

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010**

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

Chairman Dan Dernulc called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session and Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. Four Board members were present. Minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting stand as posted.

Development Commissioners:

**Dan Dernulc, Chairman
William Baker, Vice Chair
Anthony Broadnax, Treasurer
Tom Wichlinski, Secretary**

(Ron McAhron – Absent)

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

**Imad Samara – Army Corps
Vanessa Villarreal – Army Corps
Lynne Whelan – Army Corps
Alma W.... - Northwest Engineering
D. Taylor, Munster
R. Taylor - Munster
Ted Muta - Hammond
Rob Mangus – Munster Town Council
John Mulesa - Munster
James/Kalliope Dedelow – Munster
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Road, Hmd.
Barbara Whitaker - Munster
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster
Stephen Jadrnak – Forest, Hammond
Bea Hanusin – Munster
John Mogle – Munster**

Visitors:

**Mike Wood - Munster
Jeff Burton – The Times
Fred Baginski - Hammond
Marc Campagna - Munster
Bill Rubesha - Munster
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman’s office
Rep. Mara Candelaria-Reardon
Tom DeGiulio – Town Manager, Munster
Paul/MaryLou Daniels-Castle Dr., Munster
Bob Paulson - Munster
Philip Golden - Hammond
Arnold Schmidt - Hammond
Senator Frank Mrvan
Peter Yackanich – Forest, Hammond
Larry Blue - Hammond
John/Jean Plusch - Munster
Bill Petrites - Highland**

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc asked for a motion for authorization of a contract for new office space at 900 Ridge Road, Suite H, Munster. A motion was made by Bill Baker for approval of new location; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed with a 4-0 roll call vote. Chairman Dernulc asked for residents' patience with the transition of the move.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay reported on several items:

- Surveys, title work, appraisals are ongoing for Forest Avenue area. There are several properties which will probably require condemnation; the appraiser will do those properties first. Appraisal process should take 30-60 days. A review appraisal process will add on another 30 days; offers will then start to go out to property owners. Some residents have signed a right-of-entry, which may allow some work to be started before easement acquisition.
- There is a walk-through tomorrow to inspect sluice gates to make sure they are all functioning according to Corps standards.
- They are still working with Gary officials to improve the situation of the culverts at Chase St. The city still wants the road passable in an emergency. We are trying to design something where a vehicle could get through and still build a larger culvert on Chase Street.
- The A-99 letter will still be submitted to FEMA once the municipalities have signed it.

Army Corps Status Report:

Imad Samara reported that the lines of protection for the levee system are in place.

- SV-2 – Punch list items have been addressed; a change order is needed for work near a pipe inlet still remains.
- SVII – Floodwall was completed on October 29. Miscellaneous punch list items remain. Final seeding and grading still remain to be completed.
- SVIII – Several non-flood control related items remain; final seeding/grading, recreation trails, and asphalt placement still remain.

Commissioner Baker asked about the railroad closure in V-2. Imad Samara replied that the contractor built it to design but some complications have arisen. Adjustments need to be made for the closure to work. Corps will work with contractor to make sure corrective measures are made. It is a 1-1/2' closure; probability of any flooding there is very low.

Chairman Dernulc added that one of his main goals when he got on the Commission was to make sure the lines of protection were completed by the end of 2010. He appreciates the Army Corps meeting that goal.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims for December to be approved in the amount of \$932,806.61. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0. Executive Director Repay added that both utility relocation claims listed came in lower than the estimated agreement amount.
- Commissioner Baker then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the total amount of \$1,456.42; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0. Commissioner Baker asked about the Burr Street pump station claim. Dan Repay stated that the \$608 claim had been authorized by the Commission earlier. The pump had to be pulled to identify the problem. Austgen has since given us a quote for repair cost. At this point, the Burr Street pump has not been repaired.

- Attorney Dave Wickland referred to Resolution 2010-2 which allows a \$50 per diem per day. Resolution was approved by motion from Tom Wichlinski; seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0.

Finance – Chairman Dernulc referred to the October Financial Statement.

Land Acquisition/Land Management – Commissioner Bill Baker stated he has been working on expanding the sites for potential revenue from additional billboards. Commission plans to advertise an RFP to the public for potential bidders to bid on additional sites. He made a motion authorizing the pursuance of such advertising in two papers, contingent upon bidders securing all necessary permits/authorization from municipality; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed with a 4-0 roll call vote.

Project Engineering and

Operation & Maintenance – Dan Repay announced that O&M/emergency response meetings have been held on a monthly basis with all five communities to constantly update and make sure all problems are looked at and addressed. He added that over 100 pipelines cross the river; they will look at that in their meetings to see how to address it in the O&M plan.

Legislative Committee – No report.

Other Issues/New Business – Chairman Dernulc thanked Jeff Burton from the Times for his time spent coming to the meetings and reporting fairly. Mr. Burton will not be covering our meetings anymore; he has been reassigned to Porter County.

- Commissioner Wichlinski thanked Chairman Dernulc for his dedication to the project while serving as chairman. Today is his last meeting and the Commission has accomplished much under his leadership. Our loss is Lake County's gain, as he goes forward serving as Lake County Councilman. With that, Commissioner Baker presented Mr. Dernulc with a plaque honoring his commitment to the project. Mr. Dernulc thanked Board members, staff, and the public.

Elections proceeded to elect a new chairman. Anthony Broadnax nominated William Baker to serve as chairman. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to elect Mr. Baker as chairman; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed with a 4-0 roll call vote. Chairman Baker presided over the remainder of the meeting. He thanked members for their vote of confidence. He went on to say that maintenance of the levee system will be priority. Until the Commission can secure 100% of funding for maintenance, it will be an ongoing endeavor to find a mechanism for funds. Since this is a man-made structure, it has to be taken care of in perpetuity.

Statements from the Floor -

- Bill Petrites from Highland stated that Stage V-2 has been essentially complete for some time now. His concern is that it will not be complete effective until the pump station is built on Route 41 in Highland. He understands that it is part of an INDOT project but he has not been able to see any plans for it. He asked if staff could talk to INDOT to check on the progress of this contract. There is a contract advertisement for that area for December 15 but he cannot see if the pump station is part of that contract. Chairman Baker asked the

Corps if they knew and Imad Samara responded that he understands that the pump station is part of that contract. Staff will determine for sure and let Mr. Petrites know.

- John Mulesna from Munster inquired about the number of sandbags needed for the project area. He asked if the number of 50,000 has gone down any. Mr. Repay replied that the number of sandbags is down. Some areas have required less than anticipated. Hammond has about 15,000 sandbags; Munster has about 35,000 sandbags. They are stored according to Corps specs. Highland is pursuing some alternative methods.

- Steve Jadrnak from Forest Ave. in Hammond asked about the status of state line protection. Imad Samara from the Corps stated that the Corps is projecting to start in the spring. They will design in the winter, let the contract in the spring, and work during the summer. Mr. Samara committed to bringing a schedule for this work at the next meeting. Dan Repay added that we do have some money earmarked for this project. We will prioritize our remaining funds to get all areas completed. There may be some additional cost savings in some areas that will help fund other areas. He reiterated that we will not be going to the State for additional funds for construction/project use. Funding of maintenance will become the main issue.

- Pete Yackanich from Forest Ave. in Hammond asked about the response of the remaining property owners on Forest Avenue. Mr. Repay stated that one property owner has not responded and that is why we are pursuing the surveys because we probably will be looking at some condemnations in that area. With the right-of-entries that most residents have signed, we should be able to start some tree removal in the spring.

- Barbara Whitaker from Munster expressed concern about news articles she has read concerning development in the flood plain along I-80/94 in Gary. Mr. Repay replied that nothing has come before the Commission regarding any development. Nothing has been presented to the Army Corps either.

- Mike Wood from Munster asked about remaining trees that were not previously removed. Imad Samara stated that a contract will be let in the spring to do that tree removal.

- Tom DeGiulio, Munster town manager, thanked the Board members and commented on progress that has been made. After the October 2008 flood, the town adopted a resolution asking that Stage VII and Stage VIII be done in 26 months; that goal has been met. The town spent about \$900,000 putting up a temporary levee to the height of 2-3' higher than the existing levee. They also spent town money in the acquisition of the easements that were needed in Munster and donated that to the Commission. The town bought and demolished the 4 houses on River Drive, west of Hohman. They are working with the County and City of Hammond, trying to get the Calumet Avenue bridge at the same level. The city of Hammond is working on a resolution for Northcote bridge issue. The town is also working with Hammond Sanitary District. They saw a need for a better gaging system and they proceeded to install and fund a new gaging system for monitoring. The Commission has added some additional gage stations onto the river also. The town also purchased water bladders to help with flood control. The municipalities, working together, now have a unified emergency response plan in place. He stated that every resident is better protected today; much progress has been made.

Statements from the floor were closed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, which will be Wednesday, January 12 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.