

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

Chairman Robert Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Trelo
Arlene Colvin
William Tanke
George Carlson
Robert Huffman
John DeMeo
Steve Davis
Emerson Delaney

Visitors:

Jim Flora – R.W. Armstrong Co.
Pete Zak – South Shore Marina

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the December 9th, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from John DeMeo; motion was seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bob Trelo referred to two (2) appointment letters reappointing Arlene Colvin as the city of Gary appointment and William Tanke as the Porter County Commissioners' appointment. Both terms would carry through the year 2002.

Mr. Trelo then asked for the report of the Nominating Committee, consisting of John DeMeo (chairman), Chuck Agnew and Steve Davis. Mr. DeMeo stated the committee met and he proceeded to present the slate of officers recommended for 1999. They were:

Chairman – Emerson Delaney
Vice Chairman – William Tanke
Treasurer – Arlene Colvin
Secretary – John DeMeo

Mr. DeMeo made a motion to elect Emerson Delaney as Chairman; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. DeMeo made a motion to elect William Tanke as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by Bob Huffman. Steve Davis made a motion to elect Arlene Colvin as Treasurer; motion seconded by Bill Tanke. Steve Davis made a motion to elect John DeMeo as Secretary; motion seconded by Bill Tanke.

Commissioner George Carlson questioned the policy as far as the vice chairman automatically being elected as chairman the following year. He was informed that there is no set ruling that it is automatic. In previous years, there have been some vice chairmen that have not moved up to chairman. It is not automatic.

Outgoing Chairman Bob Trelo took the opportunity to thank fellow Commissioners and staff for making his job as Chairman an easy one and stating that it has been an honor and privilege serving as Chairman. Incoming Chairman Emerson Delaney presented Mr. Trelo with a plaque in recognition of his Chairmanship for 1998. Chairman Delaney proceeded to thank the Commissioners for their vote of confidence in him. He stated that a lot of good things were done under Bob Trelo's leadership in 1998 and he hoped that a lot of good things would continue to be done in the upcoming year. He will do his best to serve the Board and all the citizens of northwest Indiana.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner distributed a report on the accomplishments in 1998. He went over the items of land acquisition, recreation, levee construction, legislative and minority contracting progress. That report is attached to the minutes. Mr. Gardner then distributed the booklet "Construction Progress Report" for the flood control/recreation project that the staff has assembled documenting facts and pictures of completed levee segments, ongoing construction of levees, and future levee contracts. The booklet will be a valuable tool for us to use to actually show where State and Federal appropriations have been spent; what we've accomplished and what's remaining to be done yet. Mr. Gardner is hopeful that it will help us in securing our \$6 million request from this biennium so we are able to keep up with the Federal schedule. We will send a copy to the legislators, the Governor's Office, Senators and Congressman with a personalized letter.

Judy Vamos stated that she has been working on the video with the company hired to put the video together. She has written the script and it is being put into the video now. It will be about 15 minutes long. It should be ready by the next meeting and we will have a screening of it available then. Discussion was held that, although the media receives all meeting notices, they do not attend our meetings. It was discussed that perhaps we should start doing press releases of our meetings so at least something will get into the newspaper.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter from the COE dated December 22, 1998 relaying approval from the Washington COE office of the Post Authorization Change (PAC) for the east reach remediation area. Although the letter approves and accepts the PAC, it still does not give credit for the flowage easements we need and that is what we are fighting for. This is the issue where we most likely will have to request Congressman Visclosky to help us out. The COE has drafted an amendment to the Local Cooperation Agreement. Some of the wording is being changed by the attorney and the COE's attorney. Mr. Gardner also mentioned that Chris Saffert of the Congressman's staff from Washington will be in the area next week and will meet with him. Mr. Gardner will take that opportunity to update him.

Mr. Gardner referred to an update from the Lake County Surveyor's Office regarding meetings held in the Lake County watershed. Analysis report from those meetings should be available in early 1999.

Land Acquisition Committee – In Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew's absence, Mr. Huffman reported that there were no motions this month. Discussion was held on staff scheduling a meeting to discuss the O&M manual. We need to respond to the COE quickly.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave a report on completed construction contracts. Six construction contracts were completed in 1998. Upcoming construction includes 3 levee segments, mitigation, and 4 pumping stations.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin referred to the report "Capital Requests and Recommendations for the Biennium 1999-2001" listing all the agencies that have requested state funds for this biennium. The good news is that they have included us in their report. The bad news is that they have included us with "0" monies. Commissioner Bob Huffman asked about a bill to allow us to dispose of excess property. Mr. Gardner stated it was too late to get a bill sponsored for this session. They will start inquiring about this but no bill or amended legislation would be drafted now. Discussion was held on what property we own that we could sell because it would not be needed for the project.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke informed the Board that there is not much going on right now. All the boats are out of the water. Mr. Gardner added that he had been talked to Mike Doyne, harbormaster at the marina, and he said they had a problem with pipes freezing and breaking at the bathhouse/administration building.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson made a motion to approve a budget transfer of \$225 from Line 5812 (NIRPC services) to Line 5811 (Legal Expenses) and a transfer of \$1,025 from 5812 (NIRPC services) to Line 5822 Printing and Advertising; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson then referred to the financial status report and claim approval list. He made a motion to accept the financial report and approve claims totaling \$64,831.52; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson reported that the Finance Committee met this week and the following was agreed upon. Mr. went over the increases and decreases in the proposed 1999 Operating Budget. The Administrative Budget is \$191,000 and the Land Acquisition Budget is \$2,432,081. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve and adopt the 1999 Budget as presented; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson then referred to the 1999 Administrative Services contract with NIRPC. He made a motion to approve the contract as presented; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed

unanimously. Mr. Tanke suggested the wording regarding telephone/fax service be stated more clearly next year. After discussion on contract agreements, Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the contract agreements with James Pokrajac and Judy Vamos; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. It was discussed that the agreements would extend through January 31st instead of December 31st. Mr. Carlson then made a motion to approve additional compensation in the form of a bonus for Dan Gardner for \$5,000 and Sandy Mordus for \$3,500; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke added that the compensation issue was not discussed at the Finance meeting and he would suggest it should be discussed at the committee meeting in the future. Mr. Carlson then made a motion to approve a \$3.50/hourly increase in the contract agreements for Jim Pokrajac and Judy Vamos. Mr. DeMeo pointed out that this raise is based on merit and performance and not automatic.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney stated he was looking forward to a clean-up program with the Lake County Parks Dept. in the spring. There will also be a dedication of new recreational facilities at Lake Etta in the spring. Mr. Delaney stated he had talked to Arnie Muzumdar from Gary on Hohman Avenue bridge plans. He will send us those plans as soon as they are available. Imad Samara is also working on a recreational feature map that we should have by the next meeting.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from the COE in the agenda packet that breaks down the contracts, contract amounts, percentage of minority labor, and the contractor. For the seven stages completed, the percentage of minority participation is at 29%. Although that percentage could be better, Board members were glad that it was at least that high. In future contracts, the COE is adding a signature block that the contractor will have to sign attesting to the validity of the supporting data showing the percentage and stronger language in the contracts will be included to define "good faith effort".

Other Business – Members were asked to return their committee preference sheets as soon as possible. Staff will follow up with those members not present. The committee assignments will be presented for ratification at the next meeting. Mr. Carlson reminded everyone that the Board took action last year to try to assign committee chairs to members who were not serving in office. In that way, all members could either be an officer or a committee chair.

Statements to the Board – There was none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 4, 1999.**

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1998

The year in review

LAND ACQUISITION:

- Acquired 93 properties with total value of \$222,000.
- Held appraisal seminar to introduce appraisers to project requirements. Contracted 5 new appraisers, all local, including 2 minority appraisers.
- Contracted minority title company - Maxi-Milian Title Corporation.
- Met acquisition deadline for construction in East Reach Remediation Area.
- Negotiated an option agreement with Lake Erie Land Company to construct a mitigation bank on the 200 acres west of Grant Street. Revenues to the LCRBDC over the 50 year proposed contract total \$1,235,000.
- Approved \$2,279,794.44 to date in crediting. (LCRBDC anticipates \$6.2 million in credit for monies spent by INDOT for bridge, culvert and road-raising construction.
- Commissioners traveled to annual NAFSMA Conference in Denver. A possibility that LCRBDC will be invited to make a presentation at next year's conference in Philadelphia.
- Received an understandable operation and maintenance manual from the Corps.

RECREATION:

Completed Recreation Phase 1 for a total cost of \$1,142,155 which included:

1. Carlson-Oxbow Park (\$302,257) Had successful dedication ceremony with 100+ people in attendance including Hammond mayor, COE officials, park department officials. Dream come true for Commissioner George Carlson.
2. Gleason Park (\$315,895) Had successful dedication ceremony with Gary mayor, park department officials, COE officials in attendance.
3. Lake Etta Park (\$245,220) Dedication to be held in spring 1999.
4. Stage III Trail - Bike Trail east on Chase Street (\$278,783) Scenic Trail with safety guard rail connects south levee Grant to Chase and then north levee Chase to Clark Road.

ENGINEERING: (LEVEE CONSTRUCTION)

Completed six (6) levee construction contracts and the landscaping contract for completed levee segments adjacent to Indiana University Northwest and I-80/94. Approximately 5+ miles (27,539 linear feet) were installed at a total contract cost of \$17,533,581.

1. Stage II (Harrison to Georgia-south levee) 3200 linear ft. cost \$3,449,883
2. Stage II Phase 3C2 (Grant to Harrison-south levee) 4000 linear ft. cost \$3,804,218
3. Stage II Phase 4 (Broadway to MLK Drive-north levee) 11,600 linear ft. cost \$4,102,098
4. Stage IV Phase 2A (Burr to Clark-north levee) 2600 linear ft. cost \$3,308,965
5. Stage IV Phase 2B (Clark to Chase-north levee) 6,139 linear ft. cost \$1,532,749
6. Landscaping - all completed levee segments to date \$1,335,718

LEGISLATIVE:

FEDERAL The U.S Congress through the efforts of Congressman Visclosky and Senators Lugar and Coats appropriated \$7 million of Federal construction money for the Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation Project for Federal fiscal year 1999. This appropriation brings the total to \$47 million in Federal project funding.

STATE The State Budget Committee on April 27, 1998 allocated \$2 million of State appropriations for project purposes and on November 18, 1998 allocated \$2 million from the 91-93 biennium for project commitments. The release of \$4 million brings over \$24 million in state funding committed to the project.

MINORITY CONTRACTING:

The Corps provided the Commission with a progress report showing a total of 29% of the total contract costs of \$16,757,010 of minority percentage of labor participation. The Corps additionally promised to include stronger language in upcoming contracts to track and document "good faith efforts" of the contractors in meeting 40% minority participation goals. Also, the Corps will require written signature of the contractors certifying the minority labor participation in the contractors project progress reports, thereby reinforcing the need for attention and accuracy.