

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009**

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

Chairman Dan Dernulc called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call of eight (8) Commissioners declared a quorum. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Dernulc thanked the visitors for coming.

Development Commissioners:

Dan Dernulc
William Biller
Arlene Colvin
William Baker
Ron McAhron
Mark Gordish
Kent Gurley
Rudy Sutton

Staff:

Jim Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray

Visitors:

Patricia Pierarczyk - Munster
Greg Starrett - Munster
John Harrigan - Munster
Kaaren Moshwa - Monroe St.
Rich/Dee Kamicich - Munster
Lynne Whelan - USACOE
Cleland
Vanessa Villarreal - USACOE
Craig/Bea Hanusin - Howard Ave.
Bridget Bodefled - Crestwood, Munster
Bob/Pat Olson - Baring, Munster
Imad Samara - USACOE
Laura Michalski
Elizabeth Johnson - Congressman's Office
Bill Petrites - Highland
Carolyn Marsh - Sand Ridge Audubon
David Nellans - Munster Town Council
McShane - Munster
Ruth Mores - Southmoor Rd, Hmd
Tina Kutkoski - Hmd
Mike Zarantonello - Southmoor Rd, Hmd
Sheldon Edd - USACE
Barbara Whitaker - Munster
Jayson Reeves 0 21st Ave., Gary
Kalliope Dedelow - Munster
Jessica Shesek - Munster
Karen Lorenz - Southmoor, Hammond
Paul/MaryLou Daniels-Castle Dr, Munster
Sheldon Edd - USACE
Jeff Burton - The Times
Bill Petrites - Highland
Carolyn Marsh - Sand Ridge Audubon
David Nellans - Munster Town Council
Ruth Mores - Southmoor Rd, Hmd
Tina Kutkoski - Hmd
Mike Zarantonello - Southmoor Rd, Hmd
Bob Paulson - Munster

Minutes of the meeting were approved by a motion from Arlene Colvin; motion seconded by Bill Biller; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc stated that the Commission has received a loan from the Regional Development Authority for \$1.4 million. Receiving this money and being able to meet the 7% cash local share match, the Army Corps opened bids for the last stage of construction which is Stage VIII (from Columbia Avenue to the state line, both sides of the river). The contract has the Southmoor Addition area as an option, which means the Commission has one year to acquire the remaining properties to exercise this option. The pre-bid meeting for Stage VIII was held on May 18. There were eleven bidders with the apparent low bidder being Walsh Construction out of Indianapolis. The Army Corps is in the process of reviewing the bid.

Action Required – Treasurer Kent Gurley presented items for action. Mr. Gurley proceeded to make a motion to approve the claims payable for the June meeting at a total of \$150,695.89; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 8-0.

- Mr. Gurley made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the amount of \$56.93; motion seconded by Rudy Sutton; motion passed with a roll call vote of 8-0.

Finance Committee – The Financial Statement for the month ending April 30, 2009 is in the agenda packet.

- Mr. Gurley referred to the monthly budget report for June. He reported that we are on budget; in fact, under budget. He stated that funds are in place to pay the June invoices.

- Mr. Gurley referred to the invoice from NIRPC for the month of April.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Commissioner Arlene Colvin stated that the Chairman has already given land acquisition items.

- Mr. Bill Baker stated that land management issues were on hold until after July 1, when new membership will be appointed to the Commission by the Governor.

Engineering Committee – Jim Pokrajac reported that he has been attending weekly progress meetings for Stage V-2, that include status on the pipeline corridor. He reported that the sheet piling is completed on the north side of the river east of the NSRR. The contractor will be driving sheet piling on the south side very shortly. Inspectors will be on site when their respective pipeline is exposed, and when sheet piling is near or adjacent to that line. The contractor is on schedule and the date for completion should be met. Sheldon Edd added that the sheet piling is gap-toothed right now because concrete will fill it in to form the line of protection. The railroad closure still has to be completed.

- Stage VII utilities - Mr. Pokrajac reported that B.P. Pipelines is the only pipeline. They have four locations. They are currently working on it. Utility work on the north side is completed. They should be completed on the south side by the end of this month. There is also a minor NIPSCO pole relocate; and the town of Munster has a minor relocation. The utility work will be done prior to contractor starting work in the Stage VII area.

- Stage VIII utilities – Mr. Gurley reported that we have authorized the utility work to proceed so when the contract is awarded to a Stage VIII contractor, they will be able to start immediately, and not be delayed during construction.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Mr. Gurley asked Jim Pokrajac about log jam west of Martin Luther King. Mr. Pokrajac stated that it had been cleared out once; it has since accumulated again. It will be cleaned out again this week. Mr. Gurley stated that, for the time being, we are covered for O&M.

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Ron McAhron stated that the state budget is a work in progress. They are reconvening tomorrow; a budget needs to be developed by June 30.

- As far as the restructuring of the Commission, the existing Commission ends after June 30 and the new membership assumes authority on July 1. There is no knowledge of the new membership makeup at this point. Chairman Dernulc also stated he does know who the new members are. He has not received a call from the Governor's Office. He added that if there is a total change to this Commission, the members will help with the transition to make it as smooth a change as possible.

Other Business – There was none.

Statements from the Floor –

- Jayson Reeves from Gary expressed several thoughts. He attended the meeting that FEMA held relative to FEMA remapping. He feels that if everyone can continue working together, some progress can be made. There is no easy solution for drainage problems, he feels the sewer and storm water drains are obsolete. He would like to see everyone stay focused on the O&M issues.

- Dave Nellans, Munster town councilman, thanked the Commissioners and staff for all the effort that went into the awarding of the contracts for both Stage VII and Stage VIII. He is confident that the existing Board members will make the transition as easy as possible. He offered his assistance in any way needed. He wants to keep the project moving forward; he wants everyone to keep on top of O&M to help keep the river from any blockages.

- Bob Paulson from Munster also attended the public meeting that FEMA held relative to the remapping of Lake County flood plain. He is concerned that if sand bagging is done at the Northcote Bridge, FEMA will not remove that area from the flood plain. Imad Samara replied that the Army Corps' use of sandbags is acceptable to FEMA and the levee can be certified and be taken out of flood plain designation. He stated that in Federal regulations, the use of sand bags will allow the area to meet FEMA requirements. Imad asked the Chairman to write a letter asking this question in order that the Corps can answer it in writing.

- Jayson Reeves expressed his concern that once project is completed, rainfall may go to other areas increasing the flood plain area.

- Carolyn Marsh corrected the minutes by going on record to say she did not “oppose” the wetland permitting authority to be transferred to the Chicago District Army Corps, instead of the Detroit District. She just referred to the news article stating this transfer.

She inquired whether or not the Army Corps received any plans/report concerning the possibility of relocating one of the Gary casino boats to a more central location. The Army Corps has not. Chairman Dernulc added that he had read that the “relocation” plan of moving the boat had died in committee and is not being considered by legislators. Ms. Marsh stated she thought the Commission had a responsibility to consult with all agencies so we would have a good idea of what is being considered.

Ms. Marsh attended the public FEMA meeting for remapping the flood plain area. She inquired whether the Commission had seen the phase 2 plans for Cabela's. She is concerned about more open lands being considered for development, thus less land for storing waters when needed. Commissioner Mark Gordish added that he has not seen any development plans for the Cabela phase 2 area. As far as he knows, tenants do not want to develop until they are out of the floodplain designation so no one has made a commitment. He informed Ms. Marsh that the Cabela building is built at a higher elevation above the 100 year level at the north end of the property but he does not know if they pay flood insurance or not.

- Bob Olson from Munster referred to a news article about the Army Corps chopping thousands of trees down that are within 15' of a levee. His concern is at the Northcote bridge, where debris gathers as it comes down the river. With the bridge being 2' below the levee, it acts as a trash rack and a lot of debris accumulates and could act as a dam. Mr. Olson also stated that there is legislation that states IDNR will make engineering inspections periodically of the levees, and a violation can be issued if it is not done. He asked whether DNR has inspected the levees in this area, and if they do not have that responsibility, which does have authority to keep debris out of the channels. Chairman Dernulc explained that the Commission is responsible for O&M and coordinates with the communities along the river. Mr. Gurley added that as the entire construction is completed, an O&M plan will be put in place which will identify entities who will perform O&M. There is no identified funding in place to address this issue. That is being looked at. It will ultimately be the Commission's responsibility to make sure O&M is done.

- Bob Farag agreed that debris is a big problem. A lot of blockage is from beaver dams. At present, he feels residents do not know who to call when they see a blockage. Mr. Gurley indicated that an emergency response plan will be put in place.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. After discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2009 at the Munster Town Hall, with a work study session scheduled at 5:30 and the public meeting at 6:00. If the Munster Town Hall is not available, the meeting will be held at the Portage office.