

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2010

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

Chairman Dan Dernulc called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. A roll call vote confirmed all five members present. Minutes of the April 7th meeting stand as posted.

Development Commissioners:

Dan Dernulc
William Baker
Ron McAhron
Tom Wichlinski
Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Jim Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Vanessa Villarreal – Army Corps
Pete/Helen Rich – Munster
John/Jean Plusch - Crestwood
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Barb Runberg – Hawthorne Drive
Paul/Mary Lou Daniels – Castle Drive
Bob Paulson – Northcote
John Bach – Town of Highland
Kalliope Dedelow – White Oak
John Harrigan - Hammond
Tom DeGiulio – Town of Munster

Visitors:

Dave Nellans – Munster Councilman
Jeff Burton – The Times
Bill Howard - Munster
Michael Rakoczy – Chicago IL
Patricia Piekarczyk
Elizabeth Johnson-Congressman's Office
Imad Samara - USACE
John Mogle - Baring
Vanessa Villarreal, USACE
Lynne Whelan - USACE
Mike Echterling – Lake Cty Fish & Game
Elaine Fay - Munster
Barbara Whitaker - Munster
Frank Mrvan - Senator
Christine Kutkoski - Hammond
Mark Gordish, City of Hammond, Eng.
Linda Cook - Griffith
Bill Petrites – Highland
Peter Yakanich - Hammond
John Beckman – Lake Co. Fish & Game
John Mulesa – Munster
D. Piniak – Monroe Street
Rick Kuna – Griffith Public Works
L. Czulno - Hammond
Phil Gralik – R.W.Armstrong Co.
Ron Johnson – N.W. IN News Bureau
Roberto Peredes - USACE
William Rochford - USACE
Bridget Bodefelf – Crestwood

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Commission. Bill Baker make a motion to nominate Anthony Broadnax as Treasurer; seconded by Tom Wichlinski. There were no other nominations from the floor. At a 5-0 roll call vote, Mr. Broadnax was elected Treasurer.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay announced that at the conclusion of business, he would be introducing a power point presentation on the operation & maintenance/emergency management plan that he has been working on with the municipalities.

- Mr. Repay reported that he has been working with some civil engineering Purdue students who are doing a project on the Little Calumet River flood protection system. When their report is completed, he will share it with those interested .
- Mr. Repay stated that he has become familiar with several blockages in the river and is working to clear them. He also stated that he has scheduled a meeting with the Lake County Surveyor's Office on May 11.

Army Corps Status Report:

- SV-2 – Roberto Peredes from the Army Corps informed the Board members that the contractor is nearing completion; there is some seeding and anti-graffiti coating remaining to be done. Projected turnover will be this summer.
- SVII – Contractor is continuing to drive sheetpile on both sides of the river. Concrete work is also proceeding from east to west. Columbia Avenue will be closed to the public for about four weeks while the closure structure will be installed.
- SVIII – In Hammond, the outlet work is continuing between Calumet and I-80/94 moving westward. In Munster, all clearing is completed between Calumet and Manor. Earth fill be will starting at Riverside Park. All lines of protection will be completed by end of 2010.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims for May to be approved in the amount of \$56,600.58. Mr. Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims; seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.
- Tom Wichlinski then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the total amount of \$57.74; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

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

Land Acquisition/Land Management – No report.

Engineering - Jim Pokrajac reported that there are some minor utility coordination items ongoing right now. There was a utility relocation involving the signaling device north on Columbia that needed to be relocated. We worked with the City and that was taken care of with no expense to the Commission.

Commissioner Biller asked if there were any surprises with any other utilities. Mr. Repay replied that there may be two poles that need to be relocated by NIPSCO. NIPSCO initially wanted us to pay up front; but have agreed to do the work first. NIPSCO will try to reduce their overhead that they originally quoted us; cost would be approximately \$83,000. Mr. McAhron asked about the timing of the work. Mr. Pokrajac replied that the contractor would not be doing sheet piling in that area for a couple of months so there would be time to do the utility work first. We need to look at our options. Mr. Repay added that we should know more by the June meeting.

Legislative – No report.

Baker!

Operation & Maintenance – Dan Repay reported that the Army Corps annual inspection of the completed levee segments were held last week and the beginning of this week. Jim Pokrajac accompanied the Corps on the inspections. When the Corps report is complete, they will give us a list of critical items that need immediate attention. Mr. Pokrajac reported that there is only minor maintenance that needs to be done on the Highland levees; there are no major problems. The draft report should be ready in about one month. Tetra Tech was the inspection team. Mr. McAhron asked if we would receive the report of critical items first; the Corps answered yes. Mr. McAhron emphasized that critical areas need to be done first, especially if they pose a flooding threat. There are different levels of maintenance that require attention. Mr. Broadnax asked about the inspections for Gary and Griffith. Mr. Pokrajac answered the sluice gate is working well in Griffith between the RR and Colfax. In Gary, there are several blocked culverts and a few flap gates stuck open. We will make INDOT aware of these. Structural integrity looks good. The Marshalltown area was not inspected at this time.

A half hour power point presentation was given by Tom DeGiulio (town of Munster), Bill Timmer (town of Highland), and Dan Repay (LCRBDC Executive Director) on Operation & Maintenance and Emergency Response. The audience was given the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Chairman Dernulc thanked Mr. Repay and the communities that put this power point together.

There was no new business.

Anthony Broadnax asked about the coordination of this O&M/Emergency Response plan. He asked whether Mr. Repay/LCRBDC would be in the Central Command position to act as liaison to all communities. Mr. Repay answered that identification of the job is not clearly defined at this point in time; it could be the Commission or not.

Bill Baker thanked all the municipalities who worked on this. It was unfortunate circumstances that brought everyone together but he felt that this is the first regional project that has all communities working together toward the same goal. O&M of the completed levees becomes the critical issue now. Ron McAhron added that he was very encouraged to see the progress being made. This draft O&M plan will be a living document that will require consistent updates but will be made available on line to residents. Mr. Baker complimented Mr. Repay on the fine job he has done in moving this forward.

Statements from the Floor -

- John Mulesa from Munster commented on the amazing construction design that he hopes would be documented. With the existing levee being removed; tree stumps being removed; a 12' deep trench being built and the new levee being built on a narrow strip of land; and all while flood protection to the residents is being maintained. It was again stated that the portion of the levee system in the Southmoor area will not be constructed, except for a tie back.
- Tom DeGiulio, Munster Town Manager, reported that an agreement for the purchase of the last house on River Drive west of Hohman has been reached. That house will then be demolished.

- Laurie Selmo from Forest Avenue in Hammond asked about flood protection on the existing levee at Forest Avenue; she thought everything was on schedule and that would include the Forest Avenue levee being rebuilt and then certified. Ron McAhron answered that the existing levee there will remain in place. It was originally believed that the reconstruction of the Illinois levee would bring protection to this area. Now that it has been determined that Illinois will not be rebuilding their levee because it would not be cost effective to do so. We are working with the Corps and FEMA to see what can be done to flood fight in a flood event to provide the residents with an adequate level of protection.
- Peter Yakanich from Forest Avenue in Hammond questioned whether the existing Forest Avenue levee would be as up to grade as a new levee. Ron McAhron informed the audience that we have limited funds to work from but some funds were identified in our budget and we will do whatever we can to have the area protected, even if it means sand bagging. The Corps has already credited the Commission for the Hammond levee and for us to re-built it, there is no money to do that. Mr. McAhron emphasized that we will stay on track for the lines of protection completion by the end of the year. FEMA has a very difficult process to go through to change flood insurance status but we will work with them to obtain, at the very least, a significant reduction in flood insurance cost.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.