

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairman William Biller called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. ten (10) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Bob Marszalek
Robert Huffman
William Biller
Steve Davis
John Mroczkowski
Arlene Colvin
Mark Reshkin
Sam Dimopoulos
Charlie Ray

Visitors:

Ron McAhron - IDNR
Imad Samara – U.S. Army Corps
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman's Office
Steve Enger – Munster resident
Phil Gralik – R. W. Armstrong Company
Jomary Crary - IDNR

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

A motion to approve the July 6, 2005 minutes was made by George Carlson; motion was seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bill Biller announced that we will hold our October board meeting in the west reach, possibly at the Jean Shepherd Center at Kennedy Avenue and I-80/94. We will confirm at the September meeting.

- We will be discussing on how to proceed with the Woodmar Country Club appraisal, now that we have received Corps approval. Staff will also be meeting this Friday, August 5, with the city of Gary and Gary Sanitary District to discuss O&M coordination for turnover.
- Chairman Biller stated he would like to schedule a Work Study Session for Board members on a Saturday, sometime in September or October. He would propose to have it at the lab building in the Hammond Sanitary District. Staff will pursue and we will announce the date at the September meeting.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner announced the meeting at the Munster Town Hall scheduled for August 24 at 7:00 p.m. to meet with area residents along Hawthorne Drive in Munster. He has talked to Matt Fritz, assistant town manager, who will notify the other town council members. Elizabeth Johnson, Congressman Visclosky's office, was invited to attend. LCRBDC will also notify North Township of the meeting. The meeting will address concerns that the residents have in regard to the proposed levee in their area. Munster resident and spokesperson Steve Enger will notify the appropriate residents of this meeting. He will also send a letter to the Commission prior to the meeting stating their concerns/questions to the Commission and the Corps. Mr. Gardner also requested a list of all addresses in the Munster floodplain; the town has all addressed in a GIS system.

- Mr. Gardner spoke on the Griffith levee on River Road certification issue. He has talked to the town's engineering consultant from Lawson & Fisher, who originally did the work. It appears that the levee was IDNR-approved but was not Federally-approved because it did not meet the 200 year FEMA criteria for floodplain removal. We will check our files to see what information we have when the levee was built; Lawson & Fisher will also check. Discussion ensued on if we have to pay for new engineering work, it will take away limited monies we have earmarked for the west reach

acquisition. Mark Reshkin asked if there were any other options for funding; Mr. Gardner replied that the Congressman's Office has requested that we take the lead in funding the work due to it is not part of the Federal project, but the local preference for levee vs. floodproofing. The town of Griffith is currently at financial capacity with the ongoing Cady Marsh Ditch project. It was estimated that the cost would be around \$50-60,000 for just engineering and review. It appears that the levee meets the State's 100 yr but does not meet the 200 yr. Imad Samara added that although the Federal levee is 200 yr and the Griffith levee is only 100 yr, we are not making it any worse conditions for that area.

- Mr. Huffman distributed pictures that Jim Pokrajac took of the ongoing VI-1 South construction.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Arlene Colvin referred to the financial status report and the claim sheet. She proceeded to make a motion to approve the claims for July, after adding an additional claim of \$10,000 for appraisal services for DC1199 (to be reimbursed by the city of Hammond); motion seconded by John Mroczkowski; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin then proceeded to make a motion to approve the pending O&M claim of \$13.59; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek reported that we've already approved the claim addition for payment of the invoice to Integra for their services rendered in appraising easements for the Woodmar Country Club property. The money will come out of the real estate line budget item.

- Mr. Marszalek made a motion to approve a proposal from Integra for \$19,000 to complete the next set of six appraisals in the Interstate plaza area. Motion was seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Biller added that Integra completed the Woodmar Country Club appraisal and the appraisal report has been approved by the Corps. Attorney Casale was authorized to contact Woodmar to start the process. We are not extending an offer to them for the needed easements at this time. We are only informing them that the appraisal has been done. We have scheduled a meeting with the Mayor of Hammond.
- Judy Vamos informed the Board members that we are on schedule with land acquisition, as per the schedule we developed with the Corps for the Congressman.
- Discussion was held on how we were proceeding with Norfolk Southern Railway for the required easements for Burr Street II – LCRBDC. Staff has been working with them to coordinate with the COE to provide a design that is acceptable. So far, an acceptable design has not been reached. Discussion ensued on whether the attorney should file condemnation. Attorney Casale stated he already has the authority, which was passed at the last meeting, but if it is necessary, he will file the condemnation if an agreement is not reached in a week's time.
- Commissioner Marszalek reported that we have received a proposal for a monthly increase in the rental agreement from the Chicago Towers. The current rent was at \$1400 but would be increased by \$168, as per the consumer price index rating. An additional proposal was submitted by Chicago Tower to expand the lease area to accommodate the installation of a back-up generator for Verizon Wireless, increasing the new rent by \$132 for a total of \$1,700. Discussion was held on whether there would be any environmental concerns. Attorney Casale stated that he would make sure it was addressed in the addendum he will draft for them to sign.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that the two pump stations in the Stage III Remediation area are ready to be turned over to Gary for O&M responsibility. There are a few minor items that the Corps is completing and then Gary should be ready for turnover. Attorney Casale is drafting an agreement for turnover.

- Mr. Huffman reported that communications have been ongoing with the pipeline companies for Stage V-2.
- There is a meeting with Gary scheduled for August 5 in which the Burr Street Betterment levee, Phase II Gary portion will be discussed. Technical issues need to be resolved and we need to develop an inter-local agreement outlining the responsibilities of the Corps, the Commission, and Gary. The meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at the Gary Sanitary District.

- Bids were opened for Stage VI-2 (Liabile to Cline, south of the river). Dyer Construction is the apparent low bidder.
- Discussion is still on the table with INDOT for possible funding to assist the LCRBDC with our associated costs for real estate or construction. INDOT wants to award their contract from Ridge Road to the river but needs the pump station constructed at the same time as our line of protection to operate as designed. We are hoping to know more by the end of August.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that a committee meeting was held on July 26. A discussion was held declaring that we have an emergency and that immediate repairs are needed. Under the emergency declaration, we will solicit a minimum of three companies that can do the repairs and award the contract to the lowest bidder. Mr. Huffman made a motion to cap the contract at an amount not to exceed \$10,000 total for both stations; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously. Jim Pokrajac will put together a scope of work so when we're ready to obtain quotes, it will all be broken down. He will work with the attorney. The company submitting the lowest quote will be selected and authorized to proceed; action will be ratified at the next meeting.

- It was reported that R. W. Armstrong submitted a proposal to coordinate the analysis phase of all four pump stations in the amount of \$11,600. After discussion of a work scope, Mr. Huffman made a motion to approve their proposal; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously. The payment will come out of the O&M funds.

Environmental Committee – There was no report.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson inquired about communicating with local communities regarding our accelerated schedule. Mr. Gardner replied that he has talked to the town of Highland and Munster officials and the city of Hammond. We were hoping to have a meeting with the Mayor of Hammond by now but that meeting has been rescheduled. After we meet with Hammond, we will meet with Munster. We have talked with the Munster town staff, as well as with North Township. Regarding Highland, there are only small pieces of property yet needed and we are hopeful that they will donate those parcels. It is hoped that INDOT can participate in some LCRBDC/COE costs for construction or help acquire easements to make their pump station functional in the Tri-State area. That would save the Commission much needed monies that could be used elsewhere in the West Reach.

- Mr. Gardner talked with a new budget analyst today. They are organizing for their August meeting. We are hoping to be on their September agenda to get the release of \$2 million from appropriated 2005/07 budget monies. We are documenting our need for this money from the Corps schedule.

Recreation Committee – There was no report.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Charlie Ray reported that he has talked to Elizabeth Johnson, from the Congressman's staff, and they want to schedule another meeting with the city of Portage to continue discussion. Mr. Gardner talked about the easements that were donated to the LCRBDC for the breakwater. Commissioner Ray will pursue another meeting after two weeks.

Policy Committee – No report.

Public Relations Committee – No report.

New Business – Mr. Pokrajac stated that he had several extra packets of documentation left from the O&M committee meeting if anyone would like a set. He also mentioned that he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions regarding the photos on display for VI-1 South.

- Commissioner Charlie Ray asked about how the work scope differed from what Austgen did for the diagnostics of the pump stations from what R. W. Armstrong is going to do. Pokrajac answered that Austgen diagnostics determined

deficiencies of all four pump stations to make sure they were operational. R. W. Armstrong's scope will be to comprise a total scope of work for all four pump stations based upon these diagnostics and all other information obtained to provide a scope of work to advertise for repairs.

Statements from the Floor - Project Manager Imad Samara invited the Commissioners to coordinate with the area office to schedule a time to visit the job site to observe completed or ongoing construction. We could also see the Cady Marsh ditch tunnel project.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2005