

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05 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
Debbie Long
Anthony Broadnax
Levon Whittaker

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave., Hammond
Paul Daniels - Munster
Jeff Yatsko – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Charles Svitko – Munster
Tony Kenning - DLZ
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster
Dean Button – City of Hammond
Erik Sprenne - NWIPA
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Rd., Hammond
David Nellans – Town of Munster
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Joe Simonetto – Town of Munster
Phil Gralik – City of Hobart
Bob Fulton – City of Hobart
Jim Simmons – Town of Winfield
Tim Clayton – Town of Winfield
Salvatore DiBernardo – Ciorba Group

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the December 9, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 7 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 man made structure such as this is neglected. The ongoing maintenance that has taken place ensures that the project does what it was designed to do and the region is far better protected than it was in 2008. The commission is tasked with the ongoing operation and maintenance 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. Additionally the Commission responsibilities have expanded to the entire watershed and it is important to engage all local communities in the watershed to work together to make sure we continue to move forward in addressing the issue of storm water management.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the December claims in the amount of \$137,202.79. 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 \$17,459.70 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. Jeff Yatsko from

Garcia Consulting Engineers will give a demonstration on the digital mapping later during the meeting. A payment of \$23,451.75 to Hasse Construction represents the 4th payment on the Sandbar Modification Project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. The claim for \$35,000.00 from Dawson & Associates represents continued work on crediting. The USACE announced at our last meeting that we now have a positive cost share balance and this will allow us to move forward with projects such as Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tieback. Last discussed was a payment to Tim Juergens in the amount of \$690.00 for beaver trapping. 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 stated that the Commission is in the process of setting up for 2016 in hopes of making the project more efficient, safe and less human intervention needed during rain events. Additionally, The City of Hobart and Town of Winfield will give presentations on their Watershed applications, highlighting flood improvement projects they wish to receive funding on. The only outstanding project not completed in 2015 was the Sandbar Modification Project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals for floodwall joint sealant, replacement and repair in stage 5-2; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project will address issues from the last two USACE Inspection Reports in which some of the joints were failing. It is necessary to address the issue before the problem progresses. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Long made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals on culvert cleaning and inspection in Hammond, Highland, Munster and INDOT areas; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. The inspection is part of the typical inspection schedule, which calls for inspection every 5 years. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for the paving of sections of the Levee; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project will pave the tops of the levee from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue in Highland and from Oxbow Park to the railroad tracks in Hammond. It adds the necessary recreational component to the project and will improve our ability to inspect the levee and get equipment to the areas needed. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for the Georgia Street Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project, located at approximately 33rd Avenue and Georgia Street to the entrance to the river, will raise the Georgia Street by 1 ½ feet. This will not prevent the road from being flooded during a heavy rain event, but will reduce the amount of human intervention. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineers for designing of the 35th Street and Chase Road crossing in an amount not to exceed \$67,000; seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. The current closure is a post and panel system that is cumbersome and highly dependent on manpower. Chairman Baker asked if there were further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with SEH of Indiana to investigate opportunities to improve hydrologic restrictions under the CF&E Railroad Bridge in Hobart, in an amount not to exceed \$48,200; seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. When the Deep River Study was completed in 2015, this was one of the areas that needed further investigation. This study will address ways to move the water through this area more efficiently. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 7-0.

Presentations -

Jeff Yatsko of Garcia Consulting Engineers, gave a presentation on the Ribbon Parcel Mapping Project. This project allows all Commission easements and properties owned in fee to be placed on an interactive digital map. Pertinent documents such as flowage easements, can be viewed as well.

Mr. Repay explained that the Commission is tasked with correcting and addressing flooding problems within the entire Watershed. An Advisory Board was established to review applications and recommend projects submitted by communities within the Watershed. The City of Hobart and Town of Winfield will discuss their applications tonight.

Phil Gralik, City Engineer for the City of Hobart, and Bub Fulton, Hobart Sanitary District presented their proposed project which includes reconstruction of the Wisconsin and 3rd Street Bridges. Hobart Mayor Snedecor was also present and expressed his desire for a regional approach to the project.

The Town of Winfield gave a presentation on their proposed Hidden Creek Subdivision Regional Stormwater Project. Jim Simmons of the Town of Winfield and Tony Kenning of DLZ presented on behalf of the Town of Winfield.

A complete audio & copies of presentation handouts are available on our website: www.littlecalriverbasin.org.

Natalie Mills of the USACE stated that the positive cost share balance will allow the Corps., in partnership with the Commission, to move forward on project work including Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tieback. It is anticipated that these projects will be awarded in Fiscal 2015.

Commissioner Castellanos spoke of the passing of Lake County Commissioner Roosevelt Allen stating he was an asset to our community and will be missed.

Statements from the Floor –

- Ruth Mores, Southmoor Road, Hammond asked if the Thornton Quarry Reservoir was utilized during the high water times in late December. Natalie Mills of the USACE stated that she would find the information and respond via email.
- Erik Sprenne, NWIPA, inquired about Canoe Launches on the river and asked the Commission to consider parking logistics in their planning.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 10th at the Munster Town Hall.