

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2000
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Charles Agnew
Emerson Delaney
George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
William Tanke
Bob Huffman
Curtis Vosti

Visitors:

Bill Petrites, Highland resident
Jomary Crary - IDNR
Jim Flora, R.W. Armstrong Company

Staff

Dan Gardner
Lorraine Kray
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Chairman Emerson Delaney introduced Lorraine Kray, a person hired to do crediting of properties that the Commission has acquired. She will work about 3 days a week on a hourly contract basis.

Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4th meeting; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Emerson Delaney talked about the retreat meeting held on May 16th. The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the Commission's financial situation and our concern that we will not be able to keep up with the COE's construction schedule. A meeting with the Congressman is scheduled for July 6th in which Emerson, Dan, Lou and the Legislative Committee will attend.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner announced an upcoming meeting with the COE on June 7th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is a partnering meeting to be held at the Courtyard Hotel business meeting room with a facilitator to help keep everyone focused on the issue at hand. The topic of the day will be the scheduling of the remainder of the project and how we are going to meet that schedule. The funding issue was not suppose to be a part of the issue; we were to proceed on what we were going to do to keep up, pretending that we had all the money needed to meet our share. At the end of the day, we were to have a "plan in hand " that would be workable and achievable. We must be able to show capability to meet their schedule. We will then be able to go to the Congressman with that schedule to show him what we need and develop a state strategy to meet the schedule.

Mr. Gardner updated the Board members on the latest meeting on the Great Konomick River Restoration project, which will establish an environmental/recreational area along the Grand Calumet and the Little Calumet River corridors. A master plan is being developed by J. F. New. It will include the entire Lake Michigan watershed, including all tributaries. Mr. Gardner referred to his letter to Senator Lugar's Office, keeping that office in the loop regarding the environmental restoration efforts being made by LEL. We are also going to meet jointly with LEL to talk to the Times Editorial Board in developing further news coverage. Commissioner Curt Vosti asked if the Commission was fully on board with this Great Konomick River Restoration project. Mr. Gardner replied that we see no reason why we should not be, especially at this point in time. Mr. Vosti's concern is that we should be cautious; there may be some aspects that are not to our advantage.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew gave the report. He informed the Board members that there are no increased offers or condemnations this month. He stated that we have received a letter from the COE directing us to pursue acquisition of Stage VI properties. The Real Estate meeting was held via conference call on May 25th. A discussion then ensued on the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. The COE office is now saying we need to purchase the land even though it is out of our jurisdiction. Mr. Gardner added that we are seeking a formal letter from the COE with this new directive. We will send a response letter submitting our previous letter to the Colonel. A meeting needs to be scheduled to have this discussion on mitigation responsibilities.

Mr. Pokrajac added that several phases of construction are completed and the COE is anxious to turn those completed sections over to us for operation and maintenance. We need to have a meeting to discuss this topic.

Mr. Agnew talked about the clean-up/plantings that Boy Scout Troop 280 is going to do on the Little Calumet River at Riley School area in Hammond. The Commission is going to provide lunch for the volunteers in gratitude for their hard work. Mr. Pokrajac suggested that the Scouts make sure they take pictures of all their plantings so that when the COE project comes to that area, there will be documentation of what kinds of plants/shrubs/bushes, flowers were there (so they can be replaced in kind).

Mr. Agnew also reported that Stage VII engineering is being done now.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He informed the Board that Dyer Construction will be doing Stage IV Phase 1 South. He also reported that Dillon Contractors will be doing Stage IV Phase 1 North construction. Both stages have been started. Dyer Construction has also received the contract on the Betterment Levee Phase 1. That construction will probably start about August of this year.

Mr. Huffman reported that a technical review meeting was held on May 10th at the COE office. It was determined that they will be using form liners in the base bid. There was a VE proposal for sheet piling for levees and they will review it on a per location basis to see if it will be used.

There were several meetings held (May 15th and 17th) with the town of Highland to inform them and update them on construction features in that town. They would like to see the construction schedule speed up. They talked about funding. Mr. Gardner stated that we are showing an aggressive schedule to meet the Federal dollars available. The length of time acquisition takes was also a topic of discussion. Judy Vamos added that we are talking about using outside firms to coordinate the appraisal/purchase process.

Attorney Casale added that appraisal review process has always been a bottleneck. The COE has eliminated a lot of our appraisers because they felt they did not meet COE standards and the appraisers we do have, they critique much too harshly. It is an ongoing problem.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson read the letter in the agenda packet from the State Budget Agency approving the latest \$1.5 million from the Special Build IN Fund and then the letter from Rep. Pat Bauer transmitting the \$1.5 million check to Rep. Chet Dobis to present to us.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti referred to the letter in the agenda packet from the COE in response to Bob Huffman's suggestion that the trail connection configuration be changed from river side to land side to allow for more efficient connection of the four trails in that immediate area. The COE is reviewing the trail layout and they appear to be receptive to the idea.

Mr. Vosti asked staff to prepare a one page list of proposed recreational enhancements for the west reach and to include the already existing recreational features at Carlson-Oxbow Park. Mr. Carlson proceeded to talk on the history of how the exchange of land took place between city of Hammond and town of Highland for the oxbow area.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave an update on the dredging of Burns Waterway. Dredging was delayed because of tar balls that were found in and about the waterway. It is reported that the dredging will finally be underway.

Mr. Tanke, Dan Gardner and attorney Lou Casale met with Jerry Hodges of the Portage Port Authority. They discussed how to best finish the marina (to build out remaining slips) and a better way of reporting financial records of the marina. Mr. Tanke felt that Mr. Hodges understood the marina history and will be very receptive to working with us.

Finance Committee – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the revised claims for approval as distributed. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status sheet and the April claims totaling \$81,056.97; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner referred the Dyer Construction contract sheets regarding minority participation percentages, which were above the 40% goal we have. They appear to be doing a good job of hiring minorities and have been very consistent in turning in their reports. Mr. Huffman asked staff if Dillon Contractors (contractors for Stage IV-1N) are aware of the

40% minority goal. Mr. Pokrajac stated that in the pre-construction meeting, he will make sure they are aware. He said that they are obligated to turn in reports (it is not optional).

Other Business – Attorney Lou Casale referred to a Commission resolution that is required by Ameritech for some relocation work they must do to accommodate the construction project. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the resolution for Ameritech relocation work; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner George Carlson asked that recognition be given to fellow Commissioner Bob Huffman for his solution to the trail problem in Hammond/Highland. He commended and thanked him for his solution. The Commission was very appreciative. Chairman Delaney asked about the possibility of putting up a plaque at that location. It would be good for public awareness.

Jim Pokrajac stated that the Betterment Levee construction would be starting in a few months. Imad Samara had asked us whether we wanted a groundbreaking ceremony since it is a local project. He asked that the Commissioners think about it. Mr. Gardner said that maybe we should ask the Congressman.

Discussion ensued on attorney Lou Casale leaving the firm of Lucas, Holcomb & Medrea and going out on his own. He presented a letter from the firm that requires board action as to whether we wanted to keep him as our attorney or whether we wanted to keep the firm itself. Mr. Vosti made a motion that the Development Commission retain Lou Casale as the Commission's attorney; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Statements to the Board – Bill Petrites, Highland resident, expressed concern he had that adequate draining would be a problem after INDOT took down the bridge on Indpls. Blvd. INDOT has requested some land he owns (as well as his parents) and has presented the construction plans to him. Mr. Petrites does not want to negotiate a land settlement with INDOT until he knows that increased water will not happen. Once the levee is in place, the water cannot get to the river. The town, as well as us, would like to see a pump station put in. The town of Highland also has a problem with the existing plan. No less flood protection should be given than what is at least there right now. He expressed surprise that INDOT has not shared their plans with us. Mr. Pokrajac stated that a meeting was held a few years back in which he believes the COE and INDOT exchanged plans for that area. However, to his knowledge, there has been no follow-up since then. Staff will ask the COE office what they know. After discussion, Mr. Vosti made a motion for staff to write a letter to INDOT stating that the public has come to us and expressed concern about drainage and ask for a written response (copies should be sent to the town of Highland and the COE); motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

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