

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016

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 six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
Anthony Broadnax
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Col. Christopher Drew – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
Judy Knapp – Hammond
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Dean Button - City of Hammond
Ruth Mores – Hammond
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
Peter Yanknovich - Hammond
Evangeline Stanford – Hammond
Eric Sprenne - NWIPA

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the October 12, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and referenced the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event. These pictures serve as a purpose, to remind everyone of what can happen of what can happen when something such as this \$275 million man-made flood control project does not receive the required maintenance. The community as a whole worked together to obtain the necessary funding so something like the 2008 flood event never happens again. We meet with the watershed communities and conduct drills on a consistent basis, so we are far better prepared than we were in 2008. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire watershed. Through our partnership with the USACE, the flood control project goes through an inspection process. Without the inspection, we would be unable to remove as many properties as we have from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. We have put over \$4 million dollars back into the economy by removing the requirement for mandatory flood insurance, making this an economic development project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the November claims in the amount of \$590,025.76. 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 payment to Garcia Consulting Engineers for \$25,357.90 representing work on a study of Hart Ditch to determine property ownership and easements along the ditch. A presentation on the study will be scheduled for a future meeting. \$14,372.30 was also paid to Garcia Consulting Engineers for continued work on the 35th & Chase design to reduce or eliminate that closure. The design has been submitted to the USACE and City of Gary for approval. An invoice in the amounts of \$26,045.46 was submitted for payment by Xylem Water Solutions for the Rox System on two of the four pumps at the Burr South Pump Station. Austgen Electric was paid \$177,745.50 for work on the installation of the back-up generator at the Burr Street North Pump Station. Payment of \$22,135.00 was made to C&H Mowing for the 5th and final cut of the grass along the levee system. Wiltjer Excavating submitted a claim of \$113,084.25 for work removing blockages and clearing downed trees on Hart Ditch. Several reimbursements were made to municipalities for the Kennedy Avenue closure exercise held on October 13th, including \$1,517.17 to the Town of Highland and \$1,908.90 to the City of Hammond. The Town of Merrillville and North Township participated in our tree program and were reimbursed \$8,639.58 and \$10,000.00 respectively for tree planting near waterways in their communities. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The As-Builts for the Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project have been forwarded to the USACE for approval.
- The Commission has taken over ownership of the Grant Street Pump Station from the Gary Sanitary District. After initial assessment it was found that 2 of the 3 pumps are inoperable. Flygt Pumps will be pulling the pumps to determine the necessary repairs. It is anticipated that all the pumps will be up and running by the next round of inspections in April 2017.
- The Belmont Sluice Gate Repair Project has received approval from the USACE. We will be seeking proposals from contractors for the repairs.
- The Gary South Levee Paving Project has been approved by the USACE. This project will pave the levee tops from Chase Street to Martin Luther King Drive on the south side of the levee.
- Approval was also received from USACE for the Hammond Levee Paving Project. This will pave the levee tops from Calumet Avenue to Northcote Avenue.
- The 35th & Chase Design has been sent in for approval by the USACE and City of Gary. This project will eliminate the post and panel closure at that location.
- A closure demonstration of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge over the Little Calumet River was conducted on Thursday, October 13th; the exercise went very well with no reported problems. It is required by the USACE to conduct a closure exercise every 5 years.
- We are waiting for the final videos of the Culvert Cleaning project before we can do a final close-out of that project.
- The Levee Paving Project is also substantially complete with the improvement of the crossing at Calumet Avenue the last item remaining on the punch list.

Commissioner Wichlinski requested a status update on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Design. Mr. Repay indicated the initial surveys were completed two weeks ago. The completion of the design is expected to be complete in the fall of 2017, with construction likely to begin in 2018.

Commissioner Wichlinski also asked about the possibility of a pedestrian bridge incorporated in the Gary South Levee Paving Project connecting both the north and south sections of the trails. Mr. Repay stated the original transition point from the north and south segments on the Levee was at Chase Street. However, when the culverts on Chase were removed, that eliminated the pedestrian access between

the two segments. There are thoughts about doing a simple pedestrian bridge in the area of 35th & Chase.

Update from the USACE –

Col. Drew of the USACE reported the following:

- The CLOMR in connection with the State Line Tie-Back was submitted to FEMA on November 1, 2016. FEMA formally acknowledged receipt of the on November 8, 2016. If additional information is not required, a final letter of determination will be issued within 90 days of receiving the request. The as-built drawings at the end of construction will be needed to move from the Conditional Letter to the final decision. Col. Drew stated they are trying to accelerate the process by doing as much work as possible ahead of time instead of waiting for construction to be completed.
- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Notice to Proceed was issued with a pre-construction meeting scheduled for November 15.
- The State Line Tie-Back Notice to Proceed was issued and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled for next week.
- Hydrologic modeling of the river has begun and is in the initial stages.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Closure exercise went well. The USACE flood fighting team was on-site to observe the drill the closures were completed effectively.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the Town of Griffith – Arbogast Bridge Watershed Application in the amount of \$340,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. The Town of Griffith requested funds for the emergency demolition and replacement of the Arbogast Bridge due to water currents undermining the original bridge after the installation of the Deep Tunnel Diversion Project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with American StructurePoint for the 36-inch Sewer River Crossing Relocation Study, in an amount not to exceed \$34,800.00, subject to review by counsel; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay explained that this Gary Sanitary District combined sewer line has been identified as one of the areas where blockages can occur. This study will explore the options, if any, to move the sewer line either above or beneath the river to prevent future flooding and environmental issues. Further discussion was held regarding Gary Sanitary District's potential commitment to contributing to the funding of this project and the integrity of the sewer line. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki stated that Sandbar in the river off of Kennedy Avenue back and questioned whether the additional silt can be taken out of the river instead of put off to the side of the channel. Mr. Repay feels that the additional silt accumulating stems from the erosion problems occurring on Hart Ditch. However, the silt cannot be removed without state permits.

Statements from the Floor –

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that a pedestrian bridge over the river to connect the north and south segments of the trail would be a great addition for everyone that uses the trail. She is also glad to hear the Hobart Marsh contractors are getting mobilized.

Eric Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, stated a connection over Chase Street needed for the trail users. He also asked that enough clearance be given for paddlers on the river. He also thanked the Commission for approving the study of the 36-inch sewer line relocation. Finally, he stated that the Sandbar off of Kennedy Avenue keeps growing every year.

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, asked if construction of the State Line Tie-Back was still on target for a June construction start date. Col. Drew stated that once they receive the contractor's schedule the USACE will be able to communicate the specifics to the board.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 14th at the Munster Town Hall.