

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 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. Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. A roll call vote confirmed four members present. Chairman Dernulc announced the resignation of Kent Gurley, due to work constraints. There were no corrections to the minutes of February 3; they stand as posted.

Development Commissioners:

Dan Dernulc
William Baker
Ron McAhron
Tom Wichlinski

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Jim Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Dave Nellans – Munster Councilman
Jeff Burton – The Times
Bill Howard - Munster
Sheldon Edd - USACE
Elizabeth Johnson-Congressman's Office
Imad Samara - USACE
Rob Mangus – Munster Councilman
Craig/Beatrice Hanusin - Munster
Michael Rakoczy – Chicago IL
Mike Echterling – Lake Cty Fish & Game
Karen Lorenz - Hammond
Stacy Broutman - Hammond
Mark Jancosek
Mike Zarantonello - Southmoor
Tina Kutkoski - Hammond
Bill Petrites - Highland
Linda Cook - Griffith
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster
M. Campagna – Munster
John Mulesa – Munster
Michelle Quinn - Post Tribune reporter

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc went on to say that Mr. Gurley will no longer be a Commission and has sent his letter to the Governor and will be missed on the Commission. His expertise with the Commission's financials and budget preparation were invaluable to the Commission. Mr. Dernulc asked the Mr. Repay to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Gurley.
• Chairman Dernulc reported that an Executive Session was held on February 17 and again today prior to the 5:30 Work Study Session.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay reported that the LCRBDC has been attending meetings with the municipalities every two weeks to talk about O&M and emergency response. Highland Fire Chief Bill Timmer has initiated the meetings. The attendees are breaking up into 2 groups; one for O&M and the other for emergency response. There was a sandbagging demonstration today. There is another O&M/emergency response meeting planned for tomorrow. They are looking where the "pinch" points are so logjams and debris can be removed on a regular basis. The areas need to be identified and dealt with

first to look at what preventative measures consists of. The goal is to have a draft plan available in about a month. That draft will then be shared with everyone for discussion and improvement. Anyone can offer suggestions; the goal is to have a plan that is 100% complete and effective. Mr. Repay confirmed that he is heading one of the newly-formed committees for O&M and will serve as a resource person. Each community will identify an emergency command person; INDOT is also involved. Mr. Repay went on to say that he just had an opportunity to fly the river this morning in a helicopter and shot a video and took photos; they will help to identify some of the problem areas and the pinch points. With the info that the Corps has; USGS has; communities have; INDOT; all info will be shared and fine-tuned. In an emergency, there will be a final, agreed-to-plan that will be used by all emergency responders.

haul routes
morning 7/1
Lantz
check w/ Baker

- Chairman Dernulc proceeded to ask the Corps to give a report on the status of construction contracts.
- SV-2 – Contractor is finishing fencing and minor restoration at Wicker Park. Baring Ave. pump station is nearly completed. Contractor is winding down. An early summer completion is anticipated.
- SVII – Contractor is about 1/3 complete with sheet piling on the south side; and is about ¼ complete on the north side. Concrete work is expected to start soon. Protection will be no less than what is currently in place during the entire construction time. Project is on schedule.
- SVIII – Contractor is working near the Calumet Avenue pump station. Clearing is complete between Columbia and Calumet. Sheet pile installation at Unity Church is almost complete.
- Pump Station contract 1A, 2A, 2B - Mr. Edd reported that the pump station work is almost complete and is currently on schedule.
- Commissioner Bill Baker inquired whether the municipalities know where the haul routes are and when they will be in use; Sheldon Edd answered that the municipalities are aware.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims from March to be approved in the amount of \$565,575.57. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the claims; seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.
- Tom Wichlinski then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the amount of \$57.50; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

Finance – Chairman Dernulc referred to the January Financial Statement and the January NIRPC invoice.

- He stated that the insurance carrier was bidding out the yearly Directors and Officers general liability policy to see if there was a better rate out there; we will inform Commission at the April meeting.

Land Acquisition/Land Management – Bill Baker reported that he has completed an inventory looking at the existing leases and excess land available. We need to contact the farmers to see if they are still interested in farming. Also looking at wetland banking areas where there may be a possibility for potential income.

Engineering - Jim Pokrajac reported that there are just some minor utility coordination items ongoing right now. Work should be entirely completed shortly.

- The INDOT storm water and pump station contract is still being planned for the area west of Indianapolis from Ridge Road to the river. In talking with the NIRPC transportation staff, December 8, 2010 is the current schedule to advertise this project. Award will be in February and construction start will be in the spring of 2011.

Operation & Maintenance – Jim Pokrajac reported that the weekly LCRBDC pump station/levee inspections are continuing, with reports being submitted to Commissioners. We have contracted out with a vendor to do pump station inspections in Gary twice a month, making sure they are operating correctly and there has been no vandalism. He reported that cost of replacing fuses was minor. Chairman Dernulc inquired what happened to the fuses. Mr. Pokrajac replied that he has checked with several people/agencies that have access keys; nobody seems to know; no one has taken responsibility for it. The pump stations are securely locked so it was not vandalism. Discussion ensued on whether or not new locks and keys should be purchased; the existing ones have been in use for approximately 13 years. The Commission requested Mr. Pokrajac get a cost estimate to replace the locks.

- Mr. Repay asked Jim Pokrajac about an upcoming meeting on control structures and electric operators with communities. Mr. Pokrajac said that the meeting is next week. A representative from each community will attend to receive the Stage V-2 electric drill operators for turnover, be instructed on their use, and sign off for receiving them. The communities/agencies will assume responsibility for maintenance and closing the gates in a flood event.

- Mr. Pokrajac stated that the Corps will be doing annual inspections starting the end of April. It will be a 5 day inspection that will include levees, pump stations and sluice gates; inspections will be done in “active” segments in Gary, the three Highland stages between Kennedy and Cline, and the Hammond segment between Cline and Kennedy. Mr. Baker pointed out that inspections for the “inactive” portions in Gary were not part of the 2009 Corps inspections. The Corps will give us a written report of findings. Ron McAhron asked how long will it take for the Corps to get a report back to us; Jim Pokrajac answered probably a month or so. The Corps does inspections yearly except for a previous “inactive” declaration; they will not do the inspections until corrections are made.

Legislative – Ron McAhron informed the Commission that the ongoing legislative session hopes to finish up tomorrow. There is nothing directly related to our project that we should be concerned with. One change will be the permitting authority for local channels and debris removal from streams that was under DNR will now be under the Corps.

- Mr. McAhron also stated that the State Budget Agency has monthly meetings toward the end of the month. We should start preparing for the Commission to be on agenda for the April meeting to obtain the remaining monies allocated to the Commission to complete the project.

Other Business – Bill Baker made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to approve claims and pay them prior to approval at a Board meeting in an amount not to exceed \$500; seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote. The items will still be listed in the packet and ratified at a Board meeting.

*request by
of active
portions in
Gary*



- Mr. Baker commented that as the weather gets warmer, there will be a lot of construction activity around the river; he hopes that residents are careful where construction is ongoing. At times, there will be some type of work in each segment of construction.

Statements from the Floor -

- Mike Zarantonello from Hammond welcomed Mr. Repay as the new Director of the Commission. He questioned whether or not any of the litigation properties can delay the project. Ron McAhron said negotiations will not hold up the construction. Attorney Wickland answered that there are 8 properties in litigation. Mr. McAhron went on to say that all easements in the levee system have been given to the Army Corps; the take is established and the litigation process will only establish a price. Mr. Zarantonello then asked when the construction will start in the Southmoor area. Imad Samara stated that residents will be notified at least a week in advance of construction start. Mr. Zarantonello continued to question the accuracy of the easement footage.
- Paul Daniels from Munster inquired about the status of the proposed water bladder in Munster. Mr. Repay stated that the Corps responded, in writing, to the town of Munster and said there were several points of concern that would not qualify as a good closure structure. Mr. Daniels also questioned the number of litigations pending and that it was public knowledge. Attorney Wickland stated he will have a report for the next meeting.
- Bill Howard from Munster inquired whether it was just the 5 communities that were meeting on emergency management. Dan Repay answered that, at present it is just the 5 communities adjacent to the river; however, other communities up stream will be included at some point. Mr. Howard agreed that since water comes from upstream, other watershed communities should be involved. He also asked about security with the locks and keys at the west reach pump stations. Mr. Pokrajac indicated the HSD pump stations were keyed and locked with HSD locks.
- Rob Mangus, Munster town councilman thanked the Commission for beginning the O&M/emergency response coordination meetings on a regular basis. He went on to say that he would like to see the County Surveyor's office included at these meetings and it would be more productive if they were included from the beginning. Mr. Repay stated that he would be calling the Surveyor's Office; INDOT, the Sheriff's office and Lake County Emergency Management for future participation.
- Craig Hanusin from Munster asked Ron McAhron if the problem of the Asian carp pose a concern to the Little Calumet River. McAhron answered by saying that the Asian carp pose a problem for everyone; the IDNR is looking to see what options are available and are working with the Corps. He also expressed concern about lessening the elevation of the lines of protection during construction. Imad Samara responded by saying the contractor is responsible to maintain that elevation at all times.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.

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