

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney 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:

Emerson Delaney
Arlene Colvin
George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
William Tanke
Bob Huffman
Curt Vosti

Visitors:

Kerry Keith - SEH
Jomary Crary - IDNR
Jim Flora, R.W.Armstrong Company
Walter Church – Boy Scouts, Troop 280
Ray Ortiz – Boy Scouts, Troop 280
Pete & Mary Jane Zak – South Shore Marina

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Mr. George Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2nd meeting after a correction was made adding Commissioner Arlene Colvin to the members present and deleting John DeMeo as not being there; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin ; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti made a motion for the Board to dispense from the normal order of business to allow representatives from Boy Scout Troop 280 to address the Board; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vosti then introduced Walter Church, Scoutmaster, to the Board. Mr. Church thanked the Commission for our support at last year's cleanup/planting at the river near Catalpa and Northcote Avenues and shared some photographs taken at that time. They are planning an event again this year to be held June 2-3-4. Mr. Vosti made a motion that the Commission hereby resolve to support and recognize the efforts of Troop 280 on June 2-3-4 in beautifying areas along the Little Calumet River; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously. The Board members supported Judy Vamos in her request to supply pizza again this year for the scouts and accompanying volunteers. Mr. Vosti then made a motion to return to the normal order of business; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Emerson Delaney talked about the two meetings that have been held (on March 24th and April 4th) by the Lake Erie Land Company regarding the Great Konomick River Restoration project, which will establish an environmental/recreational area along the Grand Calumet and the Little Calumet River corridors. Discussion ensued in how this project ties in with the Commission. Mr. Gardner explained that he sees this project as complimentary to our project and a real asset and economic benefit to the area. Once LEL has exercised their option with us to develop our lands back to a natural state, it makes sense to further expand those lands to incorporate other vacant lands. Private sector funding will be brought into improving the river corridor.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner stated that he and Attorney Casale have met with Mark Lopez and Mark Savinski of the Congressman's staff to talk about funding. Their basic message to us from the Congressman was to keep on schedule with the COE and proceed ahead and not delay stages of construction because of funding. He stated that if the Commission runs out of money, he would talk to the Governor himself. Mr. Gardner further stated that the Commission's top priority is to get into the Governor's budget for the next biennium.

Mr. Gardner informed the Board meeting that a 'conference call meeting' was held on March 13th with the COE and IDNR to discuss mitigation. No construction can begin in the west reach (Cline Avenue westward to the Stateline) until a mitigation plan is accepted by IDNR and a permit is obtained from them. Minutes from that call is contained in the agenda packet. The COE has now made a commitment to submit a final mitigation plan to IDNR by mid-May. Jomary Cray from DNR added that the mitigation plan has to have a schedule so they will be accountable to a time frame. Mr. Gardner thanked Jomary, who initiated the phone call to get everyone together.

Mr. Gardner also stated that he made a presentation to the Merrillville Garden Club on March 14th. The club intends to donate some birdhouses to the Commission for placement along the river.

Land Acquisition Committee – In Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew's absence, Mr. Vosti gave the report. He informed the Board members that a committee meeting was held on March 28th. Mr. Vosti then proceeded to make a motion to accept the one bid received from Ed and Tim Bult, with staff working out what amount of the land is tillable; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti made a motion granting approval for staff to contract out a demolition contract for the removal of structures on DC793; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti informed fellow Board members that staff is proceeding to work with River Forest School to develop a plan for handicapped play equipment on school property.

Mr. Vosti stated he had talked with Munster resident Terry Savage in regard to follow-up with what the Board can do in assisting him in floodproofing his home prior to the construction project coming to his particular area.

Staff will talk to the COE about what floodproofing they had planned for his house prior to the decision to just purchase his house, as well as the other three homes in that immediate area. Mr. Gardner added that Jomary Crary from IDNR has brought some information for our use in that regard.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He referred to Arlene Colvin in regard to the Mayor's Minority Contractor Breakfast held on March 24th. Arlene informed the Board members that this is an annual event that the Mayor holds for area local contractors to discuss upcoming construction contracts within the city. Imad Samara from the COE attended and passed along information in regard to the Little Cal construction stages coming up. Arlene added that about 150 people were in attendance.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Huffman made a motion to increase the maximum amount allowable for survey work from \$5000 to \$7500 cap for staff to proceed with contracts without prior Board approval; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke asked staff to make cost comparison between the surveyor and title companies in regard to pulling title deeds.

Mr. Huffman proceeded to make a motion to accept the low bid from Two Uncles Construction in the amount of \$14,334 for the construction of a new garage on DC 448 to replace the existing garage that must be demolished due to our project; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman reported that Earth Tech has suggested a value engineering item to use sheet pilings in the existing levees in lieu of currently proposed I-walls. Mr. Flora has submitted comments to the COE. A COE technical review meeting is scheduled for April 13th. The COE has now informed us of their intent to re-activate the engineering contract for Stage VIII with SEH. Also, a meeting was held today with the representative who manufactures floodwall formliners. Staff will keep Board informed as we progress. Mr. Huffman also informed the Board that the right-of-entry was signed for Stage IV Phase 1 South (EJ&E RR to Burr Street, south of Norfolk Southern RR) and given to the COE. Mr. Pokrajac added that there were 5 or 6 bidders and it appears that Dyer Construction was the low bidder. The revised Addendum to the LCA for Burr Street Betterment levee was sent to Washington for their approval. The project is on hold until the addendum is signed.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the letter Mr. Gardner wrote to Imad regarding no additional funding and the close of the legislative session. Mr. Carlson added that he was glad to see the appropriate persons were copied on the letter. He added further that it is good that the Congressman is supporting the Commission moving ahead and not delaying any phases of construction because of state funding. The Congressman has secured \$8.8 million Federal dollars for this project this year. Mr. Carlson then referred to the Congressman's letter to the COE stating that we will meet our financial capability. Mr. Gardner added that he felt if we were in the Governor's budget in the legislative session, we may not have to work so hard to obtain state dollars. He suggested a Legislative Committee meeting in the near future to

discuss strategy. Chairman Delaney added that he felt we needed more public awareness. Although the media is invited to each monthly meeting, they are seldom present.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti reported that signs need to be ordered for posting along the trails. The design and wording of those signs, as well as ordinances and safety concerns, need to be addressed before proceeding. Mr. Vosti suggested that the committee should meet before the next meeting. Discussion was held on the trail connection between Highland and Hammond. That issue has not yet been resolved satisfactorily. Mr. Huffman had a good suggestion in re-locating the trail to place it on the landward side and not the river side. A connection could be made without impact to COE design. Mr. Pokrajac felt that it was a good idea and will pass it along to the COE. Mr. Vosti asked him to please make it an agenda item for the COE technical review meeting coming up on the 13th.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave an update on the dredging of Burns Waterway. Although the permit is received, dredging has not begun yet. A contract is in place so dredging should begin soon. Mr. Tanke referred to the public hearing notice in the agenda packet regarding the new complex that will be going in at the northeast quadrant of Route 249 and I80/94. He expressed concern as to the impact the two stormwater outfall structures have on the river. He proceeded to make a motion for staff to check with IDNR to look closely at these two 66" diameter culverts to make sure they would be adequate for the anticipated drainage; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke also stated that a marina committee meeting needs to be scheduled shortly.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin presented the claims for approval. Mr. Tanke questioned the amount of money that was labeled as "proceeds from voided checks". It was explained that this was a large amount of money returned from Whiteco. It was in payment for some of their signs that were removed from the project construction area. The check was not cashed because Whiteco was in the process of changing hands. The company is now Lamar and staff has already met with them and another check will be cut shortly once the exact amount is determined. Mr. Tanke also questioned where the LEL money was located on the financial statement. When told it was in a separate CD in the amount of \$90,056, he asked that it be broke out separately in a wetlands maintenance account. Arlene Colvin proceeded to make a motion to approve the February claims totaling \$154,325.05; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Minority Contracting Committee – Mr. Gardner stated that a committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Other Business – Mr. Vosti inquired about the status of Woodmar Country Club property. Judy Vamos answered that it is in the process of being appraised. An initial inspection will be made on April 17 with the manager and groundsman. She mentioned that we may have to contract with a golf architect. There is a concern in how much we will be damaging the golf course.

Judy Vamos also informed the Board that she accompanied the COE today on a mitigation site review. They visited the proposed mitigation sites at 29th & Handley in Black Oak and Liable & Cline in Highland.

Statements to the Board – Jomary Crary from IDNR informed us of a program whereas Access Indiana would provide the design of a web site for the Commission at no charge. She has checked and found out that the Commission does quality for this service because we are a state agency. Mr. Gardner stated he had checked into this awhile back but the wait was a really long time. Jomary was told that the wait now would only be about 4-6 weeks.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2000.**

/sjm