

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2002  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

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

**Development Commissioners:**

William Tanke  
John Mroczkowski  
Mark Reshkin  
Bob Marszalek  
Steve Davis  
Emerson Delaney  
Arlene Colvin  
Robert Huffman  
George Carlson  
Marion Williams

**Visitors:**

Bill Petrites – Highland resident  
JoMary Crary, IDNR, Div. of Water  
Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land  
Imad Samara - ACOE  
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart  
Jim Flora – R.W. ARMSTRONG CO.

**Staff:**

Dan Gardner  
Sandy Mordus  
Jim Pokrajac  
Judy Vamos  
Lou Casale

The minutes of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved by a motion from Arlene Colvin; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Tanke referred to attorney Lou Casale for a report on the insurance coverage that the Commission has. Mr. Casale reported that he has talked to the insurance agent and has him getting some quotes together to increase the director's and officers' liability policy to \$3 million per person/\$5 million per occurrence. He is also checking into several other questions that Lou had. We hope to have the information for the next Board meeting.

**Executive Director's Report** -. Executive Director Dan Gardner reported on the recent rains the area received. Jim Pokrajac displayed some pictures he had taken of the flooding areas, namely, Wicker Park golf course, Woodmar Country Club, and some streets in the Burr Street levee area. He reported the COE has calculated this to be a 5-year flood event. Commissioner Reshkin asked how the flooding was in areas that had completed levee segments in them and was told that those areas did fare better. He also requested staff get photos in these areas during the next event. They might have had standing water a couple of inches deep but receded much quicker. With the project in place, the duration was much shorter. Some of the pictures portrayed the flooded area at Indianapolis Blvd. and 81<sup>st</sup> Street in Highland. Mr. Gardner added that we need to schedule a meeting with the town of Highland to talk about a remedy to the flooding.

**Project Engineering Committee** – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that our attorney is continuing efforts with the Lake County Surveyor's Office and Lake County Attorney John Dull in an effort for them to establish a 75' drainage easement in certain areas needed for the project.

- Mr. Huffman reported that the meeting with Gary Sanitary District was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. All 7 remaining items that had not been previously addressed were discussed. Tasks have been assigned to appropriate people to try to resolve the remaining issues.
- Mr. Huffman reported that we have received as-built drawings from the COE for Stag IV-1 North. We still have some engineering concerns regarding the drainage ditch at Colfax to Calhoun.
- Mr. Huffman referred to the email received from INDOT regarding their position on a pump station in the Tri State area at Indianapolis Blvd. in Highland. Discussion centered on having a meeting with John Bach, Highland Public Works Director, to discuss this further. INDOT plans to put a lift station, not a pump station, in the area. Staff would follow up to see if Highland has interest.
- A modified report of the minority participation information was discussed. A new format was established that appears to be easier reading and understanding.

**Legislative Committee** – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the response letter we received from Betty Cockrum, Director of the State Budget Agency. It indicates that the \$2.5 million is indeed not available to the Commission.

- He also referred to the Times editorial entitled "A drought of funding for flooding projects". With the recent heavy rains we just experienced, the article spoke of the levees that are in place are working well but it has been a struggle to acquire enough state funding to match the federal funding. A special legislative session is ongoing now and it is hoped that some kind of an acceptable revenue reinstatement can emerge from it.
- Mr. Gardner added that he attended a session at Purdue Cal sponsored by the city of Hammond and the university entitled "Alliance for Indiana's Future". There are 7 meetings that are being held around the state.

**Recreational Development Committee** – Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney stated that there are no recreation contracts at this time.

**Marina Committee** – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that discussions have taken place with the Portage Port Authority. It appears that the Mayor does not wish to commit the city's resources for the marina build-out at this time.

- Mr. Tanke is calling a marina committee meeting after the Board meeting tonight.
- Mr. Tanke referred to the 2 IDNR permit approvals for dredging that were included in the agenda packet.

**Finance/Policy Committee** – In Committee Chairman Curt Vosti's absence, Arlene Colvin gave the Finance report. Ms. Colvin referred to the monthly financial statement.

- Ms. Colvin also referred to the COE letter requesting our local cash contribution of \$266,000 that will meet our obligation toward construction through September 2003.
- Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve paying South Shore Marina an amount of \$1313 (for cost incurred in barricading access to Commission property at Wright Street in Gary) out of the LEL funds; motion seconded by John Mroczkowski; motion passed unanimously.

**Other Issues** – Chairman Tanke scheduled a Commission special session for 5:00 June 28. Notice will be sent out.

**Statements to the Board** – Don Ewoldt questioned the contents of the letter received from the COE. He said that he would meet with the Commission at any time. He questioned Imad on the idea of separating the development and the maintenance of the in-project mitigation property. He felt strongly that by separating the contracts, it would increase the bids significantly. It would present problems by having 2 separate contractors.

- Judy Vamos informed the Board that she had visited areas in the east reach after the flooding and felt that the project was doing exactly what it is suppose to do; that is, hold the water in the flowage areas so surrounding area does not flood.
- Bill Petrites talked about the recent flood event. He felt that the current Highland drainage system is not adequate to handle drainage problems in that area. He also felt that INDOT should be working with Highland for a joint pump station that would help Highland correct their existing drainage problem. Mr. Gardner stated that we need to meet with John Bach to discuss this. Although Mr. Petrites thinks we would probably be wasting our time pursuing this with INDOT or the town, he suggested that we get involved in the permitting process. The only way he thinks we can help is to get involved in the permitting process. Because of his concern, Mr. Petrites has not given INDOT the easement they need from him for construction, but they can condemn him. Mr. Gardner stated that staff would request the plans & specifications from INDOT for this area in order that we and the COE office can review them.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

/sjm