

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2014**

**Held at
South Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau
Hammond, IN**

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

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

Visitors:

Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
Roman Sawczak - Dyer
Charles Svitko - Hammond
Timothy Clayton - Winfield
Michael Duffy - DLZ
Fred Baginski – Hammond
Matt Lake - Merrillville
Roy Deda - USACE
Bill Emerson Sr – 4th Dist, Hmd Councilman
Peter Yackanich – forest Ave, Hammond
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Oakwood, Munster
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Paul Daniels - Munster
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Bridget Bodefled – Crestwood, Munster
Eric Sprenne – SST & NWIPA
Neil Simstad – NIES Engineering
Jeff Huet – Schererville Public Works

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the May 14th meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker started the meeting by reflecting back when we met at the Visitors Center right after the flood of 2008. It brings back memories of why we are here but memories that will never be forgotten. We're trying to have some controls in place with Mother Nature but that is not an easy task. Being a regional project, we have engaged all the communities in the watershed to produce results and make sure the project does what it is suppose to do. He thanked everyone for their support in getting to this point.

Executive Director's Report –

- **Finance** - Mr. Repay referred to the claims for the month of June. Tom Wichlinski made a motion to approve the June claims in the amount of \$1,601,719.47; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims. The highest claim is for the Regional Development Authority for \$1,460,000 for the 2nd reimbursement as per State Statute. This payment is due July 1 and we should be receiving the maintenance fee collection the end of June. Several other claims include Garcia with the p&s preparation for Gary North; C&H Mowing covers the cost of mowing; Gariup is finishing up the cost of Kennedy Avenue recreation trail; Midwestern Electric installing signals at Kennedy in Highland; and Earth Source cost of a mitigation plan design. Motion passed 5-0 roll call

McAhron said that IDNR, IDEM, and the Army Corps have to approve/support the plan. It may or may not be ready to go by the next Commission meeting. It's complicated because of vote. There was discussion on the mitigation plan that Earth Source is doing. Commissioner permitting status and different entities involved. This plan is similar to the Corps plan some years back. We would like to get started this fall if possible.

- Chairman Baker inquired about Kennedy and the bike path. Mr. Repay replied that this is the claim from Midwestern Electric. By installing the control signal at the Kennedy Avenue crossing, it is an important link between the two systems. It allows you to go from one trail to another. Further work will be done to extend the bike trail near the rookery.
- Mr. Repay talked about the 3 manholes that cause a problem for us. We have a design to correct the problem and the Corps has to review and accept the design and if accepted, we'll apply to all the manholes.

O&M/Engineering -

Mr. Repay reported the following:

- INDOT culverts under Martin Luther King Drive are being delayed right now because of permitting issues. Replacing the culverts is an INDOT project; not our project but it will benefit our project. Hopefully, it will be resolved soon.
- Gary North Levee rehabilitation project has been advertised and contractors are picking up the plans & specs in our office. The mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for June 30 and bids are due 12:00 noon July 9. This project runs from Martin Luther King to Cline Avenue.
- Corps inspections took place in May. We have received a draft and all the communities are reviewing it. There is a comment period to respond to their report. Then the Corps will finalize it and it will be put on the website. Commissioner Wichlinski asked if the inspections included all segments. Mr. Repay replied that it included all except for Gary North. After that rehabilitation project is completed, it is hoped that all segments would be acceptable. This is the first inspection since Gary South rehabilitation.
- There was an issue with the Grant Street east pump station. It has since been removed, repaired, and is now running.
- At the Kennedy Avenue sand bar, we are still submitting cross sections for the permitting process. They want to assure that we are not putting any more fill into the river. Hopefully, a permit will be issued soon. The center island will be moved to the south levee. That started the permitting process all over again.
- Regarding the high velocity channel, we anticipate doing something in August to redirect the water during high period of flow. There is erosion on Hart Ditch that we have to deal with.
- Bids were received for the Grant Street culvert removal project. 3 bids were received – Ellas came in at \$162,500; Gariup at \$139,000; and R.O. Oros at \$119,000. Recommendation would be for the contract to go to R. A. Oros as low bidder, assuming the legal requirements are all OK.
- Chairman Baker inquired whether Monon was completed. Mr. Repay replied that it is not our project; it is a Hammond/Munster contract. They are doing top soil now and should be completed soon.
- Mr. Repay stated that representatives from Schererville and Winfield are here to present their watershed project. Chairman Baker added that the Statute calls for an Advisory Board to be formed and then that group could prioritize projects but that has not been put in place yet. We have only received 2 names to date for the Advisory Board.
- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to direct the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the lowest qualified bidder, which would be R. A. Oros, depending upon

review by the attorney, for the removal of the 8 culverts at Grant Street; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay added that the culverts are both east and west of Grant. They serve no purpose and are considered an obstruction. Removal will facilitate easier flow in that area. We already have the permit. Commissioner McAhron added that they were probably deemed too small by INDOT so a bridge was built to replace them. Motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion that would allow the Executive Director to deposit funds in the local bank with the best rate of return. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. We will be receiving the maintenance fee annual funding very soon and we want to obtain the highest yield possible with the taxpayer's money. Commissioner McAhron added that it is a good idea to seek current interest rates at 6 month intervals. Motion was amended to reflect seeking current rates every 6 months from local banks and bring back to the Board for consideration. Motion passed 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Wichlinski stated that a proposal has been received from Superior Engineering regarding a Burr Street pump station backup generator. He proceeded to make a motion directing the Executive Director to enter into a contract to award Superior Engineering to provide a preliminary design for a backup generator for Pump 1 at Burr Street at a cost of \$23,200, pending confirmation from NIPSCO that a natural gas line is in the area to supply the generator. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker added that the power goes out a lot in that area. Although it makes good sense to have a backup generator for the entire system, this area at Burr Street is probably the worst. Mr. Repay added that of the 6 pump stations that we are responsible for, Burr Street is the most critical and affects the most houses. Motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Commissioner McAhron made a motion to allow the Executive Director to accept bids for the Gary North Levee project with bid opening being July 9; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay added that this is the last segment of the system to fix to bring it up to 'acceptable' status by the Army Corps. Motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Presentation by Town of Schererville – Neil Simstad from NIES Engineering and Jeff Huet, Public Works Director, presented a proposal for a detention area on Sunset Blvd. & Schilling Drive in Schererville, south of Rt. 30, west of Rt. 41. A lot of the development in that area happened prior to detention ponds being required with new development. 80% cost of planning and design and bidding is being requested from the Board amounting to \$34,800. After discussion, Commissioner McAhron made a motion for them to eliminate the cost of bidding from their request, talk to any other sources of potential income, and do just an engineering design before they would come back to this Board for further consideration. He stressed that we are setting a precedence here and the Board needs to be cautious; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Presentation by Town of Winfield – Mike Duffy from DLZ Engineering and Timothy Clayton, Winfield Stormwater Board, presented a proposal for a drainage improvement project on 117th Avenue. During high water events, there is not sufficient drainage to keep this road passable, i.e. culverts set too high, undefined ditches along roadway, failed asphalt. Stormwater fees collected are not sufficient to address problem. Approximately \$180,000 for construction is being requested from the Board. Commissioner McAhron stressed the

need for the Board to be cautious in moving forward, because of setting precedence. This particular project appears to be more of a roadside issue, rather than water issue. The reps were asked to talk to the railroad to see what kind of cost for the culvert through the RR would be and get that information back to the Board, through Mr. Repay, for future consideration. No action was incurred.

Statements from the Floor

• *Sandy O'Brien*, Hobart, thanked the Board members for proceeding with the Earth Source design plan and asked when it would be available to the public. Ron McAhron stated that we are working with other state agencies, DNR and IDEM, as well as the Corps, and we need to have their concurrence. That may or may not be completed by July 9. We wish to proceed forward also but all agencies must be in agreement.

• *Ruth Mores* from Hammond asked about the planting of trees. Mr. Repay stated that we will wait until Munster completes their design of a Frisbee Golf area so we have a better idea of where we are planting. At this point, planting may not happen until the fall. He also stated that we are having some new signs being made down and that they will be posted for no trespassing in some areas.

• *Bridget Bodefeld* asked if Northcote was on schedule. Mr. Repay replied that is between Munster and Hammond and is not our project.

• *Roy Deda*, Army Corps, said congratulations on the levee inspections. Reports look good and are looking forward to a good inspection report once Gary North is completed. He also stated that the new colonel, Christopher Drew, will be coming out to a meeting soon. Mr. Repay added that he has talked to Natalie Mills at the Corps and they are scheduling a meeting with the new Colonel.

• *Matt Lake*, Merrillville Storm Water, thanked the Board for their due diligence in cautiously moving forward to make sure water projects are being scrutinized carefully; glad to see that projects will be funded outside of the immediate levee area.

• *Eric Sprenne*, SST & NWIPA, thanked the Board for completing the bike trail area at Kennedy Avenue. He stressed that having the entire trail system be contiguous would be great.

There being no further business, the next meeting date is Wednesday, July 9 back at the Munster Town Hall.

