

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 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 eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski  
Tom Gozdecki  
David Castellanos  
Anthony Broadnax  
Levon Whittaker  
Debbie Long  
Ron McAhron

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Roy Deda – USACE  
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond  
Dean Button – City of Hammond/HSD  
Marty Wielgos – Hammond Sanitary District  
Jeff Massey – Hammond Sanitary District  
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting  
Dave Nellans – Town of Munster  
Judy Knapp – Hammond  
Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Charles Svitko – Munster  
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA  
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart  
T. Ahearn – Hammond  
Peter Yankovich – Hammond  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Calumet  
Mike Hickey – Donohue Associates  
T. Cholipski - Munster

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the April 13, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 8 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. This flood control project is an asset to the entire community, and problems will occur if it is not maintained. The commission is tasked with care and upkeep of this eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project and other projects throughout the entire watershed. We meet with communities every month to ensure that we are all better prepared than we were in 2008. 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 May claims in the amount of \$204,449.16. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as amended; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. 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 \$5,317.20 on 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase design. This project will eliminate the post and panel closure system currently in place. Next discussed was payment in the amount of \$4,700.10 to Garcia Consulting Engineers for work on the

Gary South Levee Paving project. This project will eliminate the rutting on the levee top and assist on getting equipment in when needed. Payment in the amount of \$6,944.00 to DLZ covers the pedestrian bridge inspections as required every 5 years. \$16,900.65 was paid to Grimmer Construction for work on concrete floodwall maintenance in section 5-2. C & H Mowing submitted a claim for \$22,135.00 for mowing the entire length of the levee the first time this season. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-0.

***Executive Director's Report –***

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

- The annual inspections are in progress. The Griffith and Gary areas of the system were inspected in April. The Munster, Highland, Hammond, and Pump Station inspections began May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair project that was awarded to Grimmer Construction has been substantially completed. Additional floodwalls in section 5-1 were also repaired as part of the project.
- The Burr Street South Pump Station bid was awarded to Sweney Electric last meeting. The Flygt pumps for the station are ready. The project should take 10-12 weeks to complete.
- The specs for the Gary South Levee Project are being completed. This project will pave the levee from Chase to Martin Luther King Drive. The contract should be ready to advertise in June with bid opening in July.
- The levee paving project bid awarded to Rieth-Riley Construction should begin at the end of the month, weather permitting. This project will pave the levee tops from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue in Highland and Oxbow Park to the Railroad Tracks in Hammond.
- The Lyman Manhole Rehab project, located between Hohman Avenue and Calumet Avenue in Hammond, has been substantially completed. It is anticipated that the Chase Street manholes will be the next project location.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase design project is proceeding. This project will eliminate the current post and panel closure system. The Gary Board of Public Works recently gave approval to proceed with required soil borings needed to continue with the design process.
- The Georgia Street Project, located at approximately 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Georgia Street will raise and repave Georgia Street and is expected to begin shortly. The anticipated time to complete the project is 90 days. We were given approval by the Gary Board of Public Works for the necessary street closures and detours to allow the project to proceed.
- We received specifications for the State Line Tie Back Project from the USACE and were given the opportunity to submit comments regarding the project.
- Advertisement for Bids on the Burr Street North Back-up Generator Project have been submitted with bid opening at the June meeting.
- An Advisory Board meeting was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Sanitary District of Hammond and Lake County Highway Department will give presentations on their proposed projects later in the meeting.

***Presentations-***

The Sanitary District of Hammond gave a presentation on their Stormwater Detention/Infiltration Basin Project located near 175<sup>th</sup> and Columbia in Hammond, Indiana. (Audio of the presentation and handouts can be accessed from our website: [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org)). A discussion session was held following the presentation.

The Lake County Highway Department gave a presentation on two bridge projects, Lake County Bridge 260, located at Main Street over Hart's Ditch and Lake County Bridge 264, located at Hart Street over Hart's Ditch. (Audio of the presentation and handouts can be accessed from our website: [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org)). A discussion session was held following the presentation.

***Other Issues/New Business –***

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to amend the agenda to add the Kennedy Avenue Bridge design award; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 8 aye votes.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with DLZ for the design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$670,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This project will raise the Kennedy Avenue Bridge located between the communities of Hammond and Highland, and eliminate any piers in the water. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-0.

Chairman Baker thanked Roy Deda of the USACE for his years of service and dedication to the project. Mr. Deda has been working on the project since 1999 and will be retiring, Linda Soren will be his temporary replacement.

Commissioner Broadnax expressed that he was motivated by last month's meeting to become more involved and informed on the project. He state all the Commissioners have skills and experiences that that can put to use to help the project and communities.

Commissioner Castellanos stated an interest in holding our monthly meeting at different communities throughout the watershed.

***Statements from the Floor –***

- Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, reminded everyone of the Little Calumet paddling trip to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Laurie Czulno, Hammond, stated that 22 households are still paying thousands of dollars in flood insurance every year and they are anxious to get some relief. She also expressed concerns with the cast in place blocks as presented by the USACE.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 8th at the Munster Town Hall.