

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2000
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

John DeMeo
Charles Agnew
Emerson Delaney
William Tanke
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
Curt Vosti
Bob Huffman
Arlene Colvin

Visitors:

Bill Petrites, Highland resident
Jomary Crary - IDNR
Jim Flora, R.W. Armstrong Company
Don Ewoldt, LEL
Sandy O'Brien, Sierra Club
Denis Buksa, Munster resident
Louise Karwowski, Sierra Club
George Smolka, Sierra Club
Herb Read, Izaak Walton League
Judee Roper, Don Walsh & Assoc.
Imad Samara, COE
Jim Rice, River Forest Community Schools
Robert Marszalek, River Forest
Richard Arnold, River Forest
Dan Whitten, River Forest
Marshall Gilliana, River Forest
Tarik El-Naggar, IN Architects & Planners
Bruce Jones, Portage resident
Lynnette Fleming, Portage resident

Staff

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Commissioner Bob Huffman corrected the minutes on p.5 by stating that in the Marina Committee report, Commissioner Bill Tanke was not present at the meeting. He proceeded to make a motion a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6th meeting with that correction; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Emerson Delaney announced the resignation of John DeMeo. He proceeded to thank him for his dedicated service to the Commission for 20 years and he will really be missed. He is moving to Florida and has officially resigned Oct. 1. Mr. DeMeo expressed his sadness in leaving the Commission and the friends he has made here and will really miss being a part of the Commission.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner reported that he had the opportunity to meet the new Colonel Mark A. Roncoli, (along with outgoing Lt. Col. Peter Rowan) in our office on July 17th. The two of them were touring the project areas and met with us for a project briefing. Several Commissioners attended the meeting

also. The Change of Command ceremony has already taken place so Col. Mark A. Roncoli has officially taken over.

Mr. Gardner talked about the meeting at the Chicago COE's office on August 1st in which wetland mitigation was discussed. He felt the meeting went very well and the Commission and the COE are finally on the same page. He referred to the letter in the packet from Phil Bernstein, COE Planning Div. Mr. Gardner has also communicated with Mark Lopez, Congressman Visclosky's staff in regard to the mitigation issue. The Commission wants the 179 acres that it owns to be considered in the analysis as part of the potential mitigated land. At the COE Washington level, land must be first identified, then mitigation construction can be bid. The COE and Commission have agreed to do a public notice to solicit any lands that would be available to be considered for mitigation. After the lands are identified, then an RFP could be done for construction of the wetlands. Jomary Crary from IDNR stressed the importance of moving forward on this issue or no permit from IDNR would be obtained. Attorney Casale proceeded with reading the "Request for Proposals". Curt Vosti made a motion to adopt the public notice and publish it accordingly by state law; motion seconded by Bob Huffman. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vosti then proceeded to make a motion to suspend with the rules of order and let the public comment relative to the mitigation issue; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

- Don Ewoltd asked who was going to do the hydrology analysis to determine the suitability of the land. Imad answered that the COE along with IDNR and IDEM will meet to look at the areas.
- Herb Read stated that he thought the criteria to be used to determine quality of wetlands is fine. He feels that the land needed has to have the features but is not now a high grade wetland so it can be turned into a wetland. A site should not be selected that is to be reserved for flood water storage.
- Sandy O'Brien – An area should be selected that is adjacent to land managers because someone will have to manage the land.
- Don Ewoltd – Asked if we would expect the landowner to operate and maintain it. Discussion ensued in changing the RFP to read "to provide for" the O&M rather than the entity have to operate and maintain.

Curt Vosti then made a motion to end public comment and return to order of business; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti then made a motion to modify the RFP to reflect the addition of "to provide for" in front of operation and maintenance on line 6; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner referred to the letter in the agenda packet from Sara Bowers of the State Budget Agency (SBA) in regard to the \$1.792 million that we were told we had available to us and then discovered they had made an error and the \$1.792 million is not there. We had questioned the SBA several times when they first told us we had that amount of money. Our records indicated that we did not. Once we were provided with documentation listing amounts available in several budget bienniums, we assumed their records were correct. However, we

have now received a letter from the SBA saying their records were incorrect and they had allotted more money than was appropriated by the General Assembly; thus the \$1.792 million does not exist. We had made decisions based on that money so we have now incurred some financial implications. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Mr. Gardner and Jim Pokrajac talked on the meeting held with the COE Cincinnati Division held on July 31st regarding construction coordination.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported there were no increased offers or condemnations. Mr. Agnew informed the levees would be mowed shortly. C&H would be doing the mowing. We will be using Precision Lawn to do some small jobs that we have. They are a small minority company out of Gary that does not have the equipment to do levee mowing.

Mr. Agnew then stated that a meeting was held earlier tonight with school officials from River Forest School, LEL, IN Architects and the LCRBDC. Discussion centered on the proposed Handicapped Park. Copies of the proposed plan was distributed to all members. He then introduced Bob Marszalek from River Forest and Tarik El-Naggar from IN Architects & Planners, who proceeded with a presentation of the proposed park. The park plan was very well received. The total preliminary cost estimate is \$640,192. The school officials are very excited about this and very grateful for the opportunity we're giving them to receive this park. Mr. Agnew proceeded to make a motion to extract 32 acres from the original 904 acres from the lease/option with LEL so that LEL will be able to fund the park with mitigation credits to be sold; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously. This park development will link up with the river corridor. Mr. Tanke then proceeded to make a motion that the park be officially known as "The Charles Agnew Handicapped Park and Community Building"; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew referred to the letter from John Lowe, Manager of the South Gleason Golf Course in Gary, to Tom Allenson, COE Detroit branch regarding a revised design of a new plan for their proposed golf course. Their previous plan had too many wetlands and they are hoping this revised plan will warrant a COE permit. We wrote a support letter on their behalf to the Detroit COE office. The Gary Park Dept. hopes to build the 3-hole youth golf course and driving range with the appraised value of the easements we received from them.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He thanked staff for sending out the committee agendas before the meeting date. He informed the Board that a pre design meeting for Stage VIII was held on July 21st. It was discussed at this meeting that the COE would facilitate surveying and property identification for this area. Mr. Huffman also reported that it appears the COE will be using the value engineering proposal to drive sheet piling into the existing levees in Stage VII and requested that we research to see if any other projects had been done using this method by the COE.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the letter to Betty Cockrum, State Budget Director, in which the Commission has request funding of \$12 million in this 2001-03 biennium. Mr. Gardner explained the letter and our need for the \$12 million to keep up with the Federal schedule. Mr. Tanke asked Dan to set up a legislative committee meeting in the near future.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti reported that the primary recreational focus has been the handicapped park in Lake Station. He asked staff to schedule a meeting with the COE and the Recreation Committee to talk about the planned recreational features upcoming in the west reach.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke reported that the dredging of Burns Waterway is completed. He also reported that the LMMDC has submitted a \$25 million budget request to the State budget Agency for this biennium and \$1.5 million of that is requested by the city of Portage to finish out the completion of the marina.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin referred to the monthly financial status sheet and claims in the amount of \$158,593.54 distributed to Board members (replacing the financial sheets that are in the agenda packet). She proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status sheet and the July claims; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin also referred to the letter from the USGS regarding our share cost of the operating and maintaining of the 2 gaging stations that DNR will be billing us for. She proceeded to make a motion to provide funding for the gaging stations; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner stated that he has submitted a letter to Eloise Gentry honoring her request to fund the cost of paint for the Urban League (building was marred because of construction project). We are also using Jerry Holcomb (his resume submitted by Eloise Gentry) for some property maintenance jobs.

Other Business – Commissioner Chuck Agnew informed the Board that acceptance of the handicapped park proposal by IN Architects will come before the River Forest school board at 7:00 p.m. on August 15th. He invited the Board members. Assistant Superintendent Bob Marszalek invited anyone who wanted to come early to view the area, he would take them on a tour of the property. Mr. Agnew then thanked fellow board members for naming the handicapped park after him; it was really appreciated.

Statements to the Board – Don Ewoldt asked DNR or COE what the time frame was for mitigation. Imad replied we will work as quickly as possible to identity lands. Jomary Crary from DNR reinforced that no permit would be given for the west reach until the mitigation issue is resolved. Herb Read thanked the Board for the discussion on the mitigation topic and is happy to see the process moving. He also was glad to see the dredging sand from the waterway placed on Ogden Dunes beach.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 7, 2000.**