armstrong Co.
Ken Smith – Div. of Water, IDNR

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

The minutes of the April 8, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from Chuck Agnew; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bob Huffman announced that the Commission has scheduled a retreat meeting date of Saturday, June 6th. Agenda will follow in the mail to all commissioners. Also distributed was a sheet listing several items of discussion that the Board members were asked to fill in and return to staff.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the draft letter of our response to the PAC. Mr. Gardner reviewed the map with the Board as well as the history of why we needed to acquire this additional area, which is because it is required by IDNR as part of the permit process. Although the Chicago COE office supports the cost sharing of this area, they are only supporting the cost sharing of the levee construction and not allowing credit for the flowage easements. Attorney Casale stated that about \$½ million is at stake in credits. The letter going to Washington states a case for credit for entire monies spent, not just the levee construction cost. Commissioner Carlson asked if there was a set procedure for arbitration in the LCA agreement. Attorney Casale answered no; but the COE has an appeal process in place.

Mr. Gardner referred to the letter in the agenda packet from Councilman Cleo Wesson from the city of Gary stating that there is a standing water problem at the south Gleason Park area and there will be, ultimately, a bad mosquito problem. Mr. Gardner did inspect the area and we have asked the COE contractor in that area, Webb Construction, to drain the area, which they have done already. He has spoken with the State Health Dept. about mosquito spraying programs and has relayed pertinent information back to Mr. Wesson. Additional information will be shared as this issue evolves.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC377 and DC492; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew referred to a request by Atlas Excavating to use about 2 acres of Commission land for storage of about 6,300 cu.yds. of excavated material from the Burr Street bridge mitigated parcel. He would level the land, seed it and make drainage improvements on it; it would be an enhancement to the area. Mr. Agnew made a motion to allow Atlas to use the 2 acres; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew then read a letter from farm tenant Gary Dunlap stating the culvert on our property is in dire need of repair. He has proposed that he will do the necessary work for a cost of \$2,500. Jim Pokrajac added that over half of the land cannot be farmed now because it is so wet. Mr. Tanke stated that slag put around the culvert (which is what he proposed to do) is not the best way to do it, and that limestone or clay should be used instead. Mr. Agnew made a motion for Dunlap to proceed with the culvert work for a cost not to exceed \$3,000 and staff was informed to tell him we would prefer clay instead of slag; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to the aerial pictures of OxBow park area that were being passed around. The recreational development going on there is almost complete; it is almost complete at Gleason Park and Lake Etta also.

Mr. Huffman referred to the letter from the town of Griffith's attorney giving official notice that the Town Council approved the constructing of the remaining unfinished portions of the levee to a height of 602.2. Mr. Huffman made a motion to accept their letter and direct the COE to redesign their levee to accommodate the 602.2 elevation; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman talked on the Engineering Committee meeting that was held on April 21st. in which staff has been directed to come up with guidelines within Indiana laws and regulations relative to engineering, surveying or construction/maintenance contracts we would let outlining when to obtain quotes, when to bid out; what dollar amounts trigger one method over the other. When something is developed and approved by the attorney, it will be presented to the Board for acceptance. Mr. Agnew asked Mr. Huffman to include land acquisition procurement services also.

Mr. Huffman expressed his delight that staff will soon have e-mail available to them and also have Internet available.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman Roger Chiabai reported that the approval forms for the '91/93 Build IN funds just approved were filled out by staff and returned to the State Budget Agency.

Mr. Chiabai informed the Board members that if Congressman Visclosky wins the election again, he will be in a key position in Washington. He will be the Minority Chairman on Water Projects. This is a very noteworthy position and will be very beneficial to Indiana projects.

Mr. Chiabai inquired about a new development that is planning to locate in the area that we just build a new greenhouse at in Gary at M.C. Bennett Park. Mr. Gardner replied that he was indeed aware of the new development. The new greenhouse will be relocated to another area. This will be at no cost to us. It is unfortunate that this did not come about before the greenhouse was built but that is the selected site in which the new development wants to build.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the update status reports from Abonmarche that are contained in the agenda packet. We understand that the new slips are already filled and there is a waiting list for interested parties for future slips.

He informed the Board that the Mayor did receive the \$750,000 from the State Budget Agency. Mr. Tanke also reported that Rich Carlson from the COE office is scheduled to meet with the Marina Committee on May 20th to talk about the Commission's obligation to the public marina.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the revised financial status report and finance claims distributed to Board members. He made a motion to accept the financial report and approve claims; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson referred to the letter from the insurance company and renewed property liability insurance policy. Mr. Gardner added that staff will be updating the property

coverage area and give that information to the insurance company. We have acquired a lot of property since we were issued this policy so the coverage area really needs to be updated. Once we do that, the insurance rate we are paying will probably be higher since it will take in more property.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney encouraged fellow Commissioners to get out and see some of the recreation features going in at OxBow (Carlson Park), Gleason Park and Lake Etta. Recreational construction is winding down. There will be groundbreaking ceremonies scheduled once construction is complete. All will be invited. He stated that this is the first phase of recreational features.

Mr. Carlson stated that the service road by OxBow (Carlson Park) is hardly driveable. Mr. Pokrajac informed him it would be repaved by the city once all construction is complete.

Minority Contracting Committee – Mr. Gardner stated that he is continuing to work with the COE to insure everything is being done that can be done relative to minority participation in the contract letting.

Other Business – Mr. Gardner stated that we have received the unedited videos from Planet Blue Inc. (the video company that flew the river). Staff needs to edit and add dialogue.

Mr. Gardner added that the Development Commission has been dismissed from the Ogden Dunes lawsuit. Attorney Casale added that although that is good news, the bad news is that he hears they are going to appeal it.

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, June 4, 1998.**

/sjm