

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

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

Development Commissioners:

Mark Gordish
Robert Huffman
Steve Davis
Arlene Colvin
Robert Marszalek
Kent Gurley
Bill Biller
Dave Burrus

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Kim Poland – Hammond Councilwoman
Susan Brown – The Times
Vanessa Villarreal - USACE
Lynne Whelan - USACE
Christine Kutkowski – Hammond resident
Karen Lorenz – Hammond resident
Mike Zarantello – Hammond resident

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray

The minutes of the meeting held on August 6, 2008 were approved by a motion from Bob Huffman; motion seconded by Dave Burrus; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Biller stated that he, as well as Dan Gardner and attorney Casale, attended a meeting in the Mayor's Office with the city of Hammond regarding Stage V-2 construction, funding, and the right-of-entry. Others in attendance were the city engineer's office, Redevelopment Commission, Cabela's, Christopher Burke Engineering, Congressman's Office, and the Army Corps. There were two remaining easements on the V-2 option that have now been acquired and the complete Right-of-Entry for Stage V-2 was given to the Corps at the meeting. Having acquired the easements from NIPSCO and the NSRR, the contractor can begin work on the pipeline corridor. We had stated at the previous meeting that the options would be acquired by late August and that time frame was met.

Action Required – Treasurer Kent Gurley presented items for action.

- Mr. Gurley made a motion to approve the revised claim sheet distributed to Commissioners for August in the amount of \$189,819.58; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gurley made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the amount of \$21,231.04; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Chairman Biller inquired about the claims from Austgen Electric. Jim Pokrajac replied that the claim for \$10,350 fulfills the original contract we had with Austgen. The other claims are new charges for cleaning of pump stations that must be done so the stations keep working until the city of Gary takes over O&M.

- Mr. Gurley made a motion to approve the Munster claim in the amount of \$16,600 for DC-1226; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously. Staff will submit the claim to the town of Munster for payment.
- Mr. Gurley referred to the letter received from USGS in which they ask us to sign a Joint Funding Agreement for the installation, operation and maintenance of a gaging station on Hart Ditch in Munster for the period of 10/1/08 thru 9/30/09 at a cost of \$6,500. This is the same agreement we have previously had each year with the USGS. Mr. Gurley made a motion to enter into the agreement with USGS; motion seconded by Dave Burrus; motion passed unanimously. Jim Pokrajac questioned the agreement. He stated that the old gaging station was torn out and he understood that a new solar powered station would be built as part of the project. Only temporary monitoring is going on at present. That being said, the members withdrew the motion until further information could be presented.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner referred to the proposed letter being sent to Bill Shelldrake, financial advisor to the RDA, requesting detailed cost information and monies needed to complete the project. The monies are critical for continued acquisition costs and utility relocation work in Stage VII and VIII.

- Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from Roy Deda, Army Corps Deputy for Project Management, in which he says that the advertisement of the Stage VII construction contract (from Northcote to Columbia) will not happen at this time. There are several easements that have not been acquired at this point, as well as five utility maintenance agreements that are outstanding. Once all have been acquired, the Corps will advertise. Chairman Biller asked if there was a target date; Mr. Gardner replied that the agreements have been mailed to the utilities; the total cost for Stage VII utilities is only about \$50,000.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Kent Gurley referred to the financial statement for July in the agenda packet. Finance action has already been taken.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek referred to Judy Vamos for a report. She distributed an up-to-date acquisition report to members.

- Staff is still pursuing the possibility of a NRCS wetland program on Commission lands. A person has been identified at IDEM that we can work with. Hopefully, we will have a positive report at the next meeting.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the committee report. He reported that all pipeline agreements were obtained for the V-2 pipeline corridor. They are signed and cost estimates identified.

- The proposal received from Christopher Burke Engineering for the Griffith levee has been tabled until we can secure monies from the RDA. Staff has been in contact with the company and they understand the funding situation.
- Regarding Stage VII utilities, we received estimated costs today from NIPSCO and forwarded them to the Corps for their approval. The utility relocation agreement for Munster is a minor cost; and all 5 maintenance agreements have been sent out.

- Stage VIII utilities are ongoing. Army Corps final engineering is still pending. SEH has been a tremendous help with the utilities. They are gathering cost estimates and we will be putting agreements together very soon.
- Mr. Gardner stated we are in the process of identifying real estate on Forest Avenue and then the Corps will be an analysis of what exists there now. They have stated that 15' is needed as a public easement. There are no public easements in place at the present. The city of Hammond built that levee, to Corps standards, after the 1981 flood.
- Mr. Huffman reported that the right-of-entry for Pump Station 2A contract has been signed and given to the Army Corps. The Corps is doing paperwork with the contractor now and construction should begin shortly. The contract was awarded to Thieneman Construction on June 26, 2008. This contract is for Forest Avenue pump station rehabilitation and Tapper Avenue pump station rehabilitation. Since we have the easements needed for the Pump Station 2B contract, we have asked the Corps to send us a right-of-entry so we can sign it but we have not currently received it.
- Jim Pokrajac and Dan Gardner, as well as Town of Munster, an City of Hammond engineers, met with the Lake County Highway Dept. and the Army Corps in regard to the raising of the Columbia Avenue bridge. Additional funding is needed to raise the bridge deck but sandbagging would not have to be done in a flood event if it could be raised.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman asked Mr. Pokrajac how the levee inspections went. Mr. Pokrajac replied that the inspections went very well; very little repair needs to be done. Sluice gate and pump station inspections will be done next. A final punch list would be comprised about mid-Oct.

- Attorney Casale announced that the city of Gary's attorney approved the proposed O&M agreement. It now has to go to the Attorney General's Office for approval.

O&M Funding Committee – There was no report.

Legislative Committee – Mr. Gardner stated that the next legislative session of 2009-2011 needs to identify some sort of "pay-back" schedule to the RDA. He will be working with some of the area legislators, especially Senator Frank Mrvan. They need to explore a mechanism for funding identification. Bob Huffman inquired about federal funding for O&M through FEMA or the possibility of receiving funding for construction and O&M at the same time. Mr. Gardner replied that we really need to get serious about O&M and how to fund it. We need to start with the municipalities.

Environmental Committee – Mr. Gardner stated that the Corps will be submitting a report to us in regard to soil contamination found in the line of protection.

Recreation Committee – Mr. Huffman reported that he read that Highland is having a town race and part of the course will be on the levee trail. Mr. Gardner stated that we were not contacted and there could be a liability issue. He will contact the town. It was stated that they should give us a waiver of liability.

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Policy Committee - There was no report.

Other Business – There was none.

Statements from the Floor – Numerous statements were received from the floor from residents in Stage VIII

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Board meeting is set for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.