

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008**

**Held at  
Munster Town Hall,  
1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN**

Chairman Bill Biller called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Biller thanked the visitors for coming.

**Development Commissioners:**

Mark Gordish  
Robert Huffman  
Arlene Colvin  
William Baker  
Ron McAhron  
Kent Gurley  
Bill Biller  
Dave Burrus  
Dan Dernule

**Staff:**

Jim Pokrajac  
Sandy Mordus  
Lou Casale  
Judy Vamos  
Lorraine Kray  
Jody Melton

**Visitors:**

Thomas Hayes – Munster  
Mark Lopez - Congressman's Office  
Emery Vamos- Valparaiso  
Robert/Virginia Gauger- Munster  
Jason Reeves - Gary  
John Harrigan – Hammond  
Linda Verduzco – Hammond  
Terry Rudy – Munster  
Greg Starrett – Munster  
Ron Johnson – Northwest IN  
News Bureau  
Jim Wachel - Munster  
Jim Grunewald – Munster  
Erik Potter – Post Tribune  
Robert Krol – Munster  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster  
Joe/Charlotte Miletary  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
John/Priscilla Mulesa – Munster  
David Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Bill Petrites – Highland

**Visitors:**

Dean Button – SEH, Munster  
Sheldon Edd – USACOE, Griffith  
Jerry Iwachiw - Munster  
Vanessa Villarreal - USACE  
Lynne Whelan - USACE  
Steve Enger - Munster  
Bill Howard - Munster  
David Kusiaic - Munster  
Dennis/Les Rittenmeyer - Munster  
Brian Miller – Hammond  
Marty Wielgos – City of Hammond  
Don/Carol Goldman - Munster  
Jennifer Pellar - Schererville  
Herb/Joy Kunka -Munster  
Josephine Whelan - Munster  
Dan Repay - Hammond councilman  
Mike Zarantonello- Southmoor Road  
Doug/Karen Lorenz – Southmoor Road  
Chuck Kreisl -Hammond  
J. Calaway- Munster  
H. Hnatusko - Munster  
Vicki Williams - Munster  
Robert/Julie Lavin- Munster  
Rich/Delores Kumicich- Munster  
Davis/Elizabeth Jones - Munster  
Elizabeth Howard - Munster  
Susan Wood -Munster  
Patricia Huber - Munster  
Patricia Piekarczyk - Munster  
Tom Keilman - Whiting  
Mike Gauthier - Hammond  
Linda Poltrock - Munster  
Robert Farag – Griffith Golf Center  
Emil Poppa - Munster  
Frankie Jones - Munster  
Ken/Debbi Pitts  
Barbara Whitaker - Munster  
Carol Milici – Munster  
Joan Hlinka - Munster  
Senator Frank Mrvan

Visitors(continued)

Janet Moran – Munster

Anthony Broadnax – Munster

Ronnie Smith – Munster

Brian Grskovich – Hammond

Christine Kutkoski – Southmoor Road

Marc Campagna – Crestwood Avenue

John Edington – Munster Town Council

Robert Raffin – Hohman Avenue

Steve Hadrnak - Hammond

Sam Colfen – Munster

John Domanik – Munster

Steve Yekel – Baring Avenue

Stan Slazyk – Oakwood Avenue

J. Miller – Munster

Roland Raffin – Munster

Mike Wood- Munster

Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5 regular Board meeting; motion seconded by Kent Gurley; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Huffman then made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special meeting held November 17; motion seconded by Kent Gurley; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Biller recognized Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott from the floor and allowed him to address the Board. The Mayor thanked the Board for allowing him to speak and expressed his condolences to those residents who endured flooding in September. He emphasized that the levee construction project has always been important to him; the project area of construction also lies within the city of Hammond. He realizes that continued funding is a problem the Commission is faced with, not only to complete our 25% cost share for construction but, in the long term, the operation and maintenance of the project levee. Since the flooding in September, no significant progress has been made to move toward the next phase of construction. To this end, he proposed a solution to the problem. The city of Hammond is one of five communities in the state of Indiana that has a STIF District (sales tax increment financing). He proposes using a portion of the sales tax generated from Cabela's sales to complete the Commission's cost to finish the levee construction and then to continue using it for O&M after construction is completed. He stated that Councilman Dan Repay will present a resolution to the City Council as early as Monday to start the process moving forward. The proposition would not only benefit Hammond, but Munster, Highland, Griffith and Gary as well. The State has told us to come up with a plan for local funding rather than State funding; the Mayor feels this is exactly what he is proposing. Although he expects opposition from the State, the Commission members stated that they support the idea and would write letters to the communities and ask them to support the concept as well. Chairman Biller thanked the Mayor for coming and sharing his proposal with us; maybe this idea will show the State that this is a regional effort and solution to the funding situation.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Biller read a letter from member Robert Marszalek who has submitted his resignation from the Commission.

• Mr. Biller stated that he, as well as Senator Frank Mrvan, has written a letter to Bruce Hartman, State Examiner for the State Board of Accounts, inquiring about the release of the audit report. Mr. Biller stated he received a message back saying that the field portion of the audit is completed; they are reviewing it and will schedule an exit conference with the Commission soon, but probably not until after the holidays.

**Action Required** – Treasurer Kent Gurley presented items for action.

- Mr. Gurley referred to the Budget Transfer for approval. He made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,478.53 from Budget Line 5825(meeting expenses) into Budget Line 5812 (NIRPC services) to cover NIRPC expense, and a second transfer of \$508.51 from Budget Line 5825 (meeting expenses) into Budget Line 5824 (telephone expenses) to cover incurred telephone expense; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gurley referred to the itemized October monthly invoice from NIRPC for a total of \$11,405.37 (which is reflected on the Claims Payable sheet).
- Mr. Gurley referred to the Monthly Budget Report, as presented in the agenda packet. The Report clearly shows the two negative line items that will be adjusted with the budget transfer just approved. After December claims are paid next month, the budget report will be zeroed out.
- Mr. Gurley proceeded to make a motion to approve the Claims Payable in the amount of \$109,904.36; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. He explained the claims in yellow are administrative claims; the claims in pink are land acquisition/project development claims that have been drawn from the State; the remaining claims in white will be drawn from the State. He added that staff is restraining any further activities at this time since there is only a limited amount of monies left down State.
- Mr. Gurley proceeded to make a motion to approve the O&M claims in the amount of \$5,450.93; motion seconded by Dave Burrus; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gurley added another item for O&M approval. A proposal was received by Austgen Electric to repair a pump station at Marshalltown. As it is now, it is left to exposure and requires immediate repair. Dave Burrus made a motion to authorize staff to have Austgen do the repair at a cost not to exceed \$6,000; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Baker asked if staff has an accounting of what O&M claims have been paid to Austgen; we do not keep a running total of individual items by company but claims can be pulled out of the total for O&M at any time.

**Search Committee** – Search Committee Chairman Dave Burrus stated that the committee has completed the RFP for a management firm to fill the role of Executive Director. The Committee will then begin a sorting process and plan to interview the top three firms. Attorney Casale stated that the proposals should be opened publicly at the stated time of 4:00 p.m., read aloud as to the firm name, and then taken under advisement. Mr. Burrus stated that with the holidays coming up, they may be calling a special meeting. No decision will be made by the committee without the input from the whole Commission. Copies of the RFP will be emailed to the Commission members. Mr. Gurley inquired as to how you can select a firm with no identified money in place to pay them.

**Finance Committee** – Treasurer Kent Gurley referred to the Financial Statement in the agenda packet. He explained the committed funds of land acquisition monies (A) and the committed funds of Army Corps construction money (B) cannot be spent elsewhere. If you subtract the total of (A) and (B) from the total of all accounts (C), you have the remaining funds that the Commission has to spend. In this case, that is \$109,161.68. The Financial Statement has also been revised to show the total of what is remaining down State (about \$60,000). Given the small amount of funds left to draw on, that is the reason the Commission is suspending the ordering of new work until additional funds become available. Mr. Gurley asked Ron McAhron for an update of any progress made toward securing additional funds. Mr. McAhron stated that the Finance Committee has been

working with staff to identify all funds to complete the levee construction through Munster and Hammond. That amount does not allow any crediting adjustments or any O&M costs. Mr. McAhron stated that he met with the State Budget Agency earlier today to discuss needed monies. The Commission is very close to identifying a project-end number. It is not as easy as it appears because costs increase daily. The Commission members committed to having a number for the next meeting. We will not set up a 2009 budget until funding is identified.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – No Report.

Engineering Committee – Chairman Bob Huffman asked Jim Pokrajac about the V-2 pipeline corridor. Mr. Pokrajac replied that the Army Corps final paperwork submittals have been completed by Dyer Construction and the construction scheduling of activities with the pipelines should be able to start at the beginning of the year. Pipeline coordination has been ongoing and will be finalized prior to flood protection construction activities. The pipelines are currently reviewing the emergency response plans. There is still ongoing V-2 construction in other areas.

- In Stage VII, the BP Pipeline agreement is still outstanding. The language for the agreement has been agreed upon but the revised utility relocation cost estimate is still being reviewed. Treasurer Gurley commented that we will not sign the agreement with BP until funds are identified and we will be able to pay them. That means that the Commission will not sign a right-of-entry for the Army Corps to begin advertising the Stage VII segment. Funding must be in place.
- For Stage VIII utilities, there are three utility agreements needed at a total estimated cost of \$550,000. One agreement is completed; one is pending; one has yet to go out.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – No report. Claims already approved.

Operation & Maintenance Funding Committee – No report.

Legislative Committee – The State Budget Committee is meeting to formulate requests for the 2009/2011 Biennium.

Environmental Committee – No report.

Recreation Committee – Commissioner Bob Huffman inquired whether there were any other canoe launches west of the Carlson OxBow park area. Jim Pokrajac replied there were none+.

Policy Committee – No report.

Statements from the Floor - Numerous statements were received from the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Meeting site will be determined at a later date.