

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014**

**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/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. All six (6) Commission members were present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski  
Tom Gozdecki  
Anthony Broadnax  
Ron McAhron  
Debbie Long

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus  
Judy Vamos  
Lorraine Kray

**Visitors:**

Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond  
John/Laurie Czulno - Hammond  
James Dedelow - Munster  
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.  
Fred Baginski – Hammond  
T. Ahearn – Forest Avenue, Hammond  
David Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council  
Bonnie Vavrek – State Line, Hamd  
Dave Wellman - RDA  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski - Munster  
Col. Drummond - USACE  
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster  
Dan Dernulc – Lake County Council, past  
chairman of LCRBDC  
Emery Vamos  
Wayne Kray

- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the March 12th meeting. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes with a couple of technical changes to be corrected; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Baker stated that as another spring season approaches, we'll be dealing with Mother Nature again. As Board members move forward, we cannot lose sight of those flooding pictures and why we are here, but we are far more prepared for a flooding event than we were in 2008. We are responsible to take care of a \$275 million man-made project. Mr. Repay continues to meet monthly with municipalities as we continue to move forward with O&M projects to keep the levee system up to Federal standards. We currently have construction projects ready to go this season. Corps will be scheduling early inspections this year.

**Executive Director's Report –**

- **Finance** - Mr. Repay referred to the claims for the month of April. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the April claims in the amount of \$64,852.42; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims. Garcia Engineering's charges consist of engineering oversight on various projects, especially Gary North, which is a large portion that requires repair before the Corps will certify it. Plans



are being developed and the project should be ready to bid out in May/June. It will be shared with the Army Corps first. Motion passed with a 6-0 roll call vote.

O&M/Engineering -

Mr. Repay reported the following:

- There are several projects going thru the permitting process.
  - He has met with the communities this afternoon. All are in the process of getting ready for the Army Corps inspections that will take place very soon. All five communities are included – Hammond, Munster, Highland, Griffith, Gary. They will begin in Hammond on April 28 and proceed east. Although it has only been 6 months since the last inspection, Gary South rehab is now completed so it will be inspected this round.
  - City of Gary is hosting a closure demonstration on April 25. A practice run involving the Corps will take place the day before. The location is at Harrison Avenue by IUN at 9:00 am.
  - There have been several different locations of trees/blockages that have been removed over the winter. Several other locations will be done also.
  - Some preliminary contract work has begun for the bike trail over the river. The bridge should be ready to be put in place in late April.
  - Gary North rehabilitation project plans will be reviewed by the Corps and then will be bid out soon.
  - Permitting projects include the Kennedy Avenue sand bar removal as well as the high velocity channel. With previously meeting with IDNR and IDEM, the permitting process should move more efficiently.
  - Blocks are being put in place at State Line. The contractor has a schedule he is following. Even when the blocks are in place, there are still several other components that have to be done. They should be completed by end of April.
  - The pump at 32<sup>nd</sup> & Grant was not working and needed a fuse replacement. It is now up and running.
- Commissioner Wichlinski asked if we are still talking about tree planting this spring. Mr. Repay answered that we are partnering with the town of Munster on planting of trees by Hawthorne & Northcote. We have an arborist that will develop a planting plan. Plans are not available yet but will be coming forth soon.
  - Chairman Baker asked if the Kennedy Avenue sand bar and the high velocity channel would be done this year. Mr. Repay replied that it is anticipated that Kennedy Avenue sand bar should be able to be bid out in June. The high velocity channel will take longer. A plan revision needs to happen because there will be changes as to where the road is, the access point, and the impact of too many trees. We have to do a revised plan that is satisfactory to everybody.
  - Chairman Baker asked if Gary North is the only “unacceptable” segment, as determined by the Army Corps. Mr. Repay replied that basically it was the only segment. The Army Corps has issued some new guide lines but issues with that have now been resolved. Since Gary South rehab is now completed, it will be inspected. It was not inspected at the last inspection.
  - Chairman Baker inquired about Marshalltown area. Mr. Repay replied that it was inspected last time but was inspected late because a truck fire next to the pump station had just happened. Several houses have been removed from that neighborhood. The pump station there is now working.
  - Regarding the Harrison Street closure exercise, 1500 sand bags have been ordered. Gary’s Public Works, General Services Dept, Fire Dept are involved. This demonstration had scheduled about 5-6 months ago but was postponed at that time.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

• **Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion for Gariup Construction to complete the connecting trail system east of Kennedy Avenue by the foot bridge in Carlson Oxbow Park at a cost not to exceed \$54,000. The trail is now dirt and is a safety hazard. People attending the Little Cal festival will be using that trail too. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.**

• **Executive Director Dan Repay announced that Judy Vamos, Land Acquisition Agent, and Lorraine Kray, Crediting Technician, are both retiring. Tonight is their last day. Judy has had 19 years of service to the Commission and Lorraine has had 14 years of service. Mr. Repay proceeded to present them with a State of Indiana plaque in appreciation of their service; he also read a congratulatory letter from the Congressman's office; and Colonel Drummond presented them with an appreciation letter from the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as an honorary Army Corps pin. Past Chairman Dan Dernulc also spoke in appreciation of their service. With their due diligence, over 1440 parcels have been acquired and credited. All Commission members expressed their gratitude and wished them well.**

**There were no statements from the floor.**

**There being no further business, the next meeting date is Wednesday, May 14 at the Munster Town Hall.**