

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

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. Five (5) Commission members were present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Anthony Broadnax
Colin Highlands
Tom Gozdecki

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

John Reed

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Visitors:

Craig/Bea Hanusin - Munster
Steve Caco - River Drive, Munster
Sylvia Vucich - River Drive, Munster
LuAnn Franklin - The Times
Al Walus - CBBEL
Natalie Mills - Army Corps
Joe Simonetto - Munster Town Council
William Emerson - Hammond Council
Kenny/Bonne Vavrek - Hammond
Jason/Lisa Miller - Forest Ave., Hmd.
Mike Wood - Munster
Trudy Wasik - Southmoor, Hammond
James/Kalliope Dedelow - Munster
T. Ahearn - Forest Ave., Hammond
Bob Markovich - Whiting
Pam Ahearn - Forest, Hammond

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Forest Ave. Hammond
Bridget Bodefled - Munster
Judy Knapp - Forest Ave., Hammond
Mary Ann Renwick - Forest Ave., Hammond
Susan Miller (sp?) - Hammond
James Linstrom - Hammond
T. Cholipski - Munster
Bill/Bev Coomes - Munster
John Beckman - IWLA - PCC
Gregory Sanchez - Chief Deputy Surveyor,
Lake County
Fred Baginski - Hammond
Pat/Don Lynx - Forest Ave., Hammond
Mark Lale (sp?) - Forest Ave., Hammond
Steve Jadrnak - Forest Ave., Hammond
Peter Yackavich - Forest Ave., Hammond
Mike Echterling - Lake Co. Fish & Game
Dorothy Pazanin - River Drive, Munster
Leon/Alice Kozlowski - Oakwood, Munster
Arnold Schmidt - Hammond
Mark Gordish - city of Hammond
Kathy Grskovich - River Drive, Munster
Elizabeth Johnson - Congressman's Office
John Mulesa - Munster
John Grskovich - Munster
M/M Plusch - Munster
Joe/Denise Kus - Forest, Hammond
Diane Lewandowski - Hammond
Bob Paulson - Northcote, Munster
Barb Hargrove - Hammond
Clark Elrod - Hammond
Bob/Kathy Nix - Forest Ave., Hammond
C. Kreisl - Forest Ave., Hammond

Chairman Baker announced that we have two new Board members. Tom Gozdecki from Highland replaces the vacancy that was left when Dan Dernulc resigned from the Commission to become a Lake County Councilman. Colin Highlands from Portage replaces the vacancy left by Ron McAhron as the Department of Natural Resources member. Commissioner Highlands stated that he has been with IDNR for 2 years. Although he is from Portage, he knows the area well and is looking forward to being on the Commission. Commissioner Gozdecki has lived in Lake County all his life and has experienced flooding and hopes his experience in construction technology will be an asset to the Commission.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker pointed out the flooding pictures of 2008. This man-made flood control system requires all entities working together so the chance of a flood event like the one in 2008 is minimized. From where we were at that time to where the project stands today there has been significant improvements. On this fourth anniversary of the devastating floods, it has been very challenging but working collectively with everyone in this room and the community as a whole, has made all the difference. Whenever there is an adversity, people come together; it's unfortunate that it takes a tragedy to come together. This project will be the benchmark regional project for northwest Indiana to show that our communities can pull together for the common good.

Army Corps Report – Project Manager Natalie Mills reported:

- She thanked the Commission for their efforts in having the communities ready in case the area felt the effects of Hurricane Isaac.
- Stage VII – Ceres will be returning the end of September to re-seed all bare areas.
- Stage VIII – Walsh Construction did return to area and did some seeding at the end of August. They will continue to do some additional top soil & seeding/sod this week and will return to area thru October to re-seed all bare areas.
- V-2 Railroad closure - Contractor hired an A/E firm that submitted some re-design work that is being reviewed by the Corps. They are trying to rectify the problem areas. They are behind schedule but are in constant contact to regain some kind of schedule.
- Southmoor and State Line tiebacks - Corps met with Mr. Repay to discuss tie backs. It was determined that Hammond will use concrete blocks; Munster will use bladders. The Commission had hired an independent engineering firm to provide a design plan. Corps has just received a copy of that report and they will provide comments next week. Ms. Mills added that no action on tiebacks at Southmoor has been taken by the Corps; they are looking for guidance from the Commission. She stated that the Corps still needs the local cash share for Southmoor and the tiebacks.
- Corps would like to have a discussion regarding INDOT crediting. They understand that a firm has been hired to review INDOT work/creditable items.
- The Corps has provided some oversight on the work going on at Marshalltown and Burr Street to bring those areas up to “acceptable” status. They will also provide any support we need for Forest Avenue rehabilitation.
- Levee inspections are ongoing this week and will continue thru next week. Discussion was held on annual inspections versus periodic inspections. Periodic inspections will continue to look at efficiency of levees 5-10 years after construction. Routine inspections are on an annual basis.
- Chairman Baker asked about punch list items remaining for any of the segments that have been turned over to the Commission; since the Commission has already received turnover letters from Corps on Segments V-2, VII and VIII. Ms. Mills stated that areas still awaiting final sod and grass were withheld from turnover. Once complete, those areas will be turned over; completed punch list items also will be turned over. Punch list items have been agreed upon by both the Corps and Mr. Repay. Chairman Baker added that the Corps' inspections are important in order to get all items taken care so the levee can be certified which is then provided to FEMA for eventual reductions in flood insurance requirements. Not knowing what Mother Nature can bring, he suggested that residents living close to the river still maintain some level of flood insurance.

Executive Director's Report –Mr. Repay reported:

- The Corps' annual levee inspections are ongoing. They started on Monday in Munster (3.1 miles; 11 gates; 4 pump stations). On Tuesday, they inspected Highland (3.9 miles; 11 gates; 3 pump stations). On Wednesday, they started in Hammond (6.4 miles; 43 gates; 11 pump

stations). No big problems have been found yet. Once inspections are completed, Corps will do a draft report and provide to the Commission who will use this report as a basis for required work on the system.

- Based off past inspection reports, a RFP was put together for the Forest Avenue rehabilitation. We advertised; 6 contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting so that each contractor would know exactly what they would be bidding on. Bids were opened; 3 contractors submitted proposals for Forest Avenue. They were Hasse Construction at \$455,000; Grimmer Construction at \$535,642; and Earthwerks at \$314,126. We are hoping that work can begin sometime in October. Upon completion of this work, Corps will inspect and re-certify the levee. That is what we are presently doing at Marshalltown and Burr Street levees. Since they were declared “unacceptable”, work is being done to bring them up to “acceptable” so they can be re-certified. Mr. Repay did a power point presentation of the before and after aspects of the work completed on those areas of the system.
- Stateline and Southmoor – we are having an independent review of original Corps design and suggested new changes/improvements to that design. We are hoping to have a satisfactory end product we can work with.
- At the Burr Street pump station, both pumps went down one week before we saw the remnants of the hurricane. Since we anticipated increased rain from the hurricane, we had one of the pumps pulled. It is under warranty so it shouldn't cost us anything for repair work. Both pumps have been previously rebuilt.
- After last month's meeting, we advertised a RFP for the mechanical/electrical work on the pump stations along the Highland to Gary levee system. After 8 contractors attended the pre-bid meeting, we actually received 3 bids. They were Grimmer Construction at \$66,286; Austgen Electric at \$36,003.50; and ACTIN at \$9,275. It was determined to not award to any of these firms and we will seek more proposals.
- The trail from Northcote to Wicker Park will be paved soon. It is now gravel but the town of Highland will be paving and widening it; should be completed by November 3.
- Mr. Repay thanked the emergency response teams for their efforts in being ready in case we had received a large amount of rainfall from Hurricane Isaac. At one point, it was anticipated that we may receive as much as 7" of rain. Although we did not get hardly any rain, everyone was ready for it. The cities and towns deserve recognition that they have good people working for them and he thanked them.

Mr. Repay showed a power point presentation that depicted the improvements being made at the Marshalltown and Burr Street levees.

Finance Report – Executive Director Repay presented the claims for August and September and explained several of the line items. August claims totaled \$53,287.33 and September claims totaled \$406,490.51. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve both claim sheets; motion was seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 5-0. Commissioner Wichlinski questioned how much more work was remaining on Marshalltown and Burr Street levees. Mr. Repay replied they are probably about 75% complete. Contractor is moving right along because the weather has been good.

- Mr. Repay announced that he will be contacting the State Budget Agency to see when the committee meets next. We are at a point that we want to have the remaining \$1,084,294 approved for drawdown. After this approval, it will exhaust the entire \$14 million received in the 2009/11 biennium.
- Lake County Watershed study – Mr. Repay stated that we had previously received 5 firms submit their qualifications to us for consideration. When we advertised the request for proposals, we received 3 proposals. They were received from DLZ/SEH; Christopher Burke Engineering/Structurepoint; and Weaver Boos Consulting. All proposals were very close in

LCRBDC Minutes – September 12, 2012 – Page 4

their work scope. In the end, only the price and time line varied slightly. Chairman Baker added that the Commission developing a Lake County watershed study was part of the compromise to obtain O&M funding legislation. Doing the study was built into the funding statute passed this last biennium session.

- Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to allow the Executive Director to work with the lowest and most responsible bidder on (1) Forest Ave rehabilitation project and (2) the Lake County watershed study; motion seconded by Commission Wichlinski; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote. Mr. Repay added that those firms would be Earthwerks for the Forest Avenue rehabilitation and DLZ/SEH for the watershed study.

- Commissioner Broadnax then proceeded to make a motion to reject all bids for the mechanical/electrical work on the Highland to Gary pump station structures and solicit for more proposals; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11 meeting (no meeting held in August); motion seconded by Commissioner Highlands; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call.

Commissioner Broadnax asked when the Highland trail paving project would start because there are a lot of residents that use that trail. Mr. Repay replied that First Group Engineering is overseeing that project and Walsh Construction is doing the widening and paving. They should be starting this week or next. They will still be able to access the area for the levee inspections.

Other Business – none.

Statements from the floor:

- Mike Wood from Munster asked who is responsible for tree removal from river. Mr. Repay replied that we've assumed responsibility. We notify the town but they can't always do the work. There is still limited access to some areas of the system but we will work to have it removed if there is a blockage. Chairman Baker added that the original scope of the project was for the Corps to only remove trees within 15', to each side, from top of levee. Outside that scope, the Commission has taken that responsibility when needed. Mr. Wood suggested, since the river is at its lowest, we should use Lake County inmates to do the work. Chairman Baker said that is a good idea but the clearing of trees would be challenging for inmates but they may be able to assist in trash pickup type activities.

- Pete Yackanich from Forest Ave. stated that the lowest bid on Forest Avenue may not necessarily be the best bid. Mr. Repay replied that has been discussed in the Executive Session, and that is one of the reasons a pre-bid meeting is held. The award is based upon a tight contract so no change orders are expected. The contractor has worked with the Corps before and has also performed flood control projects. The work scope is clearly spelled out. The city of Hammond will participate in some of the cost. It is hoped that the project will start mid-October; this is a Commission project and not a Corps project.

- Laurie Czulno from Forest Ave. – Although she is happy to see a contractor selected for the project, she expressed disappointment that it has taken several years to get to this point. She feels their area is the weak link in the chain. She doesn't think the Corps has been good stewards of these projects. She wants hard facts and definite time lines. Mr. Repay explained the delay and stated that the project should take about 90 days, depending on weather. Stateline plans are still pending. At the last meeting, Ron McAhron asked for an accounting of how much money has been spent on the deficient railroad closure. Ms. Mills answered about \$20,000 labor cost. The Commission would like the total cost.

LCRBDC Minutes – September 12, 2012 – Page 5

- **Kathy Grskovich** from River Drive complained of low spots and insufficient turf in her back yard. When the contractor plowed, huge rocks surfaced which they just left. They have been dealing with this for over a year. Her and her neighbor brought in a rock to show us. Dan will check the area out.
- **Trudy Wasik** from Southmoor questioned when they would know what the “new” re-design is for Southmoor. Mr. Repay replied that once the Corps reviews and approves, and a definite plan is chosen, he will sit down with the Southmoor residents and explain it. Ms. Wasik also wants a broken tree removed that is laying on her fence; Dan will look into it.
- **Mike Echterling** from Lake County Fish & Wildlife announced that they were sponsoring a clean up of the river in the area between Burr to Grant on the south side of the levee will take place at 9:00 a.m. on September 29 and everyone is invited to help out.
- **Fred Baginski** from Hammond inquired whether the Commission would consider paving the trail down Lyman. Mr. Repay stated that Hammond is proposing a bike trail that would tie into the trail that goes to downtown Hammond. The NICTD railroad lines cause a problem in that area.
- **Beverly Coombs** from Munster expressed a complaint that the Congressman has never attended a Commission meeting. Chairman Baker pointed out that his representative does attend the meetings.
- **Elizabeth Johnson**, Director of Projects and Planning for Congressman Visclosky, pointed out that the Congressman’s schedule does not allow him to be in the area for our Commission meetings. His schedule is dictated by Congress. The Congressman stays in constant contact with the Colonel, the Corps personnel, and the Commission and is well aware of all project issues.
- **Bridget Bodefeld** from Munster stated that she has contacted the Congressman and expressed her concern that his office is not represented well.

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, October 10th at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.

