

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015****Location: Munster Town Hall, 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. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Tom Gozdecki
David Castellanos
Debbie Long

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Col. Christopher Drew – USACE
John & Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond
Ron Ware – Munster
Charles Svitko – Munster
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster
Craig Hendrix – SEH
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Rd., Hammond
Peter Yanknovich – Forest Ave., Hammond
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Michael Duffy – DLZ
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
Calvin Bankhead – Bankhead Group
John Beckman – Catalyst Eco Consulting
LuAnn Franklin – The Times
Evangline Stanford – Coolidge St., Hammond

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the November 18, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood as a great reminder of what happens when a structure such as this is neglected. Ongoing maintenance is necessary to ensure the region is far better protected than it was in 2008. The commission is tasked with care and upkeep of this eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project. It is important to remember that, due to the completion of this federal control project, more than 1,400 properties have been removed from the mandatory requirement to pay federal flood insurance, saving residents premiums in the amount of \$4.1 million each year. These dollars are put right back into the community, making this a real economic development project.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the December claims in the amount of \$127,708.65. Commissioner Wichlinski 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 a payment to Garcia Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$11,520.00 for the Ribbon Parcel Mapping Project. This continuing project will allow for the transfer of important property documents to digital form and ensure that we have all the necessary easements for our flood control project. Next discussed were the claims by Superior Engineering for \$10,286.50 which represent ongoing work on the Burr Street North Pump Station Back-up Generator. R.A. Oros submitted a claim in the amount of \$4,700.00 for a sewer termination project at a property in Hammond. This property had a manhole and pipe that went through the levee to the river that needed to be filled with flowable fill. The completed project makes the levee safer for the surrounding areas and removes the issue from annual Inspection Reports. The payment to R&R Visual for

\$17,917.58 represents the cost of video inspection of the 6500 foot long Deep Tunnel, located in Griffith, as part of the normal 5 year inspection process. Last discussed was the claim by Dawson & Associates for \$35,000.00 which represents continued crediting work by the Commission. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay discussed some of the current and upcoming projects:

- The project to raise the Georgia Street Bridge in Gary is waiting final written approval by the USACE. This will eliminate the need for human intervention with sandbagging during a heavy rain event.
- We are waiting for final approval on the Levee Paving Project, which entails paving the tops of the levee from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue in Highland and Oxbow Park to the railroad tracks in Hammond.
- An RFP will be sought to clean, inspect and video all the culverts in Hammond, Highland, Munster and additionally the INDOT culverts near the I-65/I-94 interchange. This is part of the normal 5 year inspection process.
- Blockages near the Kennedy Avenue Bridge, located between the communities of Highland and Hammond, will be cleared.
- Letters of Intent were sent to over 40 engineering firms for the raising of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. The proposals of the eight responding firms will be reviewed by the Commission, Town of Highland and City of Hammond and narrowed down to four. These four firms will give formal presentations on project in early 2016.
- The Sandbar Modification Project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge is on hold until the ground freezes.
- The Advisory Board considered several applications from the Town of Winfield, City of Hobart and City of Crown Point at their last meeting. It is anticipated that the communities will have a chance to present their projects at a later Commission meeting.

A discussion was held on the 2-3 inches of rain expected over the next few days. Mr. Repay stated that the communities along the river were well prepared for the rain event. Monthly meetings and practice drills are held to ensure all communities are ready for any heavy rain events.

Other Issues/New Business –

Col. Drew of the USACE expressed appreciation to the Commission for their efforts in doing the research and provided additional documentation that has allowed the Corps to increase the good faith estimate for the project resulting in a positive cost share basis at this time. Col. Drew stated that the Chicago District Office will continue to work with the Commission to finalize all outstanding credits. He further indicated that it is important to maintain focus to ensure all remaining documentation in support of the good faith estimate is obtained in a timely manner. Additionally, Col. Drew stated that the positive cost share balance will allow the USACE to continue work on the project in partnership with the Commission. Col. Drew said he looks forward to meeting with the Commission soon to discuss remaining project priorities and a path forward for the completion of the project.

Statements from the Floor –

- Evangeline Stanford, Coolidge St., Hammond asked for an update on the State Line. Mr. Repay responded that since we are now in a positive cost share basis, work can continue. It is anticipated that the State Line Tie-Back and Hobart Mitigation will be priorities.

- Laurie Czulno, Forest Ave., Hammond thanked the Commission for all their hard work this year. She further stated that she hopes that work on Forest Avenue will be a priority.
- Calvin Bankhead of Bankhead Group wished to discuss purchase of Commission owned property to construct a million square foot warehouse and distribution center.
- Sandy O'Brien, Hobart thanked the Commission and the USACE for their hard work in getting the cost share in balance and was looking forward to work beginning on the Hobart Mitigation.
- John Beckman, Izaak Walton League stated that he hoped the Commission would continue to partner with local communities on and offer creative ways to finance projects.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 13th at the Munster Town Hall.