

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski 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:

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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Judy Knapp – Hammond
Dean Button – City of Hammond
Peter Yackanich – Hammond
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the minutes from the April 12, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski reminded everyone of the reason we are here, as he referred to the pictures of the 2008 flood event. We need to provide residents with real relief from paying mandatory flood insurance. The Commission is on the path to make it happen, but we still have further to go. Additionally, we are tasked with not only maintaining the levee system, but making it better. We now have a funding source that allows us to do the necessary maintenance and improvements to the entire system.

Finance –

Vice Chairman Wichlinski referred to the May claims in the amount of \$192,173.99. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Vice Chairman Wichlinski called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with several claims from Waste Management totaling \$2,168.66 and Hunts Maintenance totaling \$1,375.00. The Commission participated in the Little Cal clean-up and provided dumpsters for the event. \$380.00 was paid to Underground Detective for work locating a culvert near the I65/94 interchange. Grimmer Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$2,484.89 for a valve rebuild at the Grant St. West Pump Station. The sluice gates are now ready for inspections that start the 1st week of June. Patrick Engineering was paid \$25,121.80 for continuing work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge Study. \$1,930.00 was paid to Walker's Lawn Service for mowing of

the Forest Avenue Levee prior to inspections. Vice Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The Hobart Marsh Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on April 24th. The event was well attended with approximately 75 people in attendance.
- The National Weather Service issued a flood warning on Friday, April 28th with the river expected to crest at 16.8 feet the following Sunday. We mobilized the communities and meet with them and the USACE to discuss a course of action. Each community made the necessary decisions to protect their communities. For example, the City of Gary opted to close 35th Street and Harrison Avenue. Munster mobilized blocks at Northcote Avenue. DSI & Associates placed sandbags at the State Line Tie Back project in the City of Hammond. Luckily, the rain shifted to the south and west and the event was not as significant as first expected, but still gave the communities a chance to practice for any future events.
- USACE inspections of the Highland, Hammond and Munster segments have been completed. Inspections of the Gary segment and Pump Stations will begin the 1st week of June.
- We are updating the website to allow people to sign-up for updates and alerts.
- The Hammond Levee Paving Project has received all approvals. The project will be bid out later this month with bid opening at our June meeting.
- We will also solicit bids on a SCADA system for the Pump Stations that will allow remote monitoring of the stations.
- We are waiting on approvals for the Gary North Levee Paving Project. As soon as the approvals are received, this project will be bid out with an anticipated bid opening at the June meeting.
- Permits are still pending for the Chase Manhole Extension and 35th & Chase Overpass Projects.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked for status on the inspections that have happened so far. Mr. Repay stated that it appears nothing significant or problematic was found in the Highland, Hammond and Munster segments.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for the Gary North Levee Paving Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This project will pave the tops of the levee from the EJ&E Railroad Tracks to Martin Luther King Blvd. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for the Hammond Levee Paving Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. This project will pave the tops of the levee from Calumet Avenue to Northcote Avenue in Hammond. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals on a SCADA System for the Burr South, Burr North and Grant West Pump Stations; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained that a SCADA system will allow us to monitor these pump stations remotely. We will request proposals from the following contractors: Gasvoda & Associates, Metropolitan Industries, Wunderlich Malec, and Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

The Gary North Levee Paving is being routed for signatures and approval on the project should be coming soon.

Progress continues to be made on crediting with \$500,000 in credits approved this month.

The Hobart Marsh Groundbreaking held on April 24th was a great success. Ms. Mills thanked the Commission for their assistance with the Groundbreaking.

Two contract modifications are pending for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. The first is for the Drain Tile disablement. The USACE opted to modify the original contract to save costs associated with a new contract. Proposals from the contractor have been received and they are being negotiated at this time. The second contract modification is for gate and fencing changes. These changes have been coordinated with DNR and should result in minimum or no cost to the contract.

The State Line Tie-Back contractor is scheduling for concrete work to be completed in May and the tie-in completed in June. Ms. Mills understands the concerns as the contractor is behind schedule. The concerns were communicated to the contractor and the commission will be kept informed as they move forward. FEMA was contacted to see if any additional information was needed regarding the CLOMR. At this time, FEMA has no additional questions and the next step would be to submit the as-builts from the contractor as soon as the line of protection is complete.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, stated that she walked the Forest Avenue Levee with the USACE team for inspections. She felt it was an interesting process and that the levee looked in good shape. Ms. Czulno was happy to see the sandbags in the openings in the wall at the State Line Tie-Back and felt the look of the wall was presentable. She questioned how far behind schedule was the contractor. Ms. Mills of the USACE stated that the concrete work is scheduled to be complete by the end of May, with the tie-in work complete in June. Further discussion was held regarding the contractor's difficulties in getting a borrow site approved. Ms. Mills stated that the USACE will expedite the approval of a borrow site.

Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association reminded everyone that the Little Calumet River Paddling Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, thanked the Commission for their participation in the Hobart Marsh Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Commissioner Broadnax questioned the contractor's timeline for the State Line Tie-Back Project as they are already behind schedule and the updated timeline calls for the work to be completed in a shorter timeframe. Ms. Mills said she would review the timeline to ensure it is correct.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that he attended the Hobart Marsh Groundbreaking Ceremony and was pleased with the turnout. He also said that, along with Commissioners Wichlinski and Whittaker, he had the opportunity to speak on WLTH AM 1370 radio with Governor Holcomb about the project and the work we are doing.

Commissioner Whittaker said he was looking forward to attending the Little Calumet River Paddling Event on May 20th. He also stated the radio interview with the Governor was a great experience. Commissioner Whittaker also said that he looks forward to increasing ways that we can communicate with the community and inform residents in case of emergency situations.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski complemented the communities for their responses to the anticipated heavy rain event. Even though the rains did not come, the communities were well prepared.

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