

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

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/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
Debbie Long
Anthony Broadnax
Tom Gozdecki

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Visitors:

Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
John/Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Charles Svitko - Hammond
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave, Hammond
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Oakwood, Munster
Erik Sprenne - NWIPA/SST
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Carolyn Marsh – Whiting
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
LuAnn Franklin – The Times
Bill Rochford – Army Corps
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Steve Jadrnak – Forest, Hammond
Barbara Whitaker - Munster
John Broderick - Munster
Tony Kenning – DLZ
Peter Yackanich – Hammond
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Kenny/Bonnie Vavrek – State Line, Hamd
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.

- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the October 9th meeting. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes with a couple of minor changes; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki; motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.
- Chairman Baker stated that the Commission is trying to get as much construction in as possible before winter arrives. We continue to remind ourselves why we're here when looking at the 2008 flood pictures. This is a flood control project but there is a recreation component to it as well. Once deferred maintenance is complete, this is a unique system where a lot of work needs to be done with communities living right along the river. He thanked the audience for their help as we work together to make sure flooding that we saw in 2008, we never see again. Bringing the levee system up to Corps standards will ensure certification and then removal of dollars previously paid into the flood insurance program. That adds up to about \$4 million of dollars going back to the community.
- Finance - Mr. Repay referred to the November claims in the amount of \$182,643.98 and explained some of the higher claims. Grimmer Construction is finishing up on Gary South rehabilitation project; R. A. Oros in finishing up the last segment of tree removal between the levees; C&H Mowing has done a final mowing of the levee system for this year; and Garcia's charges consist of engineering oversight on various projects. Commissioner Broadnax asked if Grimmer was completed on Gary South. Mr. Repay said that we are holding a 5% retainage until all is approved/satisfactory. Commissioner Gozdecki asked

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about the claims for DLZ. Mr. Repay said they came in under the approved contract amount because some public meetings were not needed after talking with communities. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$182,643.98; motion seconded by Tom Gozdecki; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

O&M/Project Engineering - Executive Director Dan Repay reported that Lowell Concrete is making the blocks for State Line. Coloring of the blocks turned out to be a real issue and it has been decided to leave them the original concrete color. They will be treated for graffiti removal. Since this was determined to be an emergency project that was under \$150,000, it is recommended that Grimmer Construction, as the lowest bidder, perform the work. Once approved, project will start very soon.

- The Gary south levee rehabilitation project is complete. It has come in at a little higher cost because of extra security measures put in place.
- Garcia has submitted a proposal to prepare the plans and specs for the Gary North levee rehabilitation project. It would then be ready for bidding out and spring construction, once Board approval is given. This is the largest and final segment to be repaired so the Corps can certify it.
- Annual levee inspection reports have been distributed to the communities and Board members. Mr. Repay will be meeting with the Corps to discuss inspection findings and then the Corps will finalize the inspection reports.
- The Marshalltown pump station that was not working because of a semi cab fire parked next to it, has been repaired so it needs to be re-inspected by the Corps.
- Mr. Repay stated that we are trying to take care of as many projects/items as we can before winter sets in.
- Mr. Repay reported that there has been a drainage issue in the area east of Martin Luther King, south of the expressway, because of a collapsed culvert and it is causing problems with the drainage on both sides of I80/94. He feels it is a pressing problem that we need to address very soon; he is getting quotes to see what the cost will be.
- We are accepting applications from the watershed communities for needed projects in their respective community. We have received several applications that still are being reviewed and additional questions need answers and then we'll be moving forward.
- We have signed the USGS agreement for the transfer of the maintenance cost of gauge stations from the Army Corps to the Commission.
- We have someone who is currently rebuilding our website.
- Some work (new wires and tension rods) will be done on the Burr Street pump station.
- Chairman Baker asked whether the gages are operational. Mr. Repay replied that they have always been operational; there was just a transition period from the Corps to us. They will be color coded to our standardized color system so residents can easily read them.

Other Issues/New Business - Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion for the attorney to draft an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineering for the preparation of design work of the Gary North levee rehabilitation project at a cost not to exceed \$160,000 (their proposal price quote); motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay added that in each segment, we have to design & prepare plans & specs before bidding out a contract. We will use the Corps inspection report as a base to work from. That worked well for the Marshalltown, Burr St, and Gary South projects. Garcia Engineering has done a good job in their engineering work. The Gary North levee is the north side levee from Cline Avenue past Martin Luther King Drive, about 7.5 miles long. Original construction was done in the 90's. Motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

• Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Grimmer Construction at a cost of \$142,000 to complete all work needed for the State Line tieback in accordance with the design documents as prepared by Garcia. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay added that the tieback closure is needed in Hammond because the entire levee system has been built at 200 year elevation up to State Line, where it falls down to 100 year in Illinois. We have to have a closure to the system. This tieback system will be built at a 100 year elevation so we do not flood Illinois in a severe rain event. Our residents need to be protected in this area and it cannot be left open-ended. It wouldn't be a complete levee system then. There will be openings in between the blocks for people to walk through and they would only be closed by sandbags during a flood event. The attorney will prepare a contract with Grimmer. Work will begin as soon as contract is signed. Motion passed by a 5-0 roll call vote.

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Statements to the Board –

- Laurie Czulno from Forest Ave. in Hammond thanked the Commission for the announcement on the progress of the State Line levee.
- Ken Vavrek from Stateline in Hammond asked whether or not there was a hydro-test on the blocks before they would be installed. Mr. Repay replied that the adhesive between the blocks was tested to make sure that it would work. We will periodically test it as it is assembled on site. The only way the bottom of the blocks could be tested would be to flood them and it would be wasting the used blocks. Mr. Vavrek felt that we should have sacrificed the blocks to be on the safe side. Mr. Repay stated that initially the blocks would have been 2.5' wide but then we went to a 4' height that would slope back down to 2.5' wide. We worked with the Corps calculation and they agree with the density of the blocks. Their only argument is the height issue. Mr. Repay said it will work to the best of the engineer's ability, who has signed off on it, as well as the city of Hammond and the Corps of Engineers.
- Bonnie Vavrek from Stateline in Hammond asked as the blocks are being put in, what about the cement work on the streets. Mr. Repay replied that curbing will not be in place until spring in the cul-de-sac. We will fix the cul-de-sac aprons on the driveways. Asphalt plant will be closing down for the winter so it will be taken care in the spring. It is not too cold now to put down the concrete pad; concrete will cure. The turning access will change in front of the houses because of the new blocks that will be laid.
- Pete Yackanich from Forest Ave in Hammond asked whether the tree cutting to Stateline is complete. Mr. Repay stated that there is one parcel that we cannot determine ownership on so we will have it quiet titled and obtain ownership. The contractor will hold the price up to one year. Mr. Yackanich said there are still trees on the levee on the Hammond side. Mr. Repay said that when Forest Ave. levee was rehabbed, some trees were left as it turns north; those trees are staying.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Chairman Baker announced that the next meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month which will be Wednesday, December 18th at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.