

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011**

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

Chairman William Baker 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. Three (3) Board members were present; one (1) absent and one (1) vacancy exists. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

**William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Secretary  
Ron McAhron**

**Absent:**

**Anthony Broadnax**

**Executive Director:**

**Dan Repay**

**Attorney:**

**Dave Wickland**

**Staff:**

**Sandy Mordus  
Judy Vamos**

**Visitors:**

**Bill/Bev Coomes - Munster  
Elizabeth Johnson - Congressman's Office  
Mark Gordish - City of Hammond, Eng. Dept.  
David Nellans - Munster Town Councilman  
Imad Samara - Army Corps Project Mgr.  
Kim Poland - Hammond Councilwoman  
Judy Knapp - Hammond  
Ruth Mores - Southmoor, Hammond  
Fred Baginski - Hammond  
T. Cholipski - Munster  
Diane Kowalski - Candidate for Munster  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Joe Simonetto - Candidate for Munster Council  
Robert Leary - Candidate for Munster Council  
Joan Zacok - Munster  
Mike Echterling - Lake Co. Fish & Game  
Elaine Fay - Munster  
Demetrio & Consuelo Ornelas - Munster  
Brian Grskovich - Munster  
LuAnn Franklin - The Times  
Bridget Bodefled - Munster  
Sylvia Vucich - Munster  
Joe Uzubell - Munster  
B. Runberg - Munster  
John/Jean Plusch - Munster  
Steve Enger - Munster  
Linda Cook - Griffith  
Vanessa Villarreal - Army Corps  
Ron Svetic - Munster  
Clarence Seagraves - Munster  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski - Munster  
Mike Wood - Munster  
Craig/Bea Hanusin - Munster  
Dorothy Pazanin - River Dr. Munster  
James Kaczka - Candidate for Munster Council  
John Mulesa - Munster**

Minutes of the September 14, 2011 meeting were approved by a motion from Tom Wichlinski; motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Bill Baker referred to the pictures of the flooding that reflect what we're working to minimize the chance that we never see flooding like that again. As the local sponsor to the Federal project headed by the Corps of Engineers, we have acquired the real estate and utility relocations; we are charged with the operation and maintenance and have provided monies for construction to the Army Corps. O&M monies are needed to take care of this \$250 million man-made structure. Since the flood, we hope that people have educated themselves as to what is needed and what we are trying to accomplish. The Commission has a deferred maintenance plan in place, an O&M plan, and an emergency response plan. He thanked the residents for attending the meetings.

**Army Corps Report** – Project Manager Imad Samara informed the Board members that Colonel Frederic Drummond could not attend the meeting because he was in training outside of the Chicago area.

**Stage V-2** is basically complete; an item left is the side slope on Kennedy Avenue next to Wendy's. He said that the Corps has finally come to a negotiated agreement for the contractor to make the correction needed at no cost to us; work should be completed by the end of October.

In **Stage VII**, everything is moving along. Contractor is on site doing the work. They have finished patching and working on the wall; final grading, recreation trails and final seeding are also near completion; total contract completion date should be by December 29.

In **Stage VIII**, work is quickly moving along. Final grading, recreation trails, asphalt placement, and final seeding are near completion. Contract completion date should be by January 10, 2012.

- Mr. Repay asked if the issue of backyard drainage in Stage VII is being addressed. Mr. Samara said that Corps engineers have met with Munster and have observed the site; it will be addressed. He also said he would be meeting with Hammond city engineer.
- Chairman Baker asked about the issue of the railroad closure in Stage V-2. Mr. Samara replied that a temporary sand bag closure would be used in the interim, if needed. They are working with the contractor to try to resolve this issue. They have recently sent a letter to the contractor saying they think they are responsible to make the correction. Commissioner McAhron asked Imad to thank the Colonel for working thru some of these issues. He sees it as a positive sign that they are now being addressed.
- Commissioner McAhron asked about certification and turning over these latest sections over to the Commission; Mr. Samara replied that as-builts will probably be completed early next year and turned over at that time. There are still some punch list items that will need to be taken care of after turnover. The as-builts on Stage V-2 may not be available as soon as VII and VIII as-builts because of the RR closure issue. Mr. Samara said that the Corps can turn over what they have but they would not be the final as-builts; all issues must be resolved first.

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

- Mr. Repay reported that we have solicited bids for Chase Street culvert removal and we are ready to enter into a contract with the low bidder.

- Mr. Repay also stated that we received three (3) bids for tree clearing from the RFP that we advertised. The proposal was broke down into 3 sections: Manor to Hart's Ditch; Hart's Ditch to Cline; and Cline to Central.
- On Forest Avenue, one case has been settled of the 2 condemnations. Second case continued based on landowner's request. We are finalizing some minor issues with the Corps in regard to upgrade.
- Mr. Repay announced that they had a simulated road closing at Kennedy Avenue on September 28. It just happened to be raining that day so it would be working in actual adverse conditions if it had been a real road closing. The simulation was successful; we have an internal report: the Corps is doing a final report.
- Mr. Repay thanked Mike Echterling and Fred Baginski for the great volunteer job they are doing in removing some of the beaver dams. Once removed, the beavers are persistent and will return to the same spot. Some of the dams are in very remote areas and very hard to get to.
- The Commission has purchased some plastic grate covers to replace the stolen ones at Chase and 35<sup>th</sup>. These are not recyclable so there should be no motive to steal them. If left open, they have the potential to damage cars if not replaced.
- Pump Station inspection reports have been received from Austgen Electric. All are in good working order, except for the one that is out at Burr Street, which we are aware of.
- We still have been working with NIPSCO at the far east of the project. Once some of the debris is cleaned up there, they will have better access to their lines. It will also create more storage capacity for the system.

Finance Report – Mr. Repay presented the claims for October in the amount of \$96,046.83. After explaining some of the claims, he proceeded to pull the USGS claim for \$7,000 at this time. We had only received an agreement from them; not the actual invoice. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to remove the USGS claim for \$7,000 from the claims sheet; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhrn; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote. A motion was then made by Commissioner Wichlinski to approve the claims in the revised total of \$89,046.83; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhrn; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote.

- Mr. McAhrn asked Mr. Repay to gather all costs we have spent on the Forest Avenue area to date. Costs would include all engineering costs, land acquisition, legal, etc.

Other Issues/New Business – Commissioner Wichlinski referred to a letter received from USGS to share in the cost of the Hart Ditch Gage Monitor. A motion was made by Commissioner Wichlinski authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with USGS for the annual joint funding of the monitoring gage at Hart Ditch at a cost of \$7,000; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhrn; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote. Mr. Repay added that USGS partners with different agencies, i.e. the Corps, INDOT, on different gages they have around the area. The only gage that we pay for is the Hart Ditch gage.

- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the lowest responsible bidder for removal of the 3 culverts at Chase Street at an amount not to exceed \$25,000; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhrn; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote.
- Mr. Repay proceeded with opening the 3 bids received from the tree removal RFPs that we advertised. We had asked for a separate bid for 3 segments and then a total bid. The

first segment was from Manor Avenue to Hart's Ditch; the second segment was from Hart's Ditch to Cline; and the third segment was from Cline to Central. The first bid received was from Dave's Tree Service. First segment - \$560,000 Prevailing Wage (\$720,000 union bid); second segment - \$420,000 Prevailing Wage (\$540,000 union bid); third segment - \$910,000 Prevailing Wage (\$1,170,000 union bid); Total bid - \$1,890,000 Prevailing Wage (\$2,430,000 union bid). The second bid was received from Wiltjer Excavating. First segment - \$758,000; second segment - \$585,000; third segment - \$897,000; Total bid - \$2,240,000. The third bid was received from Clean Cut Tree Service. First segment - \$285,000; second segment - \$190,000; third segment - \$475,000; Total bid - \$950,000. Commissioner Wichlinski proceeded to make a motion directing Mr. Repay to take these under advisement, doing a study and comparison and come back with a report to the Board members within a month or two; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhron; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote.

- Mr. McAhron talked about the Army Corps doing a 5 year study on the Asian Carp issue and how to keep the invasive species out of the Great Lakes system. The Great Lakes Commission has secured a grant to see if they can come up with a plan sooner than the 5 years. They are holding a series of public hearings, one being held in Hammond on October 20 in Room 103 at the Gyte Bldg at Purdue Cal from 3-6 p.m. He believes this issue is important and could affect the Little Calumet River project. He is requesting Mr. Repay to attend the meeting to make sure that our concerns for any adverse impact on our project are noted.

Statements from the Floor:

- Beverly Coomes from Munster expressed dissatisfaction with the repair/cleanup work that the contractor did in her area. Imad Samara replied that the grading work probably is not completed yet. He will get her address and visit on site to see what needs to be done. She also inquired about the RFP for tree removal between the levees. Chairman Baker replied that we needed to know what kind of money would be involved in a worst case scenario in clearing out all the trees. No work is actually being done at this time.
- Steve Enger from Munster asked about getting a commemorative plaque on the Northcote Bridge, honoring the due diligence of the local residents.
- Demetrio Ornelas from Munster expressed dissatisfaction with his area in regard to drainage. Imad Samara said the contractor should still be working in that area; he will check on the drainage issue.
- Sylvia Vucich from Munster said water is just sitting on River Drive; there are ridges and ruts present. Although some grading and seeding has been done, it is not complete. Imad Samara stated he would investigate. Mr. Repay added that he meets twice a month with the contractors. Tomorrow is their meeting date and he will inform the contractors that residents are not satisfied.
- John Mulesa from Munster stated that since some of Hammond and Highland have now been declared out of the floodplain, he thinks the other towns should take the initiative to get their respective community out of the floodplain. Commissioner McAhron explained that the Corps has to first certify the levee completion and furnish as-builts to us. We are not at that point yet. The FEMA process will begin as soon as it is able.
- Mike Wood from Munster stated that his mother on Northcote Avenue incorrectly received a letter from the city of Hammond stating she was out of the floodplain. Evidently, an error was made and some residents received the letter when they shouldn't have. They subsequently received a letter from the City apologizing for the mistake.

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, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.