

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

Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Charles Agnew
Arlene Colvin
George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
William Tanke
Bob Huffman
Emerson Delaney
John DeMeo

Visitors:

Pete Zak – South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak – South Shore Marina
Imad Samara - ACOE
Jim Flora – R.W. Armstrong Co.
Karen Flora

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

George Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10th meeting; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Emerson Delaney remarked that the dedication held to mark the half-way point of the Little Calumet River flood control/recreation construction project funding was very successful. There were almost 100 people in attendance. Speakers included Col. Peter Rowan, Congressman Pete Visclosky, State Representative Chet Dobis, Mayor Scott King, Sherylin Freeland-McGrady representing the Governor's Office, and Dan Gardner.

Chairman Delaney then appointed a Nominating Committee to meet and present a slate of officers for the year 2000 at the next Board meeting. He appointed John DeMeo, Chuck Agnew and George Carlson.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner passed around the Chicago Breeze, a monthly newspaper put out by the Chicago COE office, in which an article was written on the project half point dedication held at Lake Etta on November 12th. He thanked the Board members for attending.

He also referred to the handout "On the Trail in Northwest Indiana" in which he, as well as Jim Ranfranz and Bob Nickovich, will be featured on a TV segment on Lake Etta and the Little Cal project. Northwest IN cable television is doing a series highlighting significant public projects in northwest IN and NIRPC's role in their development. It is hoped that a future show could highlight the newly-developed Carlson Oxbow Park in Hammond-Highland.

Mr. Gardner then referred to two letters to the COE regarding financial capability of the Commission and the Burr Street betterment levee commitment. Both letters were needed by the COE in order to proceed.

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

Mr. Agnew then made a motion for staff to secure the best price and proceed with installing a new roof on the house the Commission owns and rents at 3120 Gerry Street; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion authorizing the attorney to proceed with steps necessary for the Commission to dispose (sell) this property in accordance with the Disposition of Property Act; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He informed the Board that the low bidder for Stage IV Phase 1 (North) was Dillon Contractors, Inc. at a bid amount of \$2,708,720.

He also reported that the Griffith/Kortenhoven levee is now completed except for a 70' area west of EJ&E R/W that we will tie into as part of our betterment levee, phase 1 project.

A technical review meeting was held in Chicago on November 9th. A field review was held on November 23rd for Stage VII (Northcote to Columbia in Hammond).

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin gave the report. She informed the Board that staff is still hoping to secure some additional funding to met the federal obligation. Mr. Gardner made contact with Representative Earl Harris to meet with him and Arlene tomorrow for discussion purposes. He would like to be able to secure an additional amount of \$1.5 to \$3 million in the Technical Corrections bill. Mr. Gardner added he has already talked to Representative Chet Dobis He also intends to contact the local Governor's office for their assistance.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson informed the Board that staff has met with LEL and the handicapped accessibility park was discussed and is moving along. He also stated that discussion is ongoing on the trail completion to take advantage of the \$800,000 grant that Hammond is receiving. Staff met with Dennis Cobb, engineering consultant for Hammond/Highland regarding the trail development, this afternoon to discuss the issue. It may not be feasible to move the recreation trail up on the schedule.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that there was no marina report at this time.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin made a motion to accept the financial report and approve the November claims totaling \$47,793.50; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Colvin also reported that the Finance Committee met on December 1st. She would like to schedule a second meeting before any action is taken on year-end financial issues. She will then report at the January meeting.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner distributed the minority reports received from Dyer Construction for the months of September and October. The reports show about 47% minority participation. Dyer's affirmative action plan is available if any of the commissioners wish to see it.

Other Business – Mr. Gardner introduced Imad Samara, our project manager.

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, January 7, 2000.**

/sjm