

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, January 12, 2005
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairman William Biller called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Arlene Colvin
Robert Marszalek
Robert Huffman
John Mroczkowski
George Carlson
Steve Davis
William Biller
Mark Reshkin

Visitors:

Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Jomary Crary - IDNR
Don Ewoldt - Lake Erie Land Co.
Mark Lopez - Congressman Visclosky's Office
(Ewoldt and Lopez attended Work Study Session only)

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Lorraine Kray

A motion to approve the December 1st minutes was made by Bob Marszalek; motion was seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report - The election of new officers took place at the December meeting so Chairman Bill Biller conducted the meeting. Chairman Biller proceeded to present a plaque in recognition and dedication for leadership for the last two years to past Chairperson Arlene Colvin.

- Chairman Biller reported that the Lake County Commissioners have appointed a new member to the Commission. His name is Sam Dimopoulos. He was recommended by Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott. Mr. Dimopoulos will fill out the term of the vacancy left by Mark Lopez (until 12/31/05).
- Chairman Biller referred to the 2005 Committee Preference sheets and asked members to fill them out with their committee selection and return to Dan. They were asked to select 2-3 committees and number them in sequence of preference.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that the FEMA mapping is under review at this time. He laid out working maps that were distributed by FEMA to the communities in Lake County. This is the first digital mapping updating the flood plain. He received the maps at a FEMA meeting held at the Lake County Government Center. There have been numerous errors found, and the dot pattern used is very hard to read. Dan referred to Jomary Crary from DNR, of which DNR is considered a "partner" in the map review. She stated that there are three DNR engineers reviewing the mapping and they also have found numerous errors. Another meeting with FEMA will be scheduled soon. Once our review is completed, our findings will be shared with FEMA. He reiterated that now is the time to have this mapping as accurate as possible.

- Mr. Gardner reported that we are still working with the city of Gary trying to move the O&M responsibility forward. Although the Corps feels the O&M responsibility has already been accepted by us, we do not agree. Jim Pokrajac stated that the levee inspections are not complete yet and until that is done and the project is brought up to "as-built" condition, Gary will not accept the O&M. Also, there are still some technical issues that need to be resolved. We will coordinate and meet with Arlene Colvin and try to schedule a meeting with the Mayor soon. Mr. Gardner added that there is a meeting on January 14 with Gary to discuss Rule 13.

Outstanding Issues – Jim Pokrajac stated that a meeting with the town of Griffith officials will be scheduled in a few weeks to discuss O&M. The log jam behind the Mansards was brought to the attention of the town's Board of Public Works, but appeared to not be on the main Little Cal channel and not of significant size.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Arlene Colvin presented the financial report and the claim sheet for December. She proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status report and the claims for December 2004 totaling \$53,067.73; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin then presented three O&M claims for approval for a total of \$2,735.57 and proceeded to make a motion to approve payment; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Huffman questioned the \$649 claim for CNA Insurance. He inquired exactly what it was for and if it was for a year. Staff will follow up and get that particular information to Mr. Huffman.

- Ms. Colvin then proceeded to make a motion for the ratification of approval for two additional O&M claims totaling \$6,060.00; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin explained that payment was made to the contractor before this meeting because they are a very small company and could not afford to wait until the meeting date for approval. Their work was inspected and was satisfactory so verbal approval was given by the Treasurer.

- Ms. Colvin referred to the contracts requiring action. All members have previously received copies of the proposed contracts for their review. The Finance Committee is in agreement for the approval of all contracts.

- Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the yearly contract for administrative services with NIRPC; motion seconded by Mark Reshkin; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin referred to the contracts for the independent contractors. The proposed rate stayed the same as last year's; there were no increases proposed. Commissioner Bob Marszalek complimented staff for the fine job they do. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the yearly contract for Jim Pokrajac at a rate of \$53.30/hour; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the yearly contract for Judy Vamos at a rate of \$38.35/hour; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the yearly contract for Lorraine Kray at a rate of \$19.20/hour (to do land acquisition crediting); motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the yearly contract for Sandy Mordus at a rate of \$25/hour (to do administrative crediting); motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve a yearly contract for legal services with Casale, Woodward & Buls, with attorney Lou Casale providing legal services at \$95/hour and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve a contract with R. W. Armstrong for engineering services on an as-needed basis at a rate of \$158/hour for Jim Flora and \$145/hour for Phil Gralik; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the proposed operating budget for 2005. Chairman Biller added that staff had gone over the budget with him and he was in agreement. The proposed budget is significantly less than 2004. All additional invested money has been included in the Land Acquisition/Project Development budget, as instructed by the Congressman's Office. Approval of budget seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin reported that there were no increased offers or condemnations. She referred to the year-end figures for property acquisition. 42 properties closed with only 12 being condemned (five of those were friendly condemnations).

- Ms. Colvin reported that the four farm leases will be advertised by the end of January. There are four leases to be advertised. Discussion was held on how to bid the leases to maximize our dollar income. Attorney Casale thought the leases should be bid on a cash rental basis, especially the 200 acre lease where a lot of pumping has to be done. Staff will work with the attorney for proper language.

- Ms. Colvin reported that the process is still ongoing for the sale of 3120 Gerry Street. It appears that the State wants additional information that the attorney's office needs to provide. Attorney is pursuing.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman stated that the logjam west of MLK was removed; pictures are available, if interested.

- Discussion was held on the June 9th letter received from United Water in response to our request letter asking they do diagnostics for Burr Street pump station. United Water is requesting back payment for prior work they have done on the pump station, as well as a proposal to do future maintenance at a monthly rate. It is critical that this issue be resolved. Mr. Gardner will schedule a summit meeting with the city of Gary, appropriate representatives, and the Mayor.
- Hammond Sanitary District has signed the agreement for O&M for the Southeast Hessville pump station at their December meeting. We will meet with them soon to turn over any additional information and "as-builts" to them.

Environmental Committee – Committee Chairman Mark Reshkin reported that we have 309 acres toward the 437 acres need to have our west reach IDNR permit extended. TPL is pursuing the purchase of three additional properties, which will provide all the mitigation land needed.

- Discussion was held on Rule 13 and how the communities must comply. Chairman Bill Biller asked if a "one page" summary could be developed for a better understanding of what Rule 13 means. Mr. Gardner stated he would have something available for the next meeting. Dr. Reshkin stated that this Committee would be interested in Rule 13, as it is required by the State. There will be a long review time of the process.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to a letter sent to Representative Ralph Ayres, who now sits on the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Gardner added that a similar letter was sent to Representative John Aguilera. We will also follow up with a mailing to the other northwest IN delegation. Mr. Gardner is also pursuing a resolution of support from the town of Highland and the city of Hammond. Mr. Gardner added that the congressional approach is for us to spend all we have as quickly as we can to move forward aggressively. We intend on doing that. Mr. Carlson went over past State monies received and stated that we have averaged about \$1.5 million per year since 1985. Lengthy discussion held on our \$5 million budget request.

- Dr. Reshkin inquired about the economic development opportunities that could be utilized after the project is in place. There are so many economic benefits, i.e. savings to the property owner, land for development, etc. Dr. Reshkin asked whether a position paper could be developed showing the economic development potential, growth, expansion, the development aspects this project is providing – community by community – summarizing the commitments made by communities. Maybe the Chamber of Commerce within the city could help develop such a paper. Dan will pursue.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that a letter was received from the Corps addressing our hydrology concerns relative to the current West Reach design. Jim Pokrajac added that S Davis, Hydrology Dept. for the Corps, will make a presentation at the February meeting regarding this topic. Mr. Reshkin asked that the letter be given to Commissioner Charlie Ray for his review before that presentation.

- A transportation management planning meeting was held with INDOT regarding I-80/94 & I-65 construction follow-up meeting will be held on January 26 to discuss final construction sequencing and the ramp closures (Grant Broadway) and detour routes planned.

Marina Committee – In Committee Chairman Charlie Ray's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report and stated that Marina Committee will be meeting very soon. They are pursuing a meeting with Mayor Olson.

Recreation Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to a copy of a letter that was just received from Dennis Cobb. The letter was written by Mr. Cobb and addressed to Don Abraham from INDOT in regard to the commission's desire to use the recreational trail crossing at Cline Avenue at the light at River Road.

Policy Committee – There was no report.

New Business – Mr. Gardner stated that we will allow time on the upcoming February agenda for Sue Davis, Army Corps Hydrology Department, to give a presentation.

Public Relations Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek stated that Judy Vamos is writing a critique of the book “Along the Calumet River” written by Cynthia L. Ogorek. Judy and Dan worked with Ms. Ogorek in her development of the book. Copies will be made available so Commission can enjoy. At the next meeting, Judy Vamos will give a more in-depth look at the book.

Statements from the Floor - There were none.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 2, 2005.