

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012**

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

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 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; one (1) vacancy exists. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Ron McAhron  
Anthony Broadnax

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus  
Judy Vamos

**Visitors:**

LuAnn Franklin – The Times  
Natalie Mills – Army Corps Project Mgr  
Lynne Whelan – Army Corps  
Sylvia Vucich - Munster  
Judy Knapp – Forest, Hammond  
Bea/Craig Hanusin – Munster  
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster

**Visitors:**

John/Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave. Hammond  
Elizabeth Johnson - Congressman's Office  
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Ron Skertich - Hammond  
Imad Samara – Army Corps  
Vanessa Villarreal – Army Corps  
Bill/Bev Coomes - Munster  
Lesley Saliga - Munster  
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council  
Fred Baginski - Hammond  
Dan Spitale - Hammond  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
Peter Yackanich - Hammond  
Steve Jadrnak - Hammond  
Bob Paulson - Northcote  
Mike Echterling – Lake Co. Fish & Game  
Dorothy Pazanin – River Drive, Munster  
Jim Batey - Hammond  
Jayson Reeves - Gary  
Bonnie Vavrek - Hammond  
Bridget Bodefled - Munster  
John Mulesa - Munster  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster  
James Dedelow - Munster  
Trudy Wasik - Hammond  
J. Grskovich - Munster

Minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting were approved by a motion from Anthony Broadnax; motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote. Minutes of the special meeting held on February 22, 2012 to adopt a resolution that would allow for a Lake County watershed study were approved by a motion from Anthony Broadnax; motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Baker thanked everybody that helped out in the support of HB1264. All the telephone calls, emails, legislative contacts, visits downstate; it all helped in the process. The Commission remains optimistic that the Governor will sign the bill. We will then have a funding source for the maintenance of the \$250 million man-made project so that the flooding that we had in 2008 will not occur again. The last couple of months we've been getting prepared for what can be accomplished this construction season if we got the funding. It will also be a priority to obtain a comprehensive watershed plan for Lake County.

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• Chairman Baker announced that Imad Samara has been reassigned to another project. He thanked Imad for his dedication and hard work during the years he served as the Commission's project manager. Chairman Baker proceeded to introduce Natalie Mills as the incoming project manager. Ms. Mills has been with the Army Corps for 11 years and is a civil engineer; she has worked out of the Corps district office in Griffith for some of that time. She said she is excited to be working on the completion of the project and assured us that Imad would still remain a resource of information to her.

Army Corps Report – Project Manager Natalie Mills reported that:

- V-2 contract is in the closeout phase. As-builts have been approved and they will be sent out to our office very soon. Regarding the railroad closure, the Corps is still working with the A/E designer to make some corrections to the design. The A/E will get another contractor, not Dyer Construction, to do the work. It will not go through the Corps office.
- VII and VIII are substantially complete. Punch list items still need to be done in the spring and they include establishing turf and seeding and some tree removal.
- Southmoor design is complete and the RFP will be going out to Walsh Construction on March 26 with a 2-week response time. The intent is to award to Walsh by May 7. In the event that Walsh does not want the job, the Corps will have to bid it out and the award would be pushed back to July 12.

Commissioner Broadnax expressed concern about the time frame because of the construction season. Ms. Mills responded that they will try to speed things along.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay stated that:

- The final easement right-of-way has been secured for Forest Avenue.
- A letter with a copy of their respective survey was delivered to property owners on River Drive so they could see where the 15' easement from the toe of the levee is so there would not be a problem of encroachment in that area.
- He has been working on plans for the maintenance of the levees and trying to put together a game plan so we are ready to go when funding is approved/finalized.
- As soon as a real estate issue at Southmoor is resolved, the Corps will be letting us know when it is ready to bid out.
- There are still some issues with the gage stations working properly. We need to have consistency with all the stations; issue is being discussed with OMMYX.
- He has been working with INDOT at MLK and I-80/94; they are looking at a couple of designs.
- A table-top exercise was held today. It's good experience to throw out some WHAT IF's? and then work together to resolve whatever that scenario would be. Bill Rochford attended the exercise today.

Finance Report - Chairman Baker stated that we had a financial consultant so some work for us to comply with the State Board of Accounts. It is important to have a solid financial foundation as we go forward. As a housekeeping item, it was suggested that we have a Capital Assets Policy in place. With that, Attorney Wickland referred to Resolution 2012-2 which allows for the adoption of the Policy. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-2 which incorporates the Capital Asset Policy as approved; motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote.

• Mr. Repay presented the claims for March and explained several of them. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$44,211.36; motion was seconded by Commissioner McAhron. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**O&M Report** – Mr. Repay stated that:

- Pump 2 at Burr Street needs repair; it currently has to be manually operated to turn on. Pump 1 at Burr Street had previously been pulled but not fixed. Since Pump 2 now needs repair, Austgen was authorized to go ahead and repair Pump 1 at a cost of about \$25,000 (new pump would cost about \$83,000) and it will give us a one-year warranty. That claim should be received for the next meeting. When that pump is put back in to work at Burr Street, then Pump 2 will be pulled to see what the repair cost would be on that pump. We do not want to pull that pump until Pump 1 is back in and working.

**Legislative Report** – Commissioner McAhron thanked those residents that traveled to Indianapolis in support of the funding bill. He also took the opportunity to thank Bill Sheldrake of Policy Analytics for preparing and presenting a financial analysis of the Little Calumet River levee system project. He prepared the report for the RDA and it was well received in support of the bill. We remain optimistic.

**Other Issues/New Business** –

- Commissioner Broadnax referred back to the earlier discussion of an emergency meeting that allowed for the adoption of the resolution to develop a watershed plan for Lake County. He proceeded to make a motion to allow Director Dan Repay and attorney Dave Wickland to pursue a RFP for a study of the Little Calumet River watershed in Lake County. Chairman Baker added that this would take a look at all the tributaries in the overall total watershed and will help us determine what needs to be done. Motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote.

**Statements from the Floor:**

- **Beverly Coombs** from Munster thanked everyone who came together and supported the funding bill.
- **John Mulesa** from Munster took the opportunity to also thank everyone, including the past Chairman Dan Dernulc and Imad Samara, who is leaving as project manager. He hopes the current Board stays in place. He welcomed Natalie Mills as the new Project Manager.
- **John Czulno** from Forest Ave in Hammond asked about tiebacks on Stateline and Hammond and the time line. Commissioner McAhron said we should have a Corps design plan to look at shortly. Mr. Repay added that the Commission will have to contract out for the job; minor engineering being done on plans.
- **Jayson Reeves** from Gary stated he was glad to hear that Mr. Repay is working with INDOT in resolve some of the flooding/ponding areas.
- **Laurie Czulno** from Forest Ave in Hammond expressed gratitude that the last property access on Forest Ave has been secured. She informed the Board that she was told that Hammond is working with NICTD for the railroad trestle removal. Mr. Repay replied that he was not aware of that; he knows they are working on their bike trail up to about Southmoor. Hammond will have to notify us as we have easements in that area.
- **Sandy O'Brien** from Hobart expressed hope that the wetland mitigation contract will be started once funding is secured. She stated she supports upland water storage and it would reduce water from Deep River watershed. She stated that there are some new environmental friendly ways to deal with stormwater now; retention ponds do not work very well anymore. Commissioner Baker added that there has been much discussion on Deep River lately and that the Little Calumet River watershed does include Deep River.

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• Ron Skertich from Hammond asked if his house would be more likely to flood with what the project has done. He did not flood in the 2008 flood event but, having to carry no flood insurance for 11 years, FEMA now has put him in a zone. Commissioner McAhron replied that the Lake County floodplain maps have been redone, minus the Little Cal portion. Once the project is totally complete, it will be given to FEMA to re-classify the flood zones. Mr. McAhron continued to say that due to elevation levels, there may have been some changes. Ms. Mills added that the Southmoor design is being finalized now; Imad added that the wall will continue to Hohman Avenue.

Chairman Baker once again thanked outgoing project manager Imad Samara for all his hard work on this project.

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, April 11 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012-2  
OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER  
BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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WHEREAS, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (hereinafter the "Commission") is a public body corporate duly organized, created, and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana by virtue of Indiana Code I.C. 14-13-2-2 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was created pursuant to I.C. 14-13-2-4, inter alia, to provide for the creation, development, maintenance, administration, and operation of park, recreation, marina, flood control, and other public works projects; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Accounts has suggested that the Commission adopt a Capital Assets Policy at its earliest opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commission hereby adopts the Capital Assets Policy attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the above prefatory ("WHEREAS") paragraphs are incorporated herein as if more fully set forth herein.

Duly adopted this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of March, 2012.

ATTEST:



Tom Wichlinski, Secretary

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

  
By: William Baker, Chairman

**CAPITAL ASSETS POLICY**  
**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**ADOPTED MARCH 14, 2012**  
**(by motion at Public Board meeting)**

Capital assets are reported at actual or estimated historical cost based on appraisals or deflated current replacement cost. Contributed or donated assets are reported at estimated fair value at the time received. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the useful life of an asset are not capitalized.

The capitalization threshold (the dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset ledger) used by the Commission is \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. An exception is made with regard to computer and similar equipment where individual components have a lesser value but the combined cost of an operational network is in excess of the capitalization threshold.

Lands owned in fee by the Commission are deemed as real property. Included on the capital assets ledger are lands whose value exceed \$25,000. Location of property, property acreage, acquisition date, purchase price/appraised value are documented on the ledger accordingly.

Lands on which the Commission has a permanent easement are not deemed as real property and, therefore, are not included as a capital asset. Property owner maintains complete ownership of his property; Commission's interest is a recorded permanent easement only.

The Commission's capital assets, both personal equipment and land, are depreciated using the straight line method of depreciation based on the following estimated useful lives:

Office Equipment 4-6 years  
Computer Equipment 3 years  
Land 99 years