

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Chairman Robert 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
William Tanke
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
John DeMeo
Steve Davis
Robert Huffman
Marion Williams

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Denis Buksa - Munster
Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.
Jomary Crary – IDNR, Div. Water

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Jim Pokrajac
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the August 6, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from John DeMeo; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner reiterated that the PAC (post authorization change) letter that was sent from the Commission to the COE in Washington has not been responded to yet. Although indications are that it will be approved, we are still awaiting a formal response from Washington that it has been accepted in the form we presented to them.

Mitigation – Mr. Gardner referred to a letter he has sent to the COE requesting written confirmation that the 200 acres of land between Chase and Grant is not needed for mitigation. In addition to that, he agreed with the attorney that a responsible third party is needed to procure the needed property. Attorney Casale stated that a fair and impartial way of choosing a third party would be to send out a RFP to solicit a responsible entity. He would prefer a government entity.

Mr. Gardner stated that Mr. Larry Macklin, IDNR Director, will be at the next meeting of the Natural Resources Commission on Sept. 17-18 and will meet in Hammond. It is hoped that staff will be able to meet with him for awhile; they have expressed an interest in seeing the Carlson Oxbow Park.

Mr. Gardner also informed the Board that he would be a guest speaker at the Indiana FloodPlain Managers Assoc. annual conference on Oct. 28, 29, 30th at Turkey Run State Park.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew stated there are no motions to be made. He stated that the next van tour would be on Saturday, October 17th.

Mr. Agnew announced that the public meeting for the Burr Street betterment levee that was held 6:30 p.m. August 26th was successful. The COE gave a presentation to property owners in attendance. It was well received. Approximately 18 people were in attendance.

Mr. Agnew also referred to the Appraisers workshop held August 7th. Eight appraisers attended; six of them are interested and will respond with a resume to us.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman made a motion to select the low bidder Cole Associates to do legal descriptions for Stage IV Phase 1 at a cost not to exceed \$9,200; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Huffman then made a motion authorizing staff to select the low bidder to do legal descriptions for Burr Street betterment levee. One bid was received from Cole Associates but it is anticipated that one or two more bids will be coming in. The motion will be ratified at the next meeting naming the low bidder. Motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman also reported that a letter was sent to the COE transmitting survey data and layout requesting further review for hydrology concerns at the WLTH Radio Tower in Gary.

Mr. Huffman stated that Jim Pokrajac and Jim Flora attended a coordination meeting to evaluate teamwork and interaction between the COE office and the Commission. Attending that meeting was Washington COE personnel; Cincinnati Division Hdqtrs., District Engineer from Vicksburg Hdqtrs and Chicago COE personnel. The intent of the meeting was to offer the local sponsor an opportunity to comment on the interaction of design/construction with the COE office.

Mr. Huffman also stated that the COE will be providing mapping for the total project showing existing 100 year level of flooding and the induced 50 year, 75year, and 100 year after the project is completed. Mr. Gardner added that we do not have a detailed topographic map of the existing 100-year floodplain. We need that in a reduced form so it can be used as a working tool to show property owners.

Legislative Committee – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He referred to the letter sent to Peggy Boehm, Director of the State Budget Agency, submitting a request for capital funding for \$6 million in order to keep up with the Federal schedule. Mr. Gardner emphasized to the Board members that any personal contact they have with legislators would be beneficial in stressing the need for this money.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the letter written to Portage requesting the next bond payment of \$28,643.84 that is due October 1. Mr. Tanke referred to the letter submitted to the State Budget Agency from the LMMDC requesting a total of \$17,810 of which \$1.5 million is earmarked for Portage. Mr. Tanke referred to the support letter of the \$1.5 million the Commission has written to be sent to Peggy Boehm.

Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the marina claim sheet as presented; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

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 \$93,828.23; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson stated that the Finance Committee met on Sept. 1 and reviewed several items, including Commission contracts. This has been an ongoing discussion for several years. It was concluded that the Committee would meet with CPA John Schaeffer to seek his guidance.

Mr. Gardner stated that we would be receiving a request letter from the COE for the next federal 5% cash contribution to cover the period through the end of the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. In anticipation of that letter, a motion was made by George Carlson for the approval of drawdown and payment of this amount (once request is officially received); motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter to the Commission from the Governor's Office transmitting the monies we requested for the latest drawdown. The State has initiated a new policy of giving the check to a legislator to present to us (rather than just mailing it as they have always done in the past). Senator Sandy Dempsey transmitted this check. The check is accompanied by a letter signed by the Governor.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney reported the George W. Carlson Oxbow Park dedication is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on October 8th, 1998 (it has since been changed to 1:00 on October 7th).

Mr. Delaney also reported that a recreation walk-thru is scheduled for Sept. 30 with the COE. At this time, it will be determined how the recreation looks and what remains to be done. Some concern remains on crossing the trail at busy intersections. The COE has not really addressed this problem yet. He stated that staff has completed a recreation map that Jim Pokrajac has developed. We have been asking the COE for one for a long time but never received one. Mr. Huffman inquired about putting on the map Hammond and Highland's bike path. We may be able to tie in with the extension of their trail. Munster also has a trail system.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams stated that his committee needs to set a meeting date. That date was set at September 9th at 5:00. (It was since changed to September 15th).

Other Business – There was none.

Statements from the floor – There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 7, 1998. Please note this is not our normal first Thursday of the month.**