

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Emerson Delaney
Mark Reshkin
William Tanke
Steve Davis
Bob Huffman
Curt Vosti
Arlene Colvin
Marion Williams

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Jomary Crary – IDNR, Div. of Water
Imad Samara - COE
Ted & Martha Muta – Ted Muta Advertising
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Jim Flora – R.W. ARMSTRONG CO.

Staff:

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

Commissioner Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2001; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Tanke reported on the October 10th meeting held in Indianapolis with the Governor's staff, as well as the Congressman's staff. The meeting continued to focus on project funding and crediting. The meeting went well with extensive discussion regarding schedule and funding. Quarterly meetings were suggested. Another meeting at the COE Chicago District will be on November 13th. District Deputy Engineer John Sirles requested another meeting before he leaves the COE office.

Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the letter in the agenda packet from the Executive Director of the Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund (SHEF) transmitting their desire to work with us in working out an acceptable third party agreement addressing the relationship of the Commission and the SHEF regarding the proposed mitigation project in the Hobart Marsh area. A lot of the terms in the draft agreement needed further discussion and clarification. They are in the process now of preparing a counter proposal to the Commission's draft agreement. We will meet with them shortly.

Mr. Gardner then referred to the information in the agenda packet sent by Carl Sanders from Federal Highway Administration in Indianapolis. He sent us the US code citing their authority to use Federal funds to match Federal funds. Dan will seek a letter on their letterhead reiterating that fact. It appears that

if we can get the COE to recognize this as credit we can use, it would be about \$8 million in credit toward the overall 25% cost share. A representative from INDOT will have to document the costs that were incurred with the interchanges (Indianapolis Blvd, Grant, I-80/94 & Georgia, partial Cline Avenue) Both the FHWA and INDOT are willing to work with us; we will just have to make sure that the COE will agree to the language that FHA will use in defining that Federal credit.

Mr. Gardner announced the date of November 28th as a public meeting scheduled for the residents in Stage VIII (Columbia to Stateline). SEH has completed preliminary 50% plans & specs for Stage VIII and a public meeting is required to fulfill their contract with the COE. The public meeting will be held at Wicker Park Social Club in Highland. All residents directly and indirectly affected by the project construction will be notified. Although this will be the last stage to be constructed and is most likely at least six years away, the COE and A/E need to have the meeting now and the Commission feels it is important for public input now while it is at the 50% stage of completion. Board member Curt Vosti asked about all residents affected in the west reach being invited, but Judy Vamos answered by saying that it would be too many people and individual attention would be impossible. The newspapers will be notified. Mr. Vosti introduced Ted Muta from Ted Muta Advertising Company. Mr. Muta has his business in Stage VIII and is directly affected by our project.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin made a motion to approve the payment of mowing services to Precision Lawn Care in the amount of \$4300 from the LEL maintenance funds; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

There are no increased offers or condemnations this month.

Ms. Colvin referred to the news article from the agenda packet in which a training session was held for the installation of the closure structure at 35th & Chase. The demonstration was video-taped to use for future use/training and all pertinent parties attended (City of Gary, Gary Sanitary District, Gary Civil Defense, Gary Parks & Rec, Gary Dept. of Public Safety, White River Environmental, Lake County Emergency Management, COE personnel and the Commission). The demonstration went very well.

The appraiser is re-appraising the hotel area in the Kennedy Industrial Park area. As it now stands, the property needed for the levee and/or I-wall behind the hotels would be very expensive. With some modified engineering, the costs could be considerably lower. The appraiser is taking that into consideration in a revised appraisal.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that the Stage VIII engineering and field review meeting was held on October 3rd and 4th and attended by SEH (COE A/E), COE, Jim Flora and staff. Jim Flora and Jim Pokrajac comprised about 7 pages of comments/questions back to the COE after their review of the Stage VIII plans.

Bob Huffman reported that the COE plans to advertise a contract for in-project mitigation lands in the fall of 2001 and begin construction in the spring of 2002.

The COE has a web site with information pertaining to the Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation Project on it. It can be accessed with lrc.usace.army.mil (Go to Projects: then go to Little Calumet River project)

The Stage III remediation contract is scheduled for advertising in late fall of 2001 with construction tentatively planned to start in the spring of 2002. This includes the lift stations west of Grant, east reach remediation area lift station and demolition, and extending the combination sewer east of Grant to line of protection.

Discussion ensued on the different formliners that could be available to use on I-walls in certain areas. A representative from the company met with Jim Pokrajac this afternoon. Jim is obtaining additional information from him that will be available to Commissioners.

Bob Huffman announced that an Engineering committee meeting is scheduled for 5:00 on Wednesday, November 14th at the Commission office (actually held on November 13th).

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson gave the legislative report. He informed the Board members that the Chairman, Executive Director and Attorney met with Mayor Scott King to discuss the Burr Street funding issue and how we are not able, at this point in time, to obtain credit from monies that have been spent on the Burr Street Phase 1 project. With Phase 2 looming ahead of us, we do not have the ability to fund and obtain credit to construct the completion of the Burr Street levee area. They explored the possibility of the City being able to fund or assist in funding. He was not totally opposed to the idea but still wanted to explore the issue of economic justification being investigated fully. Mr. Carlson expressed concern about the timeliness of the Commission pursuing areas of additional funding in light of the economy. Mr. Gardner replied that he thought funding should be a year round effort. Commissioner Reshkin added that in his conversation with the Congressman at the last biennium session, it was indicated that we should increase our efforts to year-round. They cannot be successful at the Federal level if we are not successful at the State level. The Commission needs to be aggressive at all times.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti gave the Recreation Report. Most of the focus has been on recreational trail realignments in the west reach. Mr. Vosti referred to the letter received from NICTD indicating problems with our trail location of their right-of-way in Stage VIII. Mr. Gardner will follow up with NICTD and a meeting will be scheduled. Mr. Huffman & Mr. Vosti stated that they would both like to attend this meeting.

Mr. Vosti also reported that it is anticipated that the next recreation contract will probably not be until 2003-04 and the COE is removing the Broadway and Grant St. crossings to this contract. They were originally part of the SIII remediation contract but there is not enough money to do them at this time so they will be delayed and made part of a supplemental contract in the future.

Copies of our east and west reach recreation maps were given to First Group Engineering to provide information of our facilities relative to other recreational facilities in the area. Potential exists for our trails to be tied into other trails.

Discussion took place on comments that Mr. Huffman had on some of the trail segments. He shared some pictures with us that he had taken while biking. He questioned the possibility of putting a small culvert in at the ditch west of Grant. He also felt that we could delay putting in the trail by-pass at Grant because there is not much use of the trail in that area. He also discussed the ending of the trail at the east side of Cline Avenue. Further information is contained in the Recreation committee report.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that a meeting has not been scheduled yet with the city. There is no further information.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Curt Vosti gave the monthly financial status report. He presented the claims for approval and proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status report and claims sheet totaling \$50,486.48; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti referred to the COE letter requesting that \$350,000 be placed in escrow for the Commission's local cash contribution; this will take us through the Federal fiscal year ending September 2002.

Mr. Vosti announced he would be having a Finance Committee meeting the week of the 12th to address year end items, i.e. review of year's performance and forecast of upcoming finances for the Commission; review of employees and contract employees' compensation; review travel policy, etc. Committee members will be notified.

Mr. Vosti read the first paragraph in the existing Travel Guidelines. He then made a motion approving the Chairman and Executive Director attend the NAFSMA conference in Charlotte, N.C; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams referred to the news article in the agenda packet on Webb Construction being named by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Indiana District Office as the 2001 Minority Small Business of the Year and also receiving an award for its outstanding work for the COE (Webb was the general contractor for Stage II-3C-2 (Grant to Harrison) and the contractor for Stage II-3C trench excavation. Jim Pokrajac added that he did a great job and was very good to work with. Staff will follow up with a congratulations letter to Mr. Larry Webb.

Minority reports are still being received and are available in the Commission office.

Other Business – Mark Reshkin made a motion to pursue with the communities for their Planning Departments to include the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission project in their planning ordinance as an integral part of their planning process; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vosti added that this is important to indicate our desire to work closely with the communities to press the project toward completion as economically feasible and logical as possible.

Mr. Gardner referred to the news article announcing that Commissioner Bob Huffman has been selected to be one of the six to carry the Olympic torch when it passes through the region early next year. This is quite an honor and he will let us know when it will happen.

Statements to the Board – Business owner Ted Muta informed the Commission that the river behind his business is blocked and cannot flow. Curt Vosti stated that the area is one of several that consistently have that problem. Mr. Gardner stated that we can call the city/town and see what we can do about getting someone to come out and look at it and remove the blockage. Mr. Muta also said he wanted to keep access to his property at all times and was concerned with the aesthetics of the finished line of protection. Mr. Gardner indicated the Commission's desire to work with Mr. Muta in the development of his plans and in the construction of our levee.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.

/sjm