

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2000
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

In Chairman Emerson Delaney's absence, Vice Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Charles Agnew
Arlene Colvin
George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Steve Davis
William Tanke
Bob Huffman

Visitors:

Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Company
Jomary Crary - IDNR
Jim Flora, R.W. Armstrong Company
Jerry Hodges – Portage Port Authority

Staff

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Mr. George Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6th meeting; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Vice Chairman Bill Tanke announced the appointment letter received from IDNR re-appointing Steve Davis to the Commission for another term. Mr. Huffman asked staff to write a letter to DNR stating that Steve Davis has been a valuable member.

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. Don Ewoldt was here in the office today to talk about and show their video to the NIRPC Environmental Committee. May 10th is the next meeting at I.U. Northwest where Dan and Judy will be showing our video on the Little Calumet River flood control project. Mr. Ewoldt talked about the various groups really coming together and getting excited about the Restoration project and has talked to IDEM and informed them of a master plan of the entire area being developed by J. F. New Company. He also informed the Board that a site has been found for the handicapped park at River Forest Elementary School in Lake Station. It will be about 1 to 2 weeks to put a plan in place. An agreement with LEL needs to be drafted by the attorney. Mr. Gardner will keep the Commission informed as plans develop.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the Section 902 Post Authorization Change Report that has been sent to Headquarters for COE approval. All Commissioners have received a copy. The Corps has determined the increased amount and the Commission did not have any input. Since we have had

no acquisition in the west reach yet, we do not have a good feel for what costs may be incurred. The total recommended project cost to Headquarters was \$180 million. There is an inflation rate + 20% over cost built in without going back to Washington for approval. Mr. Tanke questioned why the non-federal share has increased to 27.2% (versus the 25% it is now). Mr. Gardner answered that the increase is due to the increased cost of the lands, easements, and rights-of-way we must acquire as local sponsor. The federal government cannot exceed 75% and, unfortunately, we have no containment on our end. Therefore, it is our percentage (as local sponsor) that increases. Mr. Gardner added that in the new PCA, the percentage is 65/35. Page 7 of the PAC lists out the new recommended project cost estimates compared to the previous cost estimates.

Mr. Gardner referred to a public hearing notice from Detroit Corps office regarding a notice of change for regional general wetland permitting from 5 acres to 1 acre. We have also received IDEM's 404 Water Quality Certification general permitting updates. Don Ewoldt added that he and J. F. New had attended a conference on wetland permitting where about 35 were expected and about 180 attended.

Mr. Gardner added that staff would be meeting with Highland Town Council members on May 15th to update them on the project features and scheduling.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew gave the report. He informed the Board members that he, Dan, Judy and Don Ewoldt met at River Forest school to view firsthand how a handicapped park would fit in that location. Dan stated that it is an excellent site and was impressed with the potential of the property. Mr. Ewoldt concurred and stated plans would be underway. Mr. Agnew said the school, with their limited budget, is thrilled that we want to develop a park on school property.

Mr. Agnew referred to the short term budget sheet covering the next 5 months to show critical need for funding to keep on schedule with the COE's schedule. Mr. Gardner explained the figures and how we could be out of money if all utility relocations and land acquisition would happen within this time frame. He is meeting with Imad on Tuesday to talk about scheduling versus funding. The Commission then needs to meet with the Congressman and pursue getting into the Governor's budget.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He informed the Board that the LCA for the Burr Street betterment levee has been approved by Washington for construction and bid opening on May 9th. There is also a pre-construction meeting scheduled for Stage IV Phase 1 South for May 11th. There is also a Technical Review meeting in Chicago on May 10th at which staff will attend. A final inspection for the completed Stage II Phase 3C levee construction is scheduled for May 16th. The issue of operation and maintenance once again needs to be looked at carefully. It is still hoped that Gary Sanitary District will accept the responsibility of operation for the 4 pump stations in Gary. There are still some remaining questions they have of the Corps that have not been resolved yet.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson stated he would like a Legislative Committee meeting before the next Commission meeting. Staff will schedule and inform members.

Recreational Development Committee – In Committee Chairman Curt Vosti's absence, Mr. Gardner referred to the Recreation Report all members received. Mr. Pokrajac added that, with Bob Huffman's suggestion, staff wrote a letter to the COE asking consideration be given to relocating the trail between the south levee north of Tri State to Wicker Park on the land side of protection. In that way, the trail with Hammond, Highland, and LCRBDC would be contiguous. This is a question that will be discussed at the Technical Review meeting on May 10th.

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 contractor has been selected to do the work. It appears the dredging will be delayed until about May 20-22 to analyze some tar balls found in the waterway.

Mr. Tanke referred to the letter in the packet from Greg Sobkowski, Portage city attorney, officially stating that control of the Portage Public Marina would be transferred to the Portage Port Authority from the Board of Public Works and Safety. Mr. Casale added that he had been informed by telephone prior to the letter and he sees no problem with that transfer. Chuck Agnew made a motion directing staff to write a letter to Mayor Doug Olson informing him that it is satisfactory with us; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke asked Gerry Hodges, Portage Port Authority, that he would like a meeting set up, at his convenience, with he and the Mayor. Mr. Gardner will facilitate such a meeting after May 8th. Issues that need to be discussed is the joint inter-local agreement with the city, continued obligation with the COE to build out the slips, financial reporting done in a different fashion, etc.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin presented the claims for approval. Ms. Colvin proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status sheet and the March claims totaling \$69,464.58; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Minority Contracting Committee – In Committee Chairman Marion Williams' absence, Mr. Gardner referred to the handout of the February and March Minority Utilization Update reports from Dyer Construction that pertains to the East Reach Remediation area. The percentage of minority participation hours is actually higher than the 40% goal set by the Commission. Arlene Colvin asked when the next 8A contract was. Mr. Gardner will talk to the COE and find that information out.

Other Business – Bob Huffman inquired about the recent non-attendance of one of the Commission members. Mr. Gardner will give him a call.

Statements to the Board – There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 1, 2000.**