

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1999
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Emerson Delaney
Charles Agnew
William Tanke
George Carlson
Robert Huffman
Marion Williams
Arlene Colvin

Visitors:

Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.
David Hendrix – The Times
Bob Frum – Lefty's Coho
Dan Grossman – Lake County
Surveyor's Office
David Nance – IDNR, Div. Water

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

The minutes of the March 4th, 1999 meeting were approved by a motion from Chuck Agnew after a correction of changing the meeting place to Portage from Highland as incorrectly stated in minutes; motion was seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Emerson Delaney mentioned that the Commission may soon obtain a new member to replace the existing vacancy. The Governor's Office is considering an appointment of Curt Vosti, who is the Park Director for Hammond. Appointment seems to be in the works but we have not received anything final yet.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the letter he wrote to the Congressman requesting his assistance in setting up a policy review meeting with Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works regarding the credit issue for flowage easements in the east reach remediation area. He stated that we have received a response to the letter. The Congressman has committed to seek the inclusion of report language in the Fiscal Year 2000 Energy & Water Appropriations bill directing the COE to credit the funds spent on easements toward the local match. Mr. Gardner feels this will resolve this issue.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to a letter we sent to the COE regarding pumps being turned over to us and how we are going to be able to operate them. The drainage between Chase & Grant north of 35th Avenue is still an issue. The COE has submitted a plan to us for drainage remediation and it is currently being reviewed. Mr. Huffman also stated that the east reach remediation area will be advertised for construction on April 8th and the bid opening date is scheduled for about mid-May. Construction cannot begin until the IDNR permit is in hand. Commissioner Marion Williams inquired whether a pre-bid construction meeting would be held. Although the COE does not require one, staff will look into it and see whether one could be scheduled.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin stated that a committee meeting was held March 16th (agenda in packet). She urged all members to make contact with any area legislator they know to gain support for the Commission's \$6 million budget request. Mr. Gardner has been in contact with the Senators' office and he is hoping to receive a joint letter of support for at least \$4 million. Ms. Colvin referred to the letter in the packet sent to the Congressman's office. One thing that Mr. Gardner has stressed is that the Commission does not have a reserve of state monies, as in previous sessions.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke informed the Board that a committee meeting was held on April 5th in which John Hannon and Mike Doyne attended. One item discussed was the Commission receiving a better accounting of marina dollars. Mr. Tanke would like to meet again after the budget session is over and it is determined whether the LMMDC obtains any additional monies for Portage marina. Lake Michigan lake levels are down. Since the marina is not yet complete and recreation harbors have a low Federal priority, the COE has not dredged the waterway either.

Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve a claim of \$28,643.84 to be made to NBD for the April bond payment; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Bob Frum from Lefty's Coho Landing in the audience questioned the Commission as to whose responsibility it was to clean out the waterway. If it is the Portage Port Authority, then as soon as the water level raises some, it needs cleaning very badly. Suggested that perhaps the Commission could push the Port Authority along a little. He also commented on the financial figures we receive from the city for the marina. He stated that one area of error could be that the marina does not always charge for launching fees. There are times when boaters launch when no one is manning the marina.

Mr. Pokrajac added that he attended the Mayor's breakfast for contractors where the Colonel and Imad Samara attended. They did distribute some point of contact information to all contractors who attended. Minority participation was a main topic at that meeting.

Other Business –Mr. Gardner referred to a handout of the addendum to the LCA that includes the east reach remediation area. Although we originally approved an addendum with the Chicago COE district office, it was sent to Washington COE where changes were made. The Chicago COE is now asking for approval of the revisions made. Attorney Casale had some concerns and questions and has not talked to the COE regarding those questions. Since the COE needs a response from us quickly, Mr. Carlson made a motion authorizing approval of the Addendum subject to the Attorney's, the Chairman's and the Executive Director's approval that all their concerns are addressed satisfactorily; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. All Commissioners who expressed concern would be consulted before any concurrence would be given.

Statements to the Board – There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 6, 1999.**

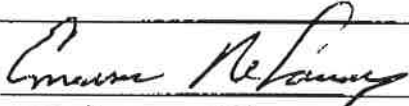

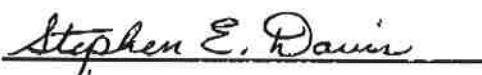
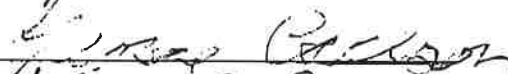


7. The development/management entity will commit to *working with the* LCRBDC on the management/maintenance plan for the LCRBDC properties and flood control improvements that are critical to sustaining of the environmentally enhanced lands. A plan will be developed to financially support this quality assured management/maintenance from the trust fund created for project maintenance.
 8. The development/management entity will commit to develop with the LCRBDC and the City of Gary an "Economic Redevelopment Action Plan" for the vacant areas in Gary that will be removed from floodplain restrictions as the result of the Little Calumet River Project. An infrastructure component consisting of increased landside surface drainage pumping capacity will be included in the plan. Upon consensus of the three parties, the development/management entity will actively participate in a targeted marketing effort.
- B. The Agreement, if any, between the LCRBDC and other entity to implement the PLAN will be entered into only at a public meeting of the LCRBDC.

ACTION BY THE BOARD:

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Recorded Vote: _____

Adopted this 6 day of May, 1999 in Portage, Ind.