

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2000  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney 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:**

John Mroczkowski  
Charles Agnew  
Emerson Delaney  
William Tanke  
Curt Vosti  
Bob Huffman  
Mark Reshkin

**Visitors:**

Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Company  
Sandy O’Brien - Sierra Club  
Denis Buksa - Munster  
Jim Flora - R.W. Armstrong Company

**Staff**

Dan Gardner  
Sandy Mordus  
Lou Casale  
Jim Pokrajac  
Judy Vamos

Commissioner Curt Vosti made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2000; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

**Chairman’s Report** – Chairman Delaney introduced Dr. Mark Reshkin, a new Board member recently appointed by the Governor for a 4-year term He also announced the re-appointments by the Governor of John Mroczkowski, Chuck Agnew and himself.

Chairman Delaney then proceeded to appoint a Nominating Committee. He appointed Arlene Colvin, Chuck Agnew and Curt Vosti.

Committee sheets were distributed for Board members to make their committee selections for the year 2001.

**Executive Director’s Report** - Mr. Gardner updated the Board members with the project wetland mitigation report. He indicated that he had hoped to share a matrix that the Corps is putting together on the candidate mitigation lands but it was not available yet. In order to secure a DNR permit, a mitigation plan must be in place. A “team” had been put together to meet and discuss how the approach would be handled in determining the mitigation lands. The “team” consists of IDEM, IDNR, FISH & WILDLIFE, and the COE. They looked at

lands at the end of September. Lands being considered are the lands under Lake Erie Land Company's lease, the 179 acres the Commission owns, and the Hobart Marsh lands. The matrix being developed will compare different site characteristics of the lands and attempt to determine suitability of those lands for restoration and enhancement. It was suppose to be available for tonight's meeting but, after talking to the COE today, it had not been reviewed yet. We are hopeful that something will be coming in the very near future. Mr. Gardner answered questions regarding the matrix.

Mr. Gardner announced that a public meeting for the affected residents in the levee line in Highland (Stage V-2 & Stage VI) will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners are invited. There will be additional meetings at a later day in Hammond and Munster.

**Land Acquisition/Management Committee** – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew announced that there were no condemnations this month but proceeded to make a motion to approve two increased offers (DC707 - \$147,000 and DC816 - \$39,000); motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew also informed the Board that the appraiser, John Snell, toured Wicker Park Golf Course on 10/31 before beginning the appraisal on the golf course. His fee will be about \$15,000 and has requested 50% of that amount up front of appraisal. He will perform a self-contained full narrative appraisal with a turnaround time of 60 days.

Mr. Agnew reported that Greg Moore from the COE met with staff on 10/31 to discuss project mitigation. Mr. Gardner had attended a meeting today with the Northwest Indiana River Corridor Partnership (formerly known as the Great Konomick River Restoration Project). He stated that J. F. New is doing a master plan map for the Little Calumet River and the Grand Cal to identify publicly owned lands, trail opportunities, some tributaries to enhance the restoration area. Mr. Vosti added that it is good that the Grand Cal is also being included.

A new appraisal process will be pursued in the west reach area (Cline Avenue to Stateline) which we are hoping will work out. Appraiser Dale Klescynski will oversee the appraisal process. Appraisals will be assigned up front to several appraisers and he will do the review on the appraisals. The COE's chief appraiser thinks this will quicken the process and should not be quite as costly.

Conservation Design Forum, the firm doing the in-house mitigation design for the COE, held a presentation in our offices on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Engineering Committee** – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that a utilities meeting is scheduled for Stage V Phase 2 on November 16<sup>th</sup> in our office. A technical review meeting was held in Chicago on November 1<sup>st</sup> to review ongoing and new engineering issues and concerns. He also reported that we received a response from the lake County Surveyors office on November 6<sup>th</sup> addressing the COE's concerns regarding the use of the clay from Hartsdale Pond as a borrow site. Mr. Gardner stated that Hartsdale Pond will be the borrow site for the first several west reach levee segments. Commissioner Reshkin asked how much sheet piling would be used in the west reach and whether it would have an impact to

adjacent property owners. Jim Pokrajac answered that this was one of the issues at the COE technical review meeting. We've requested the COE's engineering analysis on stress points of the sheet piling construction.

Mr. Huffman stated an INDOT Highway expansion scoping meeting was scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff will attend the meeting to see how INDOT projects will affect our levee construction needs. Commissioner Vosti again expressed a concern about a drainage/environmental problem from the additional third lane on the Borman into the Carlson-OxBow park area. A coordination meeting was held by the city of Gary on October 11<sup>th</sup> with GSD, WREP, COE and the LCRBDC for the Grant Street drainage and improvement project. Commissioner Huffman expressed a concern about the trail system connection at Grant Street.

**Legislative Committee** – In Committee Chairman George Carlson's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He referred to the resolution in the agenda packet that declares a funding crisis. He further stated that he has spoken several times with Pete Manous. Now that the election is over, we need to start campaigning again for support for our budget request. Mr. Gardner has shared a draft letter with Representative Chet Dobis to use as he sees fit. He has also met with and talked to Earl Harris, Vice Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. Representative Harris stated that he would talk to Representative Pat Bauer. Mr. Gardner also has talked to Senators Sue Landske and Bill Alexa. A Legislative Committee meeting will be scheduled shortly. Board member Curt Vosti inquired if we were planning to meet with the Editorial boards of the newspapers. Dan will follow up to get a time scheduled with the newspapers. Mr. Gardner also reported that the Federal Energy & Water bill has passed and there is \$8.8 million earmarked for the Little Cal.

**Recreational Development Committee** – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti stated that we received a letter from INDOT on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> indicating they had no concerns regarding the Broadway trail crossing as long as we coordinate with the locals. They did indicate that a right-of-way permit with them would be required. Mr. Vosti then referred to a letter we sent to the COE listing recreational concerns and requesting a meeting. Jim Pokrajac informed the Board that a meeting date of November 17<sup>th</sup> was scheduled at 1:30 at the Hammond Park office. Mr. Vosti invited any Board members that would be interested.

**Marina Committee** – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke reported that we have received a funding report regarding the marina operation. It appears that, at the end of September, the balance, after disbursement of expenses, is \$85,051.16. He also reported that Bank One is releasing the sand money to us. We will now invest it at a higher interest rate. The Portage Port Authority is also considering raising the public launch fees to \$5 from \$3. This money goes into their operations account. Mr. Tanke also informed the Board that the LMMDC requested a hearing before the Ways & Means Committee but were denied. (they have requested \$1.5 million to build out the marina with the remaining slips).

**Finance Committee** – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the finance report. He referred to the monthly financial status sheet and claims in the amount of \$193,934.21. Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status sheet and the October claims less the Ameritech claim for

\$17,070.92 (work has been determined that is not needed); motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner stated that a Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled very shortly.

**Minority Contracting Committee** – There will be a report at the next meeting.

**Other Business** – Chairman Emerson Delaney reminded the Nominating Committee to meet and be able to give their report at the next meeting. The new officers will take over at the January meeting.

Mr. Gardner referred to the article regarding Thornton quarry acting as a floodwater storage entity by November 2002. Dr. Reshkin stated he is surprised that it would be used as a retention area because it would be very porous and probably not very suitable.

Mr. Gardner stated that he would try to arrange a tour of the properties and levee construction for Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners will be notified.

**Statements to the Board** – There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **5:00 p .m. for a Work Study session and 6:00 for the regular Board meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2000. Please note that this date is a change from the first Thursday of the month.**

/sjm