

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

**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

**Location: MUNSTER TOWN HALL, Munster, IN**

Chairman 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 five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Castellanos  
Tom Gozdecki  
Levon Whittaker

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Natalie Mills – USACE  
LuAnn Franklin – NWI Times  
Laurie & John Czulno – Hammond  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
David Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Ron Ware – Munster  
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student  
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student  
Erik Sprenne – South Shore Trails  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
Bob Fulton – City of Hobart  
James Mandon – Robinson Engineering  
Craig Zandstra – Lake County Parks  
Dean Button – City of Hammond  
Salvatore Di Bernardo – Ciorba Group  
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the September 13, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker, referencing the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event, reminded everyone that we are here to ensure that something like that flood event does not happen again. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood project. While we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. The reorganization of the Commission and the work done by many to obtain a funding mechanism has allowed us to continue to move forward and remove over 1,400 properties from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts \$4 million dollars annually back into the economy, making this project an economic development project.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the October claims in the amount of \$352,623.31. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the claims, starting with a \$62,700.00 payment to Patrick Engineering for continued work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Study. The study is on time and within budget with permitting requests currently being submitted. Bidding for construction is expected this winter with construction spring of 2018. \$33,798.00 was paid to DLZ for design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. This project is expected to be ready for bidding in the spring of 2018. The construction cycle of the project is expected to last 2 years. This is necessary to avoid shutting down Kennedy Avenue completely during construction. R.A. Oros submitted a claim for \$65,400.00 on the Chase Manhole Rehabilitation. Grimmer Construction was paid \$11,260.00 for the repair of the fishing pier at Lake Etta in Gary, and \$40,000.00 for the rebuild of the fishing pier located at Oxbow Park in Hammond, both rebuilds were necessary due to vandalism at the sites. \$4,050.00 was paid to Weedpatch Co. for the seasonal application of herbicide. USGS submitted a claim for \$6,897.50 for our monitoring stations within the system. An agreement was recently signed with USGS to add 6 monitoring stations, with additional gauges to be placed at areas such as Burns Ditch, Deep River and Turkey Creek. One gauge will be a National Weather Service Projection model. \$370.30 was paid to Sandbagger Co. for repairs to the sandbagging machine. There are 2 sandbag machines available within the system if needed, along with approximately 250,000-300,000 empty sandbags.

---

Commissioner Wichlinski requested information on the timeframe for the Broadway Avenue Sewer Crossing Study. Mr. Repay stated that the initial proposal indicated a 9-10 month timeframe, but he would get further clarification.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for information regarding the \$9,831.00 payment made to S.E.H regarding the survey of property and 32<sup>nd</sup> & Grant Street in Gary. Mr. Repay stated that the survey was necessary to get an accurate accounting of the acreage available. Proposals were sought from 3 different companies, with S.E.H. coming in the lowest. An appraisal of the property was completed after the survey work was done.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

- Pump Stations are all in good working order. We are working with Flyght to fix a few minor issues.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in summer of 2018.
- The Harrison Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in winter of 2018. This project will eliminate a closure within the City of Gary.

- An Advisory Board meeting was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss applications from the City of Hobart and Lake County Parks. The applications will be presented later in the meeting tonight.
- Damaged fences around the pump stations were repaired and scraping and painting of gates will be started soon.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked for an update on the Lateral 6 blockages. Mr. Repay indicated that the contractor is slated to begin the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the project should take about a week to complete.

**Update from the USACE –**

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

The contractor continues to make progress on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. Earthwork, drain tile disablement, debris removal and fence/gate work are being completed.

A ribbon-cutting for the State Line Tie-Back Project was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The as-builts were submitted to FEMA on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The USACE will continue to check in with FEMA to determine if there are any questions or additional documents needed that will move the approval process along.

---

The In-Project Mitigation project was awarded to Encap. This project encompasses 65 acres near Chase Street and Clark Road in Gary. Encap is currently working on bond and other paperwork submittals.

**Presentations –**

James Mandon of Robinson Engineering and Bob Fulton of the City of Hobart made a presentation on the Stinky Creek Storm Water Application. The estimated project total for the Stinky Creek Storm Water Project is \$10,243,575.00 with the City of Hobart asking for 10 annual payments of \$500,000.00. A complete audio of the presentation can be found on our website at [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

Craig Zandstra of Lake County Parks made a presentation on 2 land acquisitions, the Tsirtsis Land Acquisition and the Curtis/Costakis Land Acquisition. The total cost of the Tsirtsis Land Acquisition is \$314,500.00 with Lake County Parks requesting \$82,250.00 from the LCRBDC. The total cost of the Curtis/Costakis Land Acquisition is \$29,750.00 with Lake County Parks requesting \$11,625.00 from the LCRBDC. A complete audio of the presentation can be found on our website at [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

**Other Issues/New Business –**

A proposal from Aerial Solutions for visual asset management was discussed. The proposal would use a drone to create a baseline aerial view of the river from the state line to I-65. Commissioner Gozdecki stated that this would be a tool used to acquire data to assist in identifying blockages and other problem areas. Licensed pilots are required to operate the

drones due to the proximity to the Gary Airport. Commissioner Whittaker asked about the frequency of the drone flyovers. Mr. Repay suggested twice a year would allow us to see any changes. Commissioner Gozdecki said this would be the first application with waterways by Aerial Solutions within the US. Discussion was held regarding expanding the project area to include other areas within the watershed. It was decided to seek a modified proposal from Aerial Solutions that encompasses other areas, such as Hart Ditch, with the proposal. A demonstration of the Aerial Solutions flyover can be found on our website at [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

**Statements from the Floor –**

Erik Sprenne, South Shore Trails Group, commended the Commission for paving the levee tops as it is a great recreational opportunity. Mr. Sprenne also stated that after the grass is cut, the clippings cover the pavement; additionally there are areas of gravel and weeds on the paved areas. Finally, Mr. Sprenne urged the Commission to consider a pedestrian/bike bridge at Chase Street.

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, thanked the Board for their continued support and was delighted that the last piece for flood relief was in place.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that the contractors are doing well at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. Ms. O'Brien said she supported the Lake County Parks Land Acquisition Applications that were presented at the meeting. She also expressed her concern for the City of Hobart Stinky Creek Application. Ms. O'Brien stated that this project would cause a lot of destruction for area wetlands.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of our radio program on WLTH AM 1370, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. The guest this month will be State Senator Eddie Melton.

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