

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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. An Executive Session and Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. A roll call vote confirmed all five members present. Minutes of the September 8th meeting stand as posted, with one change on Page 2 changing “town of Highland” to “town of Munster” using water bladders as an alternative to sandbagging.

Development Commissioners:

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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

**Roberto Peredes – Army Corps
John Mulesa - Munster
James/Kalliope Dedelow – Munster
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Road, Hmd.
Bill Rochford – Army Corps
Imad Samara – Army Corps
John Beckman-Lake Co Fish & Game
Craig/Bea Hanusin – Munster
John Mogle – Munster
Senator Frank Mrvan
Charles/Donna Elrod - Hammond
Stephen Jadrnak – Forest Ave, Hmd
Paul Dombrowski – Forest Ave, Hmd
Linda Cook – Griffith
Paul Taylor – Forest Ave, Hammond
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster**

Visitors:

**Don/Josie Seagraves - Munster
Jeff Burton – The Times
Fred Baginski - Hammond
Patricia Piekarczyk - Munster
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond
Elizabeth Johnson-Congressman’s Office
Sylvia Vucich - Munster
John Harrigan - Hammond
Vanessa Villarreal, USACE
Joan Zacok – River Drive, Munster
Kenny/Bonnie Vavrek – Stateline, Ham’d
Larry Blue - Hammond
Terry Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
Bob Montgomery - Munster
Tina Kutkoski - Hammond
M/M John Plusch - Munster
Jim Batey - Hammond
Bill Petrites – Highland
Peter Yackanich – Forest Ave, Ham’d
Barbara Whitaker - Munster
Elaine Fay – River Drive, Munster
Bob Paulson - Munster
Brenda peers – River Drive, Munster
John/Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Ham’d
Paul/MaryLou Daniels – Castle Dr., Munster
Ron Johnson – NINB News
David Nellans – Munster Councilman
Arnold Schmidt – Hammond
Dave Pelc - Munster
Kim Poland – Hammond councilwoman
Tom DeGiulio – Town Manager of Munster
Mike Zarantonello - Southmoor, Hammond
Bill/Beu Coomes – River Drive, Munster**

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc informed the audience that the “flood drill” that was performed turned out quite successful. Columbia Avenue was closed off for a short time as part of the drill practice.

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

- Mr. Repay went on to say that he will follow up with minor items needing improvement regarding the drill. There was minimal notice given to communities so that the drill would be as realistic as possible. He stated that the initial call for alert went out at 9:30; at 9:45 they were informed they needed to mobilize; they arrived at 10:00 and started laying sandbags. Water bladders also performed within expectations. He will evaluate what changes could be made to do even better.
- Mr. Repay and Commissioner Broadnax recently met with Mayor Rudy Clay and staff to discuss Chase Street closing and O&M. Mr. Repay has also contacted Lake Station to get them involved with cleaning efforts at Deep River.
- Mr. Repay announced that he and Corps met with Southmoor residents to discuss the Option 4, as designed by the Corps. He has recently received inspection reports to review.
- Mr. Repay reported he attended a meeting at the Forum that was very informative regarding Asian carp.
- Mr. Repay announced that the town of Highland has passed a resolution in support of the flood mitigation plan; the town of Munster had previously passed a resolution. We still need to have the cities of Hammond and Gary, as well as North Township, take affirmative action on the plan. Everyone needs to be unified.

Army Corps Status Report:

- SV-2 – Roberto Peredes from the Army Corps informed the Board members that the V-2 segment is substantially complete; only railroad closure punch list items remain and a small modification near a pipe inlet.
- SVII – Floodwall is about 97% complete; projected total completion of floodwall in October. Contractor is in process of placing rip rap/stone.
- SVIII is about 80% complete for flood control portion. Sheet piling placement moving along nicely; projected completion of flood control portion on target for late November.
- Roberto added that the V-2 as-builts aren't approved yet; comments still ongoing. The O&M manuals have been approved; no big issues.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims for October to be approved in the amount of \$48,201.77. Commissioner McAhron made a motion to approve the claims; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.
- Commission Wichlinski made a motion to approve a transfer of \$2,858.20 (Savings account interest) and the transfer of \$75,000 from Draw money into the O&M account (total transfer \$77,858.20); motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.
- Commissioner Baker made a motion to transfer \$101,421.43 (\$9,220.13 x 11 months) from budget code 5840 to budget code 5812 (to cover salary and fringe for Ex. Dir from start date Feb. thru Dec 2010); motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

- Commissioner Wichlinski then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the total amount of \$30,532.27; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.
- Dan Repay added that no invoices will be paid until he is 100% satisfied with work. Regarding any pump repair in Gary, he has met with the city's consultant, who claims they do not believe they have ownership of the pumps and they have not accepted O&M yet. At this point, Mr. Repay will have Austgen Electric do the major pump repair. This is one aspect of the O&M procedure that has to be dealt with; also, issue is do we fix a pump or do we replace a pump.
- Chairman Dernulc referred to the letter from USGS asking us to sign an agreement for funding the Hart Ditch gage station at a cost of \$6,750. Commissioner McAhron made a motion to approve funding this gage station; Bill Baker seconded motion; passed with a 5-0 roll call vote. Discussion ensued on the benefits of the station to the project.

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

Land Acquisition/Land Management – Commission Bill Baker has developed an RFP to be advertised for alternative locations for billboards on Commission property; this could be an alternative revenue source for the Commission.

- Mr. Baker has also had discussions with outside sources on wetland mitigation banking. This could also be a source of revenue for the Commission. Replacement value is one acre to three acres that entities have to mitigate for.

Project Engineering and

Operation & Maintenance – Dan Repay announced that the issue with utility pole relocation in Stage VIII has been resolved.

- He thanked Hammond, Highland, and Munster for their cooperative efforts in performing the “flood drill”.
- He referred to the support resolutions passed by Munster and Highland. He expects Hammond to pass a resolution very soon.

Legislative Committee – No report.

Other Issues/New Business – Chairman Dernulc recognized Senator Frank Mrvan in the audience and publicly thanked him for his continued support.

- Commission Bill Baker stressed the importance of having the “flood drills”. They need to happen at all closures so we are prepared for a flood event. They may be inconvenient but they are necessary.

Statements from the Floor -

- Tom DeGiulio, Town Manager of Munster, stated that he thought the Commission pursuing wetland banking was a good idea. The town of Munster has used wetland banking with the Lake County Parks Dept. and found it very beneficial and worth pursuing. He also informed the Board members that the four properties west of Hohman have been demolished.

- **Barbara Whitaker from Munster inquired about what the ruling would be relative to the city of Gary developing a casino in wetlands. Imad Samara answered that where levees are in place, no one will be building anything if there were any adverse effects/impact to the levee system. He stated that an official proposal would first have to go to the Commission, since we own the land, and then the Commission would go to the Corps. Commissioner McAhron stated that we have seen no proposal/information on this, nor has the Corps. There is no proposed legislation down state. He stated that we are aware of it and will deal with it if it becomes an issue.**
- **Ruth Mores from in Hammond publicly thanked Colonel Quarles for visiting their homes and hearing their concerns from the Southmoor residents. She read the thank you note that she sent him expressing their concerns.**
- **Laurie Czulno from Forest Avenue in Hammond inquired about the status of the Forest Ave. levee work. Mr. Repay answered that we still have 3 property owners that have not signed right to construct easements. Without obtaining approval from all property owners, the Commission will not be able to gain access to the land to do any tree removal or any repair work. Mrs. Czulno asked whether or not any work could be done on any of the property. Mr. Repay replied we will work with the city of Hammond and the Hammond Sanitary District to see what can be done.**
- **Mrs. Coombs from Munster expressed concern about the water bladders moving out of place during a flood event. Town Manager Tom DeGiulio answered her that the town is not concerned that will happen. They have been engineered to seal; they have been tested and they will work. Bill Rochford from the Corps agreed and said that the Corps has approved them.**
- **Paul Daniels from Munster asked whether any work had been started for the certification process. Knowing there are many agencies involved and the length of time it takes, he encouraged beginning the steps simultaneously. Commissioner Broadnax stated that discussions have been ongoing. Commissioner McAhron added that it will not be just one big certification of the entire system; it will be five separate segments with five separate certifications.**
- **John Mulesa from Munster asked about using sandbags and blocks during a flooding event. He is concerned about the quality of the blocks we would be using. Dan Repay answered that these blocks will be designed specifically for this project and will fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. Sub-standard blocks will not be used. Cost will probably be around \$250,000 depending on number of blocks to be made.**
- **John Czulno from Forest Avenue in Hammond asked who will pay for the blocks. Dan Repay answered that they will be cost shared like the project – 75% Federal (Corps) and 25% State (the LCRBDC).**
- **Peter Yackanich from Hammond asked Commissioner McAhron where Forest Avenue rehabilitation fits in for certification. Mr. McAhron answered that Forest Ave. is not part of the Stage VIII contract. It is a stand-alone that the Commission will upgrade to Federal standards as soon as easements are obtained. The Commission has estimated and allowed some funding to do this work. Mr. Yackanich inquired what the legal process would be on the 3 Forest Avenue properties not yet obtained. Mr. Repay answered that we are awaiting a green card back from a certified letter that was sent; we will give them to the end of the week and then the next step will be condemnation. That will basically be at least a five-month process.**

- **John Beckman from Lake County Fish & Game – Mr. Beckman reported that a meeting was held in which the Corps participated in, regarding watershed issues, water storage, mitigation, etc. He was pleased to hear that the Commission would consider using some of their lands for wetland mitigation banking.**
- **Fred Baginski from Hammond asked if dirt was being dumped on the levee side in Stage VII. Roberto Peredes answered that the contractor must meet a certain grade elevation so they will be filling in dirt to meet those contract specifications. Imad Samara confirmed that it would be a separate contract to remove trees from inside of the levees.**
- **Commissioner McAhrn reiterated that the levee system will be certified in five separate segments; the entire system will not be just one certification.**
- **Len Kozlowski from Munster inquired about some leakage he has seen coming from the earthen levee. Roberto Peredes explained that it is from existing storm drainage pipes that used to outlet into the river. The pipes retain water and the Corps is looking to address that. They may need to plug the pipes. He will view the area with Mr. Kozlowski.**
- **Senator Frank Mrvan also inquired about a casino being constructed in the project area. Commissioner McAhrn stated that you can build in a wetland but for the permitting process, you would have to offset mitigation land elsewhere. It would involve several different agencies (Army Corps, IDNR, IDEM, LCRBDC, etc) approving and if it had any kind of adverse affect on the flood control project, no permits would be granted. Imad Samara reiterated that it would not get approved. Senator Mrvan also reminded the Commission about the remaining monies from the original \$14 million still at the Budget Agency.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, which will be Wednesday, November 10 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00. (The Chairman stated that the December meeting will probably be held at IUN in Gary).