

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2000  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

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

**Development Commissioners:**

John Mroczkowski  
Charles Agnew  
Emerson Delaney  
Marion Williams  
Curt Vosti  
Steve Davis

**Visitors:**

Doreen Carey – City of Gary  
Sandy O'Brien, Sierra Club  
Jomary Crary, IDNR, Div. Water  
Jim Flora, R.W. Armstrong Company

**Staff**

Dan Gardner  
Sandy Mordus  
Lou Casale  
Jim Pokrajac  
Judy Vamos

Commissioner Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve the minutes of September 7, 2000; motion seconded by Steve Davis; motion passed unanimously.

**Chairman's Report** – There was none.

**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. 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, COE and LCRBDC. They have met and representatives have walked some of the lands proposed for mitigation. They have looked at maps, discussed protocol, looked at available acreage, discussed ratios, etc. They will write up their comments and, when complete, we will share with the Board. Commissioner Vosti inquired whether the 4 criteria discussed last month would be used in the rating system. Mr. Gardner replied that they would be used. He also stated that on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the firm that the Corps has hired to evaluate the in-project mitigation lands (29<sup>th</sup> & Hanley and Cline/Liable) will make a presentation of 50% plans. Board members are invited.

Sandy O'Brien mentioned that she has given an updated map to the COE and IDNR showing lands available in the Hobart Marsh area.

**Land Acquisition/Management Committee** – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew announced that there were no motions to be made. He reported that John Snell of Indianapolis will be coming up soon to perform a preliminary inspection for the appraisal of Wicker Park Golf Course easements that will be needed for project purposes. He also reported that Judy attended a meeting as part of the focus group for the Great Konomick River Restoration project; they have changed their name to “Northwest Indiana River Corridor Partnership”. Mr. Agnew reported that the demolition of structures and clean-up has been performed for DC793. Mr. Agnew then referred to a news article on county parks and sited that Lake Etta Park (we’re in a joint venture agreement for the development of the park with Lake County Parks Dept.) attendance is up 4% and that’s great.

**Project Engineering Committee** – In Committee Chairman Bob Huffman’s absence, Mr. Agnew gave the engineering report. He reported that the COE indicated they have revised its cost estimates (as a result of the court decision) to accommodate the low bidder (Overstreet Construction) for the West Reach Pump Station Phase 1A . Attorney Casale has prepared a memo outlining all the events that has led to this decision. He reported that a partnering meeting was held with the COE and Thieneman Construction (Pump Station 1B contract) on 9/13/00. A utility coordination meeting for Stage VI was held with Hammond and Highland on 9/12/00 to review utility plans. Mr. Agnew reported that a meeting was held on 9/26/00 with INDOT (at their request) to review if any impacts exist with the I-80/94 widening project from Stateline to I-65. Commissioner Vosti asked that in future review with INDOT, he would like it brought to their attention the runoff from the expressway into the Carlson/OxBow park area and what can be done to correct the situation. Another item reported was the meeting held 9/28/00 to review the Thornton flood warning gage funding. Several phone conversations have been held with the city of Indianapolis in regard to their use of sheet piling in their levees. This is something we are trying to get the Corps to consider. On October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, utility coordination meetings are scheduled with Hammond and Munster for Stage VIII.

**Legislative Committee** – In Committee Chairman George Carlson’s absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He reported that we are communicating the seriousness of the State funding situation to staff and legislators alike. Mr. Gardner publicly thanked Mark Lopez, Congressman Visclosky’s staff, for accompanying him to Indianapolis to meet with several Budget Agency staff members. He referred to the Resolution declaring a funding crisis that was passed by the Board. He has shared it with Pete Manous when he and Mark Lopez met with him. Mr. Manous has communicated with key staff at the Governor’s office and will forward the funding packet to the Governor’s Office. Mr. Gardner is waiting to meet with Mr. Manous again. Mr. Gardner plans to meet with Representative Pat Bauer’s aide. He has met with Representative Chet Dobis and he plans to meet with Representative Earl Harris next week. He will be contacting the legislators that have direct involvement in the budget process. He is also drafting a letter for Rep. Dobis to sign to distribute to his fellow legislators. He also plans to contact the local officials to discuss donation of their lands to the project because of the funding situation and in order to show that we are doing what we can to contain money. It is hoped that a small event can be put together for the legislators firsthand. Commissioner Vosti asked if we should send the Resolution to the Times and Post Tribune. Mr. Gardner said we would do that after meeting with Representative Harris. Commissioner Agnew stated that the city of Gary should be added in the resolution; that we should not only address the west reach because work is still needed in the east reach.

Mr. Gardner stated he would inform the Board of all meetings taking place.

**Recreational Development Committee** – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti stated that legal descriptions & drawings for the Broadway recreational trail have been received. We passed them onto the city of Gary and INDOT for their comments. We will be in the process of requesting easement agreements. The COE has sent a letter to the N&S RR requesting review & cost information for engineering and a recreational trail crossing for SV-P2. The COE also provided us with 3 alternatives for recreational trail alignment for SVI-P2. Jim Pokrajac added that Rani Engineering is doing the designing. One alternative seemed most preferable because fewer agreements would be needed for those lands we cannot obtain in fee. Impacts will be minimized as much as possible.

Commissioner Vosti requested a meeting be scheduled with the COE to discuss west reach recreational features. The City of Hammond is working on a city wide bike trail plan and some coordination is needed. There are also other items of discussion. Jim will schedule the meeting.

**Marina Committee** – In Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. In terms of funding, the City of Portage has requested \$1.5 million to be included in the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission's submission to the budget. This money would finish out the marina. Mr. Gardner also stated that we should be receiving an audited accounting of the marina expenditures. We are hopeful in getting the sand money released to us so we can invest it at a higher percentage rate.

**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 \$86,349.10. Curt Vosti made a motion to approve the financial status sheet and the September claims; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner then presented 3 budget transfers for a total of \$16,000. Mr. Vosti made a motion to approve the budget transfers; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

**Minority Contracting Committee** – There was no report.

**Other Business** – Curt Vosti requested an Executive Session be scheduled before the next Board meeting.

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

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **4:30 p.m. for an Executive Session and then 6:00 for the regular Board meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2000. Please note that this date is a change from the first Thursday of the month.**