

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION****HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015****Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN**

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski  
Tom Gozdecki  
David Castellanos  
Levon Whittaker  
Ron McAhron  
Debbie Long

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Natalie Mills – USACE  
David Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Joe Simenetto – Munster Town Council  
John Beckman – Izaak Walton League  
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond  
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster  
Dave Wellman – RDA  
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Rd., Hammond  
Ron Ware – Fran-Lin Pkwy., Munster  
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal  
Kalliope & James Dedelow - Munster  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone of our purpose, the eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project that was built in partnership with the USACE. Like any other project, if neglected, serious issues can occur. Ongoing maintenance of the flood control project is necessary to ensure problems, such as the 2008 flooding which caused \$1 billion of damage, will not happen again. Chairman Baker referred to the yellowing 2008 flood pictures as a visual reminder of what can happen if a project such as this is neglected. It is important to remember that more than 1,400 properties were removed from the floodplain due to the completion of this federal flood control project, saving residents from the requirement to pay federal flood insurance premiums in the amount of \$4.1 million each year. These dollars are put right back into the community, making this system a real economic development project. With our continued funding source, this project now includes the entire watershed. It is important to engage all local communities in the watershed to work together to make sure we continue to move forward.

**Finance** – Chairman Baker referred to the October claims in the amount of \$249,645.52. Commissioner McAhron made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with payment made to the Hasse Construction in the amount of \$6,650.00. This cost represents repairs to a sluice gate that was stuck in the down position and restricting water flow near the Woodmar Pump Station in Hammond. Next discussed was the \$11,500.00 claim by R.A. Oros for emergency tree blockage removal near Georgia Street in Gary. A large culvert was blocked causing flooding on Georgia Street. The claim in the amount of \$8,139.20 to Meier's Landscape represents the cost of hydroseeding the HVFC project area, which was an additional cost, beyond the original scope of the project. A payment to Garcia Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$15,322.40 represents continued work Ribbon Parcel Mapping Project. When complete, this project will allow for the transfer of important property



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documents, currently in paper form, onto digital form and ensure that we have all the necessary easements for our flood control project. Gariup Construction's claim of \$50,517.59 represents their final payment on the HVFC project. The payment of \$20,262.50 to C&H Mowing is for the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of mowing the entire 22 miles of levee that was completed in early September. C&H is currently mowing for the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle, with such a wet June, it was necessary to mow an additional time before the winter. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

Mr. Repay gave a presentation on the following items:

- The final inspection reports from the USACE are available for viewing on our website. A comparison of the 2010 and 2015 inspection was shown which emphasized the amount of progress made during this time period. In 2015, only 2 sections were shown as unacceptable, but active, Gary South and Gary Burr. The commission has already taken the necessary steps to address the situation by working with the Gary Sanitary District to make repairs to the Gary Burr South Pump Station. It is anticipated that these repairs will be complete prior to the next inspections in May. Chairman Baker noted that, during this inspection, the LCRBDC did not have responsibility for the Pump Stations at issue. Mr. Repay presented the Highland inspection report as a sample of the content available in the reports. Additionally, Mr. Repay explained that a Minimally Acceptable rating means that issues, such as fallen trees, poor sod cover or weeds are present, but nothing that would threaten the integrity of the project. (The complete USACE reports for each segment are available on our website: <http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org>).
- Several pictures were shared of the sluice gate in Hammond that was recently repaired.
- Pictures of a tree clearing project near the Broadway Pump Station were shown. Dead trees and debris in that area will be cleared.
- Pictures of the recent Georgia Street emergency clearing were shown indicating the amount of silt, branches and debris that needed to be removed.
- The Town of Highland Pump Station maintenance report was reviewed. Commissioner McAhron commended Highland on their comprehensive report.

Commissioner McAhron questioned whether 408 permits would be needed for routine maintenance issues such as changing the caulking or replacing electrical plugs. Ms. Natalie Mills of the USACE stated that a 408 permit would not be required for these types of maintenance issues. Commissioner McAhron further emphasized the need for an accurate timeframe on the permit process so work can move forward.

Mr. Repay stated some upcoming inspection projects include the cleaning and video inspection of culverts in Munster, Hammond and Highland. Additionally, the Deep Tunnel, a 9 foot culvert 6,000 feet in length, located in Griffith is also due to be cleared and videoed.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

- Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to extend the Leaf Composting Lease Agreement with Lake County Solid Waste Management District through December 31, 2016; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained that Lake County Solid Waste leases land near 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase in Gary for their leaf composting program, at an annual amount of \$1,000. This motion will extend the contract through 2016. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.
- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve a contract with Superior Engineering for additional electrical engineering services on the Burr St. North Pump Station back-up generator in an amount not to exceed \$28,500; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay stated that this contract will authorize Superior Engineering to establish the scope of work necessary for the installation of the back-up generator. Chairman Baker added that this Pump Station was previously identified as one of the most critical in the system, and a logical choice for the initial back-up

generator. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

- Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-04 regarding the Commission's MWBE goals; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Wickland explained that this resolution adopts the State of Indiana goals with regards to Minority and Women owned businesses. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.
- Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to reimburse the Town of Highland in the amount of \$46,200 for annual pump station maintenance; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay stated that the Town of Highland does an excellent job on performing all necessary maintenance on their pump stations. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.
- Commissioner Long made a motion to extend the billboard lease agreements with View Outdoor Advertising until 2025; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. As explained by Mr. Repay, there are 12 View Outdoor Advertising billboards on commission owned lands, with the individual contracts expiring at different times. This motion will extend and align all the View Outdoor Advertising contracts so they expire concurrently. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

- John Beckham, Izaak Walton League, shared information regarding the Calumet Heritage Partnership and their tour of the Calumet Region being held on October 24, 2015.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Munster Town Hall.