

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2006
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

In Chairman William Biller's absence, Vice Chairman Robert Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Six (6) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
John Mroczkowski
Robert Huffman
Bob Marszalek
Steve Davis
Mark Reshkin

Visitors:

Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman's Office
Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Karla Hunt – Munster resident
Pete Schroeder – View Outdoor Advertising
Steve Enger – Committee for Preservation of
Wicker Woods
Imad Samara – Corps of Engineers
Paul Baran – Munster resident

Staff:

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

A motion to approve the June 7, 2006 minutes was made by George Carlson; motion was seconded by Steve Davis; motion passed unanimously.

Action Required – In Treasurer Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He referred to page 9 for the claims. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$107,895.60; motion seconded by Steve Davis; motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Gardner then presented the O&M claims on page 10 for approval in the amount of \$4,419.40. John Mroczkowski made a motion for approval; motion seconded by Steve Davis; motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gardner referred to attorney Lou Casale for a report on View Outdoor Advertising for sign approval. At the last meeting, a proposal from VIEW OUTDOOR was received. A different approach has been taken this time that is not so lengthy a duration. The Board members felt it was difficult to approve something for an extended length of time when the Commission itself would not exist anymore. Pete Schroeter, from VIEW OUTDOOR, asked for approval from the Commission for him to initially pursue nine locations along I-80/94 with the permitting process with the city of Gary. As he receives Gary's approval for the needed permits, he will bring the individual sign locations back to the Board for their approval. Mark Reshkin made a motion to approve VIEW OUTDOOR to proceed with the process, as presented by staff; motion seconded by John Mroczkowski; motion passed unanimously.
- LAMAR submitted a letter to us about buying a permanent easement for their two (2) existing billboards south of I-80/94 between Chase and Grant. Mr. Pokrajac will pursue additional information and report back. Mark Reshkin stated that he felt the same process needed to be adopted for all sign companies. Providing a permanent easement on our property, knowing that the Commission will not be around forever, is not a good idea. He felt that this is an O&M item. Further discussion can take place at an O&M committee meeting. We need to start addressing issues regarding like this, i.e. project completion, funding sources, management sources, and coordination process. Jim Pokrajac added that the LCA calls for a project superintendent to coordinate O&M issues for the total project. Dr. Reshkin added that someone with the most project familiarity should coordinate the O&M afterwards. He would like to see that each community be involved in their respective O&M. Each community will benefit from this project and they should assume O&M responsibilities for their project features within their community. Mr. Gardner added that the legislature has made it

clear that they would provide capital money for construction, but would not fund any maintenance. Each community would assume that responsibility, either with existing funding or a regional (multiple community) maintenance fee.

Chairman's Report - Mr. Biller was absent this evening.

Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Dan Gardner reported on the pre construction meeting held on June 15 for the Burr Street Phase 2 Gary portion of construction. Jim Pokrajac attended the meeting. Mr. Pokrajac stated that some of the new city administration were present, along with Superior Construction, and several pipeline companies. Points of contact were established and scheduling and funding were discussed. Construction prints were provided. Mr. Pokrajac understands that survey work is done, clearing & grubbing will start shortly, and work limits were staked out.

- Mr. Gardner reported that NSRR agreement has been finalized and, with that in place now, the right-of-entry for Burr Street - LCRBDC can be given to the Corps.
- Mr. Gardner stated that we are continuing to acquire easements in Stage V-2. Offers are being sent out and we are working with the residents. A utility coordination meeting was held on June 27 with the pipeline companies. We received a phone call that debris has built up on the bridge on Hart Ditch on Cabela's property. Mr. Pokrajac contacted Cabela's and they have committed to cleaning up the debris, with the possibility of removing the bridge.

Finance Committee - In Treasurer Arlene Colvin's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report. He also reported that an amount of \$516,000 has been placed in the escrow account, as per the Corps' request. This is for FY06 cash contribution. Also, the \$300,000 has been received from the State for our cost in the Burr Street Phase 2 - Little Cal portion of construction.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek referred to Judy Vamos for a report. Mrs. Vamos reported that there were no increased offers on condemnations needed this month. She reported that we are moving along with Stage V-2 and Stage VII. She talked to Cabela's and they asked her to send them the easement agreements. They are anxious to start moving on this and they are donating the easements to us. The legals had to be revised and Jim Pokrajac stated that the new legals have been given to attorney Casale tonight so the offer for Cabela's could go out now.

- Mr. Pokrajac reported that the land management issues have already discussed in regard to VIEW OUTDOOR and LAMAR.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to Jim Pokrajac for a report on the construction bid process. Mr. Pokrajac stated that the Corps has responded to Commissioner George Carlson's questions regarding the construction bid process. Mr. Carlson still felt the project was going too soon.

- Jim Pokrajac referred to the letter from Steve Enger, representing the "Committee for the Preservation of Wicker Woods" group and his notes summarizing the meeting we had with him. He went on to say that the 50% drawings have been distributed to all affected parties. Comments are due the end of July. Revisions can then be made to them if needed. Mr. Gardner added that another meeting will be scheduled; they are trying to come up with a date now.
- Mr. Huffman reported that a coordination meeting was held on June 27 with all the pipelines in V-2. Mr. Pokrajac added that some concerns were addressed; other concerns would be addressed; pipelines will review the 50% set of plans. Most of the pipelines are in favor of the "bridging" method; most of the concerns were about vibration and how close the levee/I-wall would be to their individual pipelines. They are aware of the Corps deadline.
- Mr. Huffman added that he visited the construction sites and that both contractors for SVI-1S and VI-2 are moving right along.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that a meeting will be scheduled very soon with the city of Gary and their new representatives to discuss what will be required for the O&M turnover process. Mr. Pokrajac will put together a summarization of where we are on all O&M items. One more pump station inspection needs to be scheduled very soon.

- Mr. Huffman stated that we have received the final levee inspection report from the COE and from Gary. No major repairs are needed; some of the smaller items are being corrected now.
- Mr. Pokrajac added that the levees have been mowed. Besides mowing, they cleaned up ditches, sluice gate fenced areas, and other areas as noted in the inspection report. Copies are available. Commissioner Mark Reshkin inquired about the failed levee about a year ago and what was done about it. Mr. Pokrajac answered that it occurred east of Harrison Street where a settlement gauge was installed. The area was backfilled with clay to correct the problem. Mr. Pokrajac will obtain more information and report back at the next meeting.
- Mr. Pokrajac added that he will schedule a meeting with the city of Gary prior to having an O&M committee meeting.

Environmental Committee – Mr. Reshkin referred to Mr. Gardner for an update of the blue heron nesting area in Highland near the levee construction. Mr. Gardner referred to a news article in the agenda packet. Most of the construction activity is completed and it appears that the rookery was not damaged in any way and the herons are just fine. He will continue to work with the town of Highland on this issue.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson stated was no report.

Recreation Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman stated that Dyer Construction did a nice job on the trail along 81st Street near Liable and Cline.

Policy Committee – There was no report.

Other Issues/New Business – There was none.

Statements from the Floor – Steve Enger questioned the betterment that was done at Carlson Oxbow park and didn't see why the same procedure couldn't be used for the Hart Ditch area. He questioned who actually represents the citizens and what procedure is to be followed by the residents to ask for a betterment. He urged having another meeting quickly to discuss the outstanding issues. Resident Karla Hunt supported Mr. Enger in his comments about working together for a solution. They felt that, as residents, they should have the same consideration as Cabela's is getting. Mr. Gardner added that we are trying to work with the residents and that we have already made several changes they have asked for; i.e. trail removed from their street, levee pushed as far east as possible, levee lines staked out, a commitment that the minimal amount of trees will be removed. He also stated that we also have a deadline to meet and need to keep moving forward to meet that deadline. He will schedule a meeting with the Corps where the engineering options to modify levee alignment along south River Drive can be discussed. Imad Samara, project manager, stated that they will not go to 100% until one of the options is agreed upon, but made it clear that the Corps does not pay for betterments. It is the locals' responsibility. Mr. Enger's worry is that they will not be given enough time to even look for funding once an alternative option is selected. Commissioner Bob Marszalek stated that it was not this Commission that gave any "favoritism" to Cabela's; it was the State and the city of Hammond that worked out details regarding infrastructure funding to support the development.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 2, 2006