

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

**Held at
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 Six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Ray Kasmark
LeVon Whittaker
Tom Gozdecki
Debbie Long

Visitors:

Roy Deda - USACE
Jim Simmons – Town of Winfield
John Beckman – IWLA - PCC
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council
Charles Svitko – Munster resident
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Lit Cal
Jeff Huet – Town of Schererville
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Rick Eberly – Town of Dyer
Bill Emerson Jr. – Lake County Surveyor
Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Hmd
Andrew Pufundt – Christopher Burke Eng.
Mary Tanis – Town of Dyer
Sandy O'Brien – Izaak Walton

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

- Chairman Baker announced that the Executive Director would be opening bid results for 3 projects. Those advertised projects include the (1) High Velocity Flow Channel project in Munster and the (2) Sandbar Modification project in Highland and then the (unadvertised) (3) emergency collapsed culvert project on Main Street in Dyer, Schererville, and Munster.
- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the January 11th meeting. Commissioner Kasmark made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed 6-0.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker stated he appreciated the confidence that fellow Commissioners have given him in electing him Chairman for this year. He stated that he opens the meeting each month referring to the flooding pictures from September 2008. This is a \$275 manmade project that has been going on for decades and it requires constant maintenance. The challenges before us take a lot time and effort to make sure a flooding event doesn't happen like that again. Although no one controls Mother Nature, we are far better prepared for a rain event than we were in 2008 and with the help of all communities in the watershed, we will continue moving forward. With the flood control system in place, about \$4 million is being saved in reduced flood insurance annually and that money goes back into the communities. With the funding mechanism now in place, it will provide funding not only for the Little Calumet River flood control system but will also encompass the entire watershed.

• ***Finance*** - Mr. Repay referred to the February claims as presented. Tom Godzecki made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$254,682.31; motion seconded by Ray Kasmark. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims – the largest claim of \$79,880.75 is for Hasse Construction who is doing the Gary North levee rehabilitation. Others claims include 50,000 to the town of Griffith for reimbursement of maintenance costs for the Cady Marsh Ditch; \$53,135.23 to Lake County Parks & Recreation for a watershed project for the cost of Beaver Dam hydrology restoration; \$6,897.50 will be paid to USGS for the quarterly O&M cost of the gage stations; other claims are normal monthly claims. Motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay made several reports:

- He has been spending a lot of time working with Garcia Consulting Engineers and Christopher Burke Engineering in the preparation & distribution of the bid documents.
- Process is ongoing in getting dollar amounts to see what the cost would be for paving the top of the levees.
- Gary North levee rehabilitation will be completed very soon.
- We now have eight Advisory Board members appointed. We still need a few more before we will meet.
- Will be meeting with the National Weather Association in Illinois on the 18th.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked where we are at with the backup power issues with the pump stations. Mr. Repay answered that we still need to provide some information to a couple of contractors; still hasn't been resolved yet. To use natural gas generators as a backup is the goal.

Mr. Repay gave a description of the 3 projects in which we have received the bid proposals. The largest project is the emergency project on Main Street which borders Dyer, Munster, and Schererville, where a collapsed culvert has caused a huge sinkhole at Briar Ridge. The second project is the removal of the sand bar on the west side of Kennedy Avenue in Highland where the large island will be removed and relocated to the north bank of the levee. The third project is the high velocity flow channel in the area of Hart Ditch by Wicker Park (where Woodmar Country Club used to be). There is a high volume of water in the area and widening the opening between Hart Ditch and the river will help in holding some of the water back until river level recedes in high water events.

Bill Emerson Jr., Lake County Surveyor, informed the Commission that the Surveyor's Office and the Lake County Drainage Board will be doing some maintenance work on Cady Marsh Ditch. There will be a public meeting for residents who live along the ditch and he invited anyone interested to attend the meeting. The Surveyor also gave the Commission many old photos of the Little Calumet River that he found in their office.

Other Issues/New Business

• Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to allow the Executive Director to solicit proposals to clear the ditch at 35th Street in Gary of various blockages at an amount not to exceed \$35,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with a 6-0 roll call vote. Mr. Repay added that we are constantly facing blockages there so he recommends we just take care of it now and clear out the entire ditch. Water south of 35th and Grant Street drains into this ditch. Motion passed with a 6-0 roll call vote.

• Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to allow the Executive Director to do final engineering for Georgia Street road project at a cost not to exceed \$24,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay added that the city of Gary currently is responsible for using sand bags to close off this road. By making improvements in that area, it would eliminate the need for the sandbags. Motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Statements from the Floor - Sandy O'Brian, from Hobart and Porter County Izaak Walton League, inquired about an update/time frame with the Hobart Marsh mitigation project. Mr. Repay replied that we are still working with the Corps and are working with INDOT on the crediting issue to help move things forward. He also has talked to the Congressman's Office in regard to the mitigation project and Forest Avenue certification as well.

• John Beckman from Porter County Izaak Walton League thanked Chairman Baker for his endless effort in supporting upland water storage.

• Mr. Repay reported on the bid openings –

Briar Ridge – Four (4) bid proposals were received.

- (1) Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, Griffith
Base Bid 1 - \$1,375,000; Base Bid 2 - \$1,450,000; Alternate - \$284,000
- (2) Grimmer Construction, Highland
Base Bid 1 - \$1,848,781.50; Base Bid 2 - \$2,168,878.34; Alternate - \$391,060.70
- (3) Hasse Construction, Calumet City
Base Bid 1 - \$1,419,000; Base Bid 2 - \$1,499,000; Alternate - \$352,450
- (4) LGS Plumbing, Crown Point
Base Bid 1 - \$1,806,939.78; Base Bid 2 - \$2,128,785.05; Alternate \$437,000.40

High Velocity Flow Channel – Seven (7) bid proposals were received.

- (1) Austgen Equipment, Crown Point - \$1,085,452
- (2) Dyer Construction, Dyer - \$857,853.68
- (3) Gariup Construction, Gary - \$857,500
- (4) Grimmer Construction, Highland - \$958,168
- (5) G. E. Marshall Inc., Valparaiso - \$870,000
- (6) Hasse Construction, Calumet City - \$988,000
- (7) White Lake Dock & Dredge, Montague MI - \$662,814.04

Sandbar Modification – Seven (7) bid proposals were received

- (1) Austgen Equipment, Crown Point - \$598,822
- (2) Dyer Construction, Dyer - \$604,475.30
- (3) Gariup Construction, Gary - \$527,700
- (4) Grimmer Construction, Highland - \$481,689
- (5) G. E. Marshall Inc., Valparaiso - \$905,450
- (6) Hasse Construction, Calumet City - \$455,000
- (7) White Lake Dock & Dredge, Montague MI - \$245,465.23

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to turn over the bids for the High Velocity Flow Channel and the Sandbar Modifications to the engineer and attorney to make sure they are complete and in compliance to terms in the specs; motion seconded by Commissioner Kasmark; motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote. The bids for the Briar Ridge sewer improvements will be turned over to Dyer's engineering firm, Christopher Burke Engineering for their review and award.

Mr. Repay added that the Commission may have to have a special meeting to address their participation in the Briar Ridge project and have a discussion on the other projects.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11th at the Munster Town Hall.