

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

In Chairman Emerson Delaney's absence, Vice Chairman Bill Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Charles Agnew
Marion Williams
George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
William Tanke
John DeMeo
Curtis Vosti

Visitors:

David Hendrix – The Times
Denis Buksa - Munster IN
Kerry Keith – SEH, Inc.
Jim Flora – R.W. Armstrong Co.
Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Co.

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Although Bob Huffman was absent, he asked that a correction be made to the minutes. The minutes now state that he abstained in the vote on accepting Lake Erie Land Company proposal for wetland development because since he was an employee of NIPSCO, he thought it might be a conflict of interest. He asked that they be corrected to say that he did not feel it would be a conflict but that it may appear to be a conflict. Mr. Vosti made a motion to accept the minutes with this change made to them; motion was seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Vice Chairman Bill Tanke welcomed the Commission's newest Board member, Mr. John Mroczkowski. Mr. Mroczkowski is the records and research manager for the Lake County Surveyor's Office. He replaces Mr. Robert Trelo.

Mr. Tanke referred to the news articles in packet on the Lake Erie Land Company developing the Commission's lands as information.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner reported that he has been communicating with the Congressman's Office, working with Mark Lopez, toward a dedication to be held on Friday, November 12th

at the Lake Etta Park site in Gary. The dedication will signify about a halfway point in the overall project construction. An invitation to the dedication will go out under the Congressman's signature. Colonel Rowan, as well as Mayor Scott

King and Mr. Gardner himself, will be speakers. The Northwest IN delegation will also be invited and it is hoped that one of the legislators will also speak.

Mr. Gardner stated that he and attorney Casale has been working on a revised LCA for the Burr Street betterment levee. A legal document is needed to put the Burr St levee in place. Attorney Casale has been talking to the COE's office and trying to reach an agreement acceptable to both parties. Mr. Casale added that he has just tonight received a revision of that agreement and has not had time to review it. After reviewing it and working with the Executive Director and Chairman, the finished product should be ready for approval at the next Board meeting. After we approve it, it goes to Headquarters in Washington

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew stated that there were no increased offers or condemnations this month. Mr. Agnew informed Board members that a Real Estate meeting had been held on September 22nd. All Board members received minutes of that meeting. He also reported that a mitigation meeting was held on September 16th regarding the Hobart Marsh area. Mr. Gardner added that this was an initial meeting with pertinent parties. The COE is now looking at their options and are due to get back to us.

Mr. Agnew reported that letters have been sent to the farmers who presently have farm leases with us. The letter states that all the leases will be terminated for the year 2000.

Mr. Agnew referred to the letter from the Town of Griffith in which they confirm that once the Kortenhoven levee is completed, the town will accept responsibility for all future maintenance of the levee. Mr. Vosti made a motion for staff to send a letter to the town stating that it is commendable that they are taking the responsibility; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. This levee will tie into ours once our levee is built in that area.

Mr. Vosti inquired about the 18 month policy for land acquisition that was mentioned in the Real Estate minutes. Judy Vamos replied that this is a period of time that she felt should be a minimum of time and that we had no set time previous to now.

Mr. Vosti asked Mr. Gardner about funding. Mr. Gardner replied that although we were appropriated \$1.5 million in the Special Build IN fund, it is hoped that we can pursue another \$1.5 - \$2.5 million to be able to keep up with the Federal schedule.

Mr. Agnew stated that there is a meeting scheduled for Monday with Lake Erie Land Company to discuss the development of the handicapped park.

Project Engineering Committee – In Committee Chairman Bob Huffman's absence, Mr. Agnew gave the report. He stated that there were no motions to be made tonight. He further stated that the pre-construction meeting on the East Reach Remediation area was held on September 9th. Construction clearing and grubbing has begun. IDNR has approved the permit and we have received it (copy in packet).

He further reported that Cole & Associates are completing surveys for the Woodmar Country Club and Wicker Park area. Appraisals will be assigned once these surveys are received.

Legislative Committee – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He informed the Board members that progress has been made. The COE letter, in packet, that states the Federal budgetary needs was forward to the State Budget Agency. After talking with Representative Earl Harris and meeting with Representative Chet Dobis, they were successful in getting the Little Cal project on the Budget Committee agenda for approval. Mr. Gardner went to the Budget meeting in Indianapolis on September 10th and we were able to secure \$1.5 million out of the Special Build IN fund. That is still not enough to meet the COE schedule (if all goes on schedule). It is hoped that the Commission can still secure at least an additional \$1.5 million in a special session. Mr. Vosti asked what would happen if we do not enough money to keep up with the Federal schedule; Mr. Gardner answered that the schedule will slip and it will just take us that much longer to finish.

Mr. Gardner referred to the news article that Congress has approved \$16 million in water projects for Indiana. The flood control project has \$9.4 million of that and there is \$1.8 million to fund dredging of Burns Waterway. He stated that the Congressman is doing an excellent job in securing money for northwest Indiana.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the letter in the agenda packet that Mayor Dedelow had sent to Senator Richard Lugar requesting his assistance in urging the COE to expedite its recreational spending at the OxBow area so the connecting bridge can be built when the Hammond-Highland grant money is received. The bridge for a connecting link so the entire trail system will connect. It is our responsibility that the bridge be built. Staff has written 2 letters to the COE asking for a breakdown of costs to move that portion up on the schedule and relaying to them the Board's desire to pursue this.

Mr. Carlson stated that today is the first year anniversary of the dedication that was held on the Carlson OxBow Park in Hammond. He stated he was pleased that so many improvements have been made to the park just in this year's time. They are now in the process of getting water to the site to be able to water the flowers and shrubs.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the news article in the agenda packet announcing that docking fees will increase at the Portage Public Marina for the next boating season, as a result of the Board of Public Works. This is the first increase in four years. Mr. Tanke also reported that the committee met with Mayor-elect Doug Olsen on September 20th and brought him up to date on the marina development issues. He seemed very interested and very cooperative to working with us.

Mr. Tanke reported that the COE met with IDNR/IDEM/City officials regarding the dredging of the Burns Waterway. All were very optimistic that with money in place that dredging would take place next year. There is sampling that is ongoing now to determine whether it is clean enough sand for beach nourishment. There is about 170,000 cubic yards and if sand is good, and it is expected to be good, it can be used for Ogden Dunes.

Mr. Vosti made a motion for the attorney to send a letter to the City requesting the year end financial statement from the marina site; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report and claims for approval. Mr. Carlson made a motion to accept the financial report and approve the September claims; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner also reported that the COE has requested a \$300,000 withdrawal from the escrow account.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams reported that the COE and Commission are planning a public pre bid meeting on October 13th here at the office. This pre bid meeting will be for Stage IV Phase 1 North (Cline to Burr). Area contractors were invited. Mr. Gardner added that we have targeted minority contractors to attend. Jim Pokrajac added that the pre-construction meeting was held with Dyer Construction, who received the award of the East Reach Remediation area. It was brought to their attention that the COE would expect regular minority participation reports from them through the project. COE said they will keep us informed and we will receive monthly reports.

Other Business – Commissioner Chuck Agnew thanked the Board and staff for the plant that was sent to him while in the hospital and added that he was feeling great now.

Statements to the Board –Don Ewoldt of Lake Erie Land Company stated he would like a list of the contractors that either the COE or the Commission does business with. Mr. Gardner informed him of the 40% minority participation that is requested and Mr. Ewoldt stated they would like to do the same when construction starts for wetland development.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 10, 1999. Please note that this is a change from our regular first Thursday of the month meetings, which we try to schedule.**

/sjm