

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Tom Gozdecki
David Castellanos
Anthony Broadnax
Levon Whittaker
Ron McAhrn

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
John & Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Michael Padilla – USACE
Paul Daniels – Munster
Charles Svitko – Munster
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster
Tony Kenning – DLZ
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
Judy Knapp – Hammond
James Dedelow – Munster
Evangeline Stanford – Hammond
Bob Huffman – Munster

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Broadnax 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 referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood as a great reminder of what happens when a structure such as this is neglected. While we can’t control Mother Nature, ongoing maintenance will ensure that 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. We continue to meet with communities every month to ensure that we are all better prepared. 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 February claims in the amount of \$187,196.96. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. 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 \$12,366.00 for work regarding INDOT Easements. Payment to Superior Engineering for \$8,765.25 represents continued work on the back-up generator at the Burr Street North Pump Station. \$37,308.72 was paid to Dawson & Associates for continued assistance with crediting. Crediting is progressing, we now have a positive cost share balance and can continue to move forward with projects such as Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tie Back. Next discussed was payment in the amount of \$34,560.00 to Hasse Construction for work on the Sandbar Modification Project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Finally, \$45,193.28 was paid to the Flores Insurance Group

for annual general liability insurance policy. 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 discussed some of the current and upcoming projects:

- The bid for floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair awarded to Grimmer Construction at the last meeting, in the amount of \$22,500, has been reviewed and executed. This project will address issues from that last two USACE inspection reports in which some joints were failing.
- The bid to clean, inspect and video all culverts in Hammond, Highland, Munster & INDOT awarded to Greenline Environmental at the last meeting, in the amount of \$155,500, has been reviewed and executed. This is part of the normal 5-year inspection process.
- The bid for the Lyman Manhole Rehab Project awarded to Grimmer Construction at the last meeting, in the amount of \$35,640, has been reviewed and executed. This project is located between Hohman Avenue and Calumet Avenue in Hammond.
- Bids for electrical repairs at the Burr Street South Pump Station and for Levee grass cutting will go out for advertising with bids opened at the April meeting.
- Bids for the Levee Paving and Georgia Street Projects will be opened later in the meeting.
- The USACE Annual Inspections are scheduled to begin next month. The Griffith and Gary areas of the system are scheduled to begin April 11th. Munster, Highland, Hammond, and Pump Station inspections are scheduled beginning May 9th.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whitaker made a motion to open bids for the Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project will eliminate the need for a closure during heavy rain events. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. The bids were as follows: Rieth-Riley Construction - \$207,170.79, Walsh & Kelly - \$186,078.00, Austgen Equipment - \$271,882.00, Dyer Construction - \$246,830.65, and Grimmer Construction - \$212,114.00.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to open bids for the Levee Paving Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This project will pave the tops of the levee from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue in Highland as well as from Oxbow Park to the Railroad Tracks in Hammond. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. The bids were as follows: Rieth-Riley Construction - \$637,764.10, and Walsh & Kelly - \$726,969.77.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with DLZ for design of the Harrison Avenue Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$275,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project will reduce the number of sandbags necessary during a closure. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize Chairman Baker to enter into a non-binding Letter of Intent with Maya Energy Group, LLC to explore the opportunity of a land lease on property, currently farmed, owned by the LCRBDC; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained that this LOI is non-binding, but necessary in order for Maya Energy to move forward with the exploration of the project. Commissioner Castellanos stated that he felt more information was needed before give the okay on the project. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-1, with Commissioner Castellanos voting against and Commissioner Whittaker abstaining.

Natalie Mills of the USACE introduced Michael Padilla, who will be covering the project while she is on leave. The Hobart Marsh Mitigation is still on track to be awarded this summer. The general scope of the State Line Tie-Back was discussed, with the plan to put concrete blocks on top of the existing blocks. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Mills for all of her efforts with the project.

Statements from the Floor –

- John Beckman, CatalystEco Consulting, shared information regarding the Calumet Heritage Partnership.
- Laurie Czulno, Hammond, questioned the timeline offered by the USACE for the State Line Tie-Back. She stated that people are paying thousands of dollars in flood insurance and how much longer can they be expected to wait.
- Robert Huffman, Munster, asked if engineering estimates were obtained for the Georgia Street and Levee Paving projects and expressed appreciation for the trails being paved.
- Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, expressed her thanks to all that work on the Hobart Mitigation and State Line Tie Back can finally proceed. She is happy that things are moving along.
- Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, invited everyone to the Little Calumet paddling trip to be held on May 21st.

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